

iWG Meeting Minutes – February 7th 2019

Attendees: Morgan White, Ximing Cai, Scott Willenbrock, Renee Wiley, Joey Kreiling, Jonah Messinger, Micah Kenfield

Could not attend: Matthew Tomaszewski, Alma Sealine, Sean Reeder, Adrian Chendra, John Dallesasse

1) Introductions

2) Approval of the Minutes

3) Updates

a) Student Efforts

i) SSLC

(1) SSLC had their first meeting recently, where the leader of a new RSO (Green Greeks) was there. SSLC is hoping to make a database of RSOs soon and are planning a Green Business panel for late March with a business fraternity.

Morgan suggests bringing in Jane Sullivan from MTD to talk.

(2) Potential March agenda item: SSLC on Sustainability Council

ii) Committee on Environmental Sustainability

(1) CES is looking to propose a resolution to establish Illinois Student Government as a liaison for student involvement in the iCAP. They want to promote the student voice in the iCAP review process.

iii) SSC

(1) The spring 2019 funding deadline passed this week, and one meeting of SSC has been held so far this semester. Morgan and other advisors were there and had a discussion about the role of advisors to the SSC. They want to work on strengthening the relationship of advisors with the SSC students. Next meeting will be looking through the Step 1 applications.

b) SWATeam Updates

i) PWR: Joey knows of a student connected with the SLLC who wanted to establish sustainability in student ethics training, and he will connect them with PWR to go along with their efforts to put sustainability in staff ethics training.

- ii) Transp:** They are moving away from the changing TEM software questions recommendation from the updates document because there are so many questions already in the system already – the SWATeam planning to talk to John Dallesasse about this issue. The idea of this recommendation is to understand the thought process behind choosing air travel, but they are considering that maybe a survey would be better. Renee pointed out that there are people that work around the TEM system, so it's all very complicated. The parking department study about EV usage has also been complicated by funding and communication issues. Dave Ivey is scheduling a meeting for the EV task force to talk to Parking. Renee wondered what kind of energy more EV charging on campus would use and how Parking will pay for it under the new funding model. Scott said it's a very small amount of money since there's not many EVs around yet.
- iii) eGen:** Scott clarified that it's only Blue Waters ending this year, but the computing facility will still have supercomputers in it using a lot of power. Morgan wondered where the money for this will now come from. Scott isn't sure what more eGen can do with PPAs now that further PPAs are being explored.
- iv) ECBS:** Morgan explained how Bill Rose wants to analyze if the F&S standards for energy efficiency in buildings actually result in energy efficiency. She also explained how they're looking at a new objective for the new iCAP on energy consumption that's billed to university owned buildings. There are also concerns about how the Campus Instructional Facility design plans feature glass in energy inefficient places. It's unclear if this will be able to be changed in time for construction beginning in the spring. This building is not being designed to our standards since we'll be renting it initially, though we will own it in 2050 (like Research Park). This building is not likely to be included in our square footage numbers since we won't own it initially, though it also could be evening out demolished buildings that haven't been rebuilt.
- v) ALUFS:** The Vet Med Parking Lot has a lot of dirty runoff that is affecting the animals because it is such a large and impervious surface, so they want to put in green infrastructure to catch this runoff.
- vi) Water:** Morgan explained more about the conversations surrounding how to do the green infrastructure upgrades in the F23 lot. Right now it looks like Parking will pay for the study of the lot, and hopefully SSC will be able to provide funding for the

actual construction.

c) **PWR013 Zero Waste Coordinator**

- i) Officially transmitted to F&S – the director says they will proceed with hiring the coordinator. Morgan will be reviewing the job description soon.

d) **2020 iCAP Evaluation/Writing Process – Micah Kenfield**

- i) Micah has tasked the SWATeams with going through their iCAP chapters and evaluating progress on their goals and objectives. Questions include:
 - (1) are we on track to hit objectives?;
 - (2) if not, why is this the case?;
 - (3) does each objective work towards the overall goals/should each be retained or deleted?;
 - (4) and other comments.
 - (5) The final section of each evaluation is for potential future iCAP goals and objectives. Concurrent to this process is honing in on key goals and opportunities for additional feedback.
- ii) Jonah asked when iCAP drafting will begin – Micah said ideally it would start in fall and be ready by Earth Day 2020, but more realistically it will be done by about summer 2020. Rough draft should be finished by mid to late spring 2020.
- iii) A big thing that will be happening more immediately is SWATeam restructuring (if necessary). For example, should food move to PWR purview from ALUFS? The goal is this will be done by May 2019 or early summer.
- iv) Joey wants to facilitate student input for evaluating and drafting the iCAP and asked when this could fit in. Micah said his sense is the most impactful time for students will be the drafting stage. Since now we are focused on research work, it's probably not the best fit for student involvement. Morgan suggested students could also be helpful in reviewing the non-SWATeam related chapters of the iCAP. (Education, Offsets, etc.)
- v) Jonah said he and Joey have talked about creating a simple Google form to circulate among environmentally conscious students. Micah likes this idea – especially if it is broad enough to ask if students have even heard of the iCAP.

4) Solar Farm RFP

- a) Morgan explained that there is a draft of the RFP now. The goal is to get feedback on this draft and publish it by the end of the month. (Feb. 22) It would then go to the Board for

information at the summer meeting, and approval would happen with Utility Funding Approvals. We think this will not be more expensive with the 20 year agreement, so there shouldn't be much to the approval. After this, agreement negotiations will take place (hopefully cleanly and quickly), and design work can start.

- b) The first solar farm was done in six months; this one could also be done as quickly in theory - in which case it would hopefully be completed enough to get tax incentives for this year, and go live in spring 2020. The plan requires pollinator plants throughout the site with a maintenance requirement to keep out weeds for 80% coverage. There is also a survey site plan, which shows what will be leased for construction. One delay has been the question of how it will connect to the campus grid, but this has been resolved, and it will hopefully be included in the price. Construction should start on or around October 1, 2019.
- c) Scott wanted to know what would happen if none of the bids that come back are good enough to pay for themselves in 20 years. Morgan said this is a somewhat loose requirement to her understanding. There is also a Senate bill in the works to allow for 30 year PPAs that may allow us to lengthen the agreement and cost. This is still a risk though.

5) Carbon charge and IVCB discussion

- a) Ximing said that he, Madhu, and another ag faculty member are going to meet to discuss this. He and Morgan also want to have a meeting with engineering facilities people to discuss ways to make this happen. The Yale model may not work on the campus level, but it could work on the individual college level. Renee said the only department where a similar model is currently in place is ECE (at Everitt), but more will get on this funding model as buildings are renovated. But this is a long process because of the many kinks, such as deferred maintenance.