

iCAP Working Group (iWG) Meeting Minutes – March 14th 2018

Attendees: Morgan White (F&S), Ximing Cai (iSEE), Sean Reeder (OBFS), Scott Willenbrock (Provost Fellow), Matthew Tomaszewski (Provost's Office), Laurence Uphoff (Student Affairs), Nick Heyek (SSC), Colleen Williams (ALUFS SWATeam), Bruce Branham (ALUFS SWATeam), Sarthak Prasad (iSEE)

Could not attend: John Dallasasse (Academic Senate), Rob Fritz (College-level facility manager), Matt Moy & Joseph Kreiling (SSLC) – they have now been added to the iWG list.

1. Introduction and approval of minutes from last meeting

- a. Sarthak Prasad introduced himself to the iWG.
- b. Ximing gave a brief overview from the last iWG meeting on following projects:
 - i. Solar Farm 2.0
 - ii. Recycling bins
 1. Morgan has 2 students working on identifying and surveying the locations of recycling bins on campus. Once the survey is completed the PWR SWATeam will draft a recommendation.
 - iii. New model for Retrocommissioning recommendation.
 1. Morgan – We are still waiting for the F&S comments. I have asked Helen and hopefully, we will have an official comment by the end of this week.
- c. The meeting minutes for the last meeting was approved by everyone.

2. Briefing from SSC

The iWG meeting was attended by Nick Heyek from the Student Sustainability Committee (SSC).

- SSC met for a vote after the last iWG meeting
 - The total increased
 - The proposed projects received were a total of \$3-3.5M
 - They only had \$350,000 to spend though

- SSC will have another meeting later this semester to discuss funding for bigger projects
- The bottom line from this meeting: SSC will continue to exist. Nearly 80% of the voters voted for SSC.
 - About 6000 people voted – including graduate and undergraduate students. Up from last year.

3. Updates –

a. South Campus Afforestation

- i. Morgan briefed the iWG on the progress of South Campus Afforestation recommendation from ALUFS.
- ii. Morgan – The recommendation was supported by the iWG, however, somehow, it was not transmitted to the unit, as discussed. Jay Hayek had funding from Rotary (?) to plant. I talked with Brent Lewis, Landscape Architect for F&S, who checked and gave a go ahead. I forwarded the recommendation to Jay Hayek, Extension Forestry Specialist in NRES, who will be planting 2 acres of trees at the southwest corner of Race Street and Windsor Road.
- iii. Morgan also said that the Students for Environmental Concerns (SECS) plan to assist with planting the trees, and they will have students volunteering with the plantation.
- iv. Sean and Scott discussed the location of plantation with Morgan – It will get to the beehive (?)

b. Solar Farm 2.0

- i. Morgan – We got the permission from the Sustainability Council to draft a Request for Funding Proposal (RFP), but it does not mean that we are doing it.
- ii. Council asked to form a committee. Morgan is the head of that committee, Scott Willenbrock and Matthew Tomaszewski are also on that committee. Other members include representatives from ACES, and other departments.

iii. Morgan said that they have identified a site for the Solar Farm 2.0, and once it is assessed they will inform everyone.

iv. Ximing asked about Evan DeLucia's concerns about the funding for this proposal.

1. Morgan wants to have some consulting for this project. Morgan suggested the money could come from the Carbon Credits.

However, Evan asked her whether the Utilities Services will fund the project like before. Morgan does not have any other update on this.

c. Green Labs Coordinator

i. Morgan briefed and explained the needs of the Green Labs Coordinator. They talked about fumehoods and freezer (-80°C). Morgan asked the SSC to fund half of the Green Labs Coordinator for three years (\$85,000). The SSC will move to the Step-2, however, they will only fund for the student part – interns. We asked for \$85,000 (half of the total for three years) to fund for Full-time employee, administrators, and interns. Currently, we are looking for funding from other stakeholders – to which Sean and Scott agreed.

ii. Ximing asked Evan and Helen to contribute more for Carbon Credits funding. Sean said that it will be needed for long term too.

iii. Ximing suggested rescheduling and delaying the recruitment of the Green Labs Coordinator.

iv. Morgan suggested a meeting between Helen, Evan, Ximing, and herself with other officials from other departments (like college of ACES) for this project.

4. ALUFS004 South Farm Management Plan Recommendation – Discussion with iWG members

a. Ximing introduced and explained the basics of this recommendation.

- b.** Bruce suggested that rather than forcing the farmers to apply Best Management Practices (BMP), put some researchers who know BMP. He explained the benefits of Cover Crops. He talked about a previous recommendation for converting 50 acres of land to agroforestry and updated that 30 acres has been achieved. Bruce explained the Nitrate run-off that goes in the stream through crops, and Cover Crops will benefit in that respect. He furthered his suggestion of approaching researchers and professors from the Crop Sciences department and Animal Sciences department and other researcher with BMP experience.
- c.** Sean and Morgan discussed the possible involvement of Real Estate, but after discussing with the iWG, they came to the conclusion that the college of ACES is controlling this more directly rather than Real Estate.
- d.** Ximing said that the university has a lot of land. Fair amount of which is in research but most of it used for feed production. Bruce said at least 50% of the land in feed production, if not more.
- e.** Bruce said that the professors from Crop Sciences and Animal Sciences want 20 acres of land for research and they rent the land.

 - i.** Morgan was concerned if the different researchers from the different departments have a point of contact, they work together, or do they meet each other to discuss. She mentioned that there are Central Facilities Manager. Bruce said that the researchers work pretty close.
 - ii.** Ximing asked about the length of the contracts for renting the land. Sean explained the factors that affected the long term contracts.
- f.** Scott, Sean, and Bruce said that we need to be better than others in using our land. Scott and Bruce are concerned about the definition of BMP. They talked about why the farmers don't use BMPs so much. Scott said that he would support this, but is concerned that the South Farms people will say that they are already doing the BMP.
- g.** Morgan asked about the Nutrient loss strategies and the regulation thereof. Sean Reeder was concerned about the financials. Larry Uphoff asked about the

reduction of Nitrogen/Nitrate run-off, and the benefits of cover crops with crop rotation.

- i. Bruce explained the concept of Cover Crops, and how it reduces Nitrate leaching, and eventually Nitrous Oxide (GHG). He talked about the continuous coverage, which reduces nitrate leak and further decreases the need of fertilizers (~10-20%).
- h. Ximing referred to the SWATeam recommendation, and suggested forming a committee and who to include in this committee.
 - i. Morgan recommends the college of ACES to head the committee.
 - ii. Ximing said that people outside ACES might also want to join the committee. He had some concerns:
 - 1. What if ACES is biased about the idea?
 - a. Morgan said that the student could help making a change.
 - 2. Other limitations like time and budget.

Final Comments on ALUFS004: We benefitted a lot from having Bruce and Colleen from the ALUFS SWATeam to explain the details of the recommendation. The assessment of ALUFS004 South Farm Management Plan was started in this meeting. The iWG supported the formation of a committee and a plan – as suggested in the recommendation. The iWG agreed to forward the recommendation to the Dean of ACES and copying the Heads of Crop Sciences and Animal Sciences. Following is the official iWG recommendation for this proposal:

The iWG recommends that the Dean of ACES charges a committee to develop a management plan (as described by the SWATeam) to promote sustainable practices on South Farm.

Committee should include Farm Managers, faculty experts including ACES, PRI and water scholars, and students. The plan should include the assessment of the current status, evaluation of operational and financial impacts, and impediments to Best Management Practices.

5. PWR008 Smartway Union Recommendation – Discussion with iWG members

- a. Ximing introduced and briefly explained the recommendation. He said that the Dining has maintained the SmartWay status since 2013.

- b. Larry Uphoff said that the Illini Union does not have any requirements for the shippers (for the freight).
- c. Morgan said that she is supportive of the idea but she does not understand it completely.
- d. Ximing thinks that all the vehicles might have to be completely replaced. He is concerned.
- e. Sean Reeder asked for more information.
- f. Larry Uphoff was concerned with those vendors/suppliers that do not follow SmartWay and he was concerned that those not following might feel discriminated. He, too, asked for more information.

Final comments on PWR008 SmartWay Union: The iWG started the discussion on PWR008, but we did not have enough time to completely assess the recommendation. However, during the discussion, we had some questions regarding the terminology used and some concerns as well. The iWG members have asked for more details on the recommendation.

The iWG agreed to the notion of having someone from the PWR SWATeam to attend the next iWG meeting, who could discuss the recommendation in detail and sort out our confusions and explain the benefits of this recommendation to the group.

6. Demonstration of the SWATeams' Recommendations and Assessments projects on the iCAP Portal

Sarthak Prasad made a short demonstration of the new Recommendation Tracking system on the iCAP Portal.