

iWG Meeting Minutes – October 26th 2018

Attendees: Morgan White, Ximing Cai, Scott Willenbrock, Adrian Chendra, Sean Reeder (Skype), Jonah Messinger, Joey Kreiling, John Dallesasse

Could not attend: Alma Sealine, Renee Wiley, Matthew Tomaszewski

1. Introductions

Adrian Chendra talked about the recent vote on step-1 proposals submitted to SSC.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Ximing highlighted the three recommendations discussed during the meeting in September. In particular, ECONS007 – Energy Conservation Funding was sent back to ECBS SWATeam for additional work. Morgan and Ximing attended a ECBS SWATeam meeting, in which the additional work needed for the recommendation was discussed by following the suggestion from iWG.

3. Review SWATeam posters/goals for 2018-19

a. ALUFS

- i.** Objectives 7.1, 7.2, 7.4, 7.5, and 7.6 still in progress
- ii.** Objective 7.3 complete

b. ECBS

- i.** Three goals completed (2.1-2.3), one still in progress (2.4- engagement)
- ii.** Morgan says part of the issue with 2.4 is that the metric is not fully defined and thus hard to track.

c. EGEN

- i.** All four goals still in progress.
- ii.** The team is really invested in geothermal, and Solar Farm 2.0.
- iii.** The proposed location of SF2 is now about to be public.
- iv.** So the solar goal should be able to be met soon.
- v.** iWG is proposing to take goal 3.3 to the Sustainability Council (clean energy planning).
- vi.** Joey asked about how the possibility of fossil fuel divestment might play into this.
- vii.** Adrian asked why are all steps under 3.3 complete if the goal is still in progress? Morgan says that these are all good things that have been done, but still haven't been enough to reach the goal.
- viii.** John mentions that an alternative for divestment could be to recommend to the UI foundation to set up a separate fund that donors could choose to donate to for specifically green or non-fossil fuel related donations. (So this would be essentially a socially responsible/environmentally responsible fund). Jonah asked how a subsection of the endowment is set

up. John doesn't know exactly, but says it should be reasonable and achievable.

- ix. Scott asked if there is a reason why PPA is limited to 20 years, and not as long as 25. Sean replied that the statute that it involves is limited to 20 years. (Energy Conservation Act) Scott wanted to know what happens after; what do we do then? Sean said we take ownership of it, and Morgan said the details of this should be discussed more at the Solar Farm advisory meeting.

d. PWR

- i. A lot of work to do: one goal complete (6.3), three in progress (6.1, 6.2, 6.4).
- ii. Brad Henson is directly involved with SWATeam now, and one thing it's hoped he can specifically help with is increasing recycled content paper.
- iii. Sean offers that there should be two goals with recycled paper – reach out to diverse vendors, and also to offer recycled paper options.
- iv. Before PWR013 for a Zero Waste Coordinator can move forward, iWG is still waiting on some group members' comments.

e. Transportation

- i. Two goals complete (4.2, 4.6), four in progress (4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5)
- ii. Air travel emissions (4.1) had a conversation started, but not much else happened.
 - 1. Joey asked what about carbon offsets for this? Morgan explained that there was an attempt made, but the offsets weren't as good as they could have been, so the decision was made not to buy them at that time.
 - 2. Adrian asked who is being tracked. Staff, students, any university member? Morgan says that it's for air travel funded by the university, and tracked through the TEM system.
- iii. Goal 4.2 (reduce emissions from fleet) has happened, by chance and because of adding hybrids to the fleet.
- iv. The survey for mode share (4.4) will go out soon, then we can check its progress.
- v. The bike plan is moving along, but is not fully implemented yet (4.5).
- vi. We had an Active Transportation Coordinator, fulfilling 4.6, but the position is currently vacant
 - 1. Jonah asked: what's the relationship between us and MTD, and are they really going hybrid? Morgan said yes, they have several hybrids, and the relationship is a contract between UIUC and MTD. This contract lets anyone with an iCard ride MTD, facilitates SafeRides, and other things.

f. Water

- i. We've reduced water pretty far, but could do more.
- ii. There has not been a single water audit (5.3), which means the objective is not complete. 5.5 is also not complete, because issues with codes are preventing us from doing it.
- iii. 5.2 is complete, three others are in progress (5.1, 5.4, 5.6)

- iv. Sean asked: Did anything come of the parking lot F4 design recommendation? Morgan said that the new Parking Director made an SSC application for a conceptualization study for implementing this design, but SSC was a little resistant to funding. They did send it to step 2, however. Adrian explained that most of this resistance came from concerns that this could just be a one-off project, when it would be better for it to motivate similar efforts for more parking lots.

4. Review of iWG Charge Letter

- a. Charge 1 is business as usual.
- b. Charge 2 is something we've been doing well at already.
- c. Charge 3 is about the iCAP 2020 update that must be started soon.
 - i. Jonah asked if the iCAP is written by this committee. Morgan explains it's started by the SWATeams, and completed by iSEE staff. The iWG is instrumental in reading it and giving feedback before it goes to the chancellor for final approval.
- d. Ximing asked if the iWG scope be changed before being finalized.
 - i. Scott asked if are there major changes from past charge letters. Ximing explained that only charge 3 is new.
 - ii. No other comments or suggestions are made.

5. Updates

- a. Student Efforts
 - i. SSLC: A student business panel is being planned to discuss the intersection between business & sustainability, and it should happen early next semester. It was suggested by the SSC's marketing intern, Dhvani Jain, who's working with a campus business fraternity on it. ActGreen has been unresponsive. Morgan suggests they reach out to Business in Environmental Responsibility (BER). Also, today (10/26) an Environmental Quad Day is being held in conjunction with the Political Quad Day.
 - ii. SSC: The Step 1 voting meeting has just finished, and was pretty productive. They went over an exhausting list of projects. Adrian is working with Cathy to improve outreach, and streamlining the step 1/voting process. The latter is a large undertaking because voting meetings are so long/discussion heavy. \$3 million in projects was requested this semester, with a goal of providing \$600,000.
 - 1. Ximing asked if there is an iCAP chapter on SSC. Morgan replied that there is one on funding. Ximing suggested we should get students involved in helping to write/provide feedback on the 2020 iCAP.
 - 2. Morgan brings up that the SSC is represented on the Academic Senate Committee on Campus Operations (Ops), but they are more of a funding body now than they were when they joined this group, so maybe SSLC should be more involved with this committee instead. SSLC is in more regular contact with sustainable RSOs,

and thus students. It could also be ISG's environmental committee that takes this place. This is really a future discussion, not an iWG one. John said this would be discussed in the Ops committee, and perhaps would then send a recommendation to Committee on Committees, which has the power to make this change (but he's not exactly sure of the mechanism).

- b. [SWATeam Updates](#)
 - i. A new document on progress updates will be made for each iWG meeting, and will be in the agenda and attached to the minutes.
- c. Recommendation Status Updates
 - i. [PWR011 SmartWay Union](#) – Successful
 - ii. [Water004 GSI Standards Parking Lots](#) – Successful
 - iii. [PWR013 Zero Waste Coordinator](#) – Assessment started / Ready for transmittal

6. Preparation for November 7th Sustainability Council Meeting

- a. Ximing said that he and Morgan are putting together an agenda, but it will need to be reviewed by Evan DeLucia and Mohammed Attalla.
- b. Agenda currently includes:
 - i. iCAP updates
 - ii. Clean Energy Efforts and iCAP Goals
 - 1. This is the biggest issue.
 - 2. Morgan will talk about Renewable Energy Certifications (REC), progress to date, current goals.
 - 3. Then there should be a discussion on options.
 - a. Solar, RECs, storage systems, biogas, changing iCAP goals, STARS platinum are some current ideas.
 - b. Scott: shouldn't these options include buying energy from an off-campus solar farm, such as the farm to be built in Sidney? Yes, that was added to the draft agenda.
 - iii. Updates
 - 1. Awards & Designations
 - 2. Solar Farm 2.0
 - a. Scott asked: did the BOT approve the solar farm? Morgan said no, they approved a 20 year PPA for clean energy, which means we now have the ability to do the SF2 through a 20 year PPA with PEI. Scott is very concerned that if the EPC can't pay for itself in 20 years that this won't go through. Morgan said that is a discussion to have in the advisory committee meeting.
 - 3. BMPs for UI Farmland
 - 4. iCAP & Research
 - 5. iCAP & Education
- c. Morgan: how can we make the Council meeting discussion meaningful?

- i.** Scott suggested that the entire plot where the two current solar farms sites are should eventually be turned into a complete solar farm. This could be a 50 MW solar farm. This is another way to think about the future.
 - ii.** Jonah asked about wind procurement, since he's heard that it can cost as little as one cent per kWh. However, this isn't really an accurate figure. Solar is currently still the most economical way for us to get renewable energy.
- d.** Ximing encouraged the iWG members to send their additional inputs regarding the Council meeting.