

University-wide Environmental Standing Committee
MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 2021

Present: Paul Corcoran, Russell Fricano, Paul Prew, Michael Rutkowski, Gary Urban

Meeting Video Available:

https://mediaspace.minnstate.edu/media/Environmental+Committee+September+Zoom+Meeting/1_m2rczxrw

I. Welcome

II. Call Meeting to Order

Called meeting to order at 10:35am.

III. Call for Co-Chair Nominees

a. A call for nominees will go out via email.

IV. Solar Project Report (Paul Corcoran)

- a) In the 2018 comprehensive facilities plan, one potential was a large scale solar project
- b) In August, an Request for Proposal (RFP) was announced to assess the site for potential solar.
- c) McKinstry was hired to do the work, and was looking at 17 different building locations and 14 parking lots, which may serve as sites.
- d) Examine the greenhouse gas reduction potential of the installations and potential EV charging stations as well as other measures.
- e) There are a number of options for funding
 - a. Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) – vendor owns the equipment but we would keep the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and could purchase the equipment after 7 years.
 - b. Guaranteed Energy Savings Plan (GESP) – borrow the funds and the payments are made from the savings in utility costs
 - i. The state of MN has a master contract, so it is a simplified process with only 5 pre-qualified vendors.
 - ii. Limited to \$2 million, but our projects will probably exceed that.

- iii. Our current GESP expires at the end of June 2022.
- c. Could also do our own RFP.
 - i. Could open up to 30-40 vendors, but there is a potential for a less qualified vendor getting the bid.
 - ii. There are no limits, but the project must be completed in 25 years based on state of MN.
 - iii. Grants may be available to buy down the loan.
 - iv. Some state funds up to 5 million, but it is unclear how it will be administered.
- f) Site assessment will happen in November of 2021
 - a. Present to the president
 - b. Confirm the procurement in December or January
 - c. RFP in January and done in February
 - d. Board approval in March and April
 - e. Contract in May
 - f. Construction begins in Summer
- g) Roof installation is likely
- h) Carports – we have a lot of parking space and not a lot of green space, but they can be expensive
- i) Would like a volunteer from the Environmental Committee for the RFP.
- j) Lou Schwartzkopf has been doing our carbon accounting. It is quite a lot of work, and it would be something that a sustainability director could help with.

V. Sustainability Certificate (Russell Fricano)

- a) Met with the Continuing Education Program and seven departments
- b) Core and electives can be completed in one semester
- c) Conducive to Continuing Education
- d) Professors could develop modules and customize
- e) Put in D2L platform
- f) Would not be totally asynchronous
- g) Faculty would get duty days
- h) Hopefully ready by the Fall of 2022

VI. Other Business / Announcements

- a) Bicycle friendly campus
 - a. Look to get bicycle subgroup across campus
 - b. What can we do to improve? Discussion and encourage bicycling.

- b) Earth Day
 - a. Trash audit
 - b. Check on bicycles in storage
 - c. RPLS rentals
 - d. Organize a ride
 - i. Sam Steiger has organized rides (Dam Ride to Rapidan)
 - ii. Isaac Holter – contact for road or mountain bike group meets Mondays in Armstrong at 7pm

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted:
Paul Prew

Future Meetings: 10:30a.m.- 11:50a.m. Fourth Friday of Month