Monday, 22 October 2018

National Soybean Research Center, room 358

Water/Stormwater SWATeam Meeting

Present: Rabin Bhattarai, Eliana Brown, Keith Erickson, Lauren Excell, Kishore Rajagopalan,

Arthur Schmidt, Colleen Williams

I. Student Sustainability Committee funding application updates

A. EPA Rainworks Hydro Redesigned project study, submitted by Parking Department, was approved for Step 2

1. Step 2 application due 11/28

2. Action: check with Parking Department on what SWATeam should do to aid draft

B. Other proposals related to green stormwater infrastructure and permeable pavement for Red

Oak Raingarden

C. ALUFS team’s nitrate monitoring passed to Step 2

1. Recommending a change in Vet Med parking lot would be better supported with runoff data from monitoring if it passes Step 2

II. Recommendation for update on Plumbing Code to make greywater reuse more economically feasible, or to state that the university endorses it

A. Information needed

1. Past efforts on changing plumbing code (previous effort to make green plumbing code)

2. Does the university lobby, in this context or others?

B. Plumbing Union has wanted greywater reuse, which increases jobs

C. Request waivers can be made with a design submitted to the Department of Health (State code is written under this department)

D. Might be practical to present ideas to Illinois Environmental Council (IEC)

III. Water Audit updates and plans

A. No takers for CEE 398 project on interpreting meter data

1. Projects tend to be raingarden, solar panel/green roof designs working with an outside organization: for example, a school in Urbana

2. More sponsors than students in some semesters makes a competition for sponsors to sell idea of project

3. Having a “champion” to promote the project might make students more interested

B. Faculty members might learn more about SWATeams and their goals, becoming more involved in their own courses, if the teams and the iCAP Portal became part of a faculty retreat

C. If planning to involve SSC to fund students, deadline for a proposal is due in February

List of Things to consider when designing water audit project for students

What comes after an audit? What impact will it have?

Communicate goal to identify where most water is used and survey those buildings

Context: Mahomet Aquifer water is being used more quickly than replenished

Motivation to save water sewage and storage fees

Promote with project sponsor, appealing project scope

Note: Campus Sustainability Celebration on Thursday, 25 October, includes Energy Conservation Initiative Program (ECIP) Awards for successful efforts in decreasing energy usage in buildings