

WSU Sustainability & the Environment Committee

AGENDA

DATE, TIME, & LOCATION: Friday, July 8th, 2011, 2:10-3:10pm, Lighty 405

ATTENDANTS: Andy Ford, Chad Kruger, Terry Baxter-Potter, Terry Ryan, Leif Moon Nielsen, Jason Sampson, Gene Patterson, John Reed, Rob Corcoran, Julie Titone, Dennis Gransbery, Steve Rigby, Ade Snider

1. Call to Order - John Reed
2. Approval of 6 May, 2011 Minutes - John Reed
3. 50 year low water consumption - Rob Corcoran
 - a. Last year was the lowest water consumption at WSU since 1960. Back in 1960, WSU pumped 431 million gallons; last year, WSU pumped 409 million gallons. 1984 was WSU's all time high at 784 gallons. On average, WSU has saved 280 million gallons per year since 1984. Since 1970s, WSU Pullman square footage has increased almost 50%, but our water usage has gone down. There are two big contributors, the first being increased focus on finding and fixing leaks. The second is eliminating water wasters; pieces of equipment that use water like cooling systems, air compressors, walk-in coolers. Steam plant saves 20-30 million gallons of water a year. WSU Facilities continues to work on smaller incremental changes to reduce water usage. Housing and Dining has their own conservation program, which includes low flow shower heads and faucets, front loading washing machines (which saves 8 million gal), and upgrades to 1/3 of irrigation systems. John Reed - what's the trend of the three big aquifer users? Rob - Moscow is the largest reducer since they started using reclaimed waste water. City of Pullman's usage was growing but has leveled off. As a whole, the three use 10-15% less than was used back in 1992. Julie Titone would encourage more communication. Andy Ford - One of the entities that is in the public eye for water consumption is the golf course. What is their usage? Rob - Last year they used 37 million gallons which is a significant decline. When the course wasn't even operating, the overall usage for WSU was higher. Andy Ford - On campus, how much water do you think evaporates and how much goes back into the aquifer? Rob - Research is being conducted because this is currently unknown. Julie Titone - How many buildings are metered? Gene Patterson - 38. Julie Titone - Is there a plan to meter all buildings? Rob - All buildings will be metered by 2018 per the president's CAP. Julie Titone mentioned a competition she heard of where dorms at another university had a competition to see who had the lowest water usage on their meter. Most of our dorms are metered, and this could be something to consider in the future. Rob asked that if you're walking around and see running water or unexpected green spots call 5-9000.
4. Sustainability Fair - Jamie Bentley

- a. There is interest in reviving the Sustainability Fair. Class ER 495, Jamie Bentley, and a few others are planning to hold the fair November 8th or 9th. If you are interested in participating, please, contact Jamie Bentley or John Reed. The organizers may bring in some outside vendors. There will be further discussion at subsequent
5. AASHE membership renewal and funding
 - a. Renewal is due September, will be 1670 last year was divided 5 ways between CEREO, Campus Involvement, EHS, SRC Wellbeing Program, and the Center for Sustainability. This year the amount will be \$334 for each group. If the five agree, budget-projects will need to be sent to Ade Snider at EHSRMS to arrange payment.
 6. LID Workshop – Terry Baxter-Potter
 - a. There was a Low Impact Development (LID) Workshop in June about the LID center in Puyallup and the potential for one in Eastern Washington. The workshop was to start gaining interest, and let people know what is going on to start the Eastern site. Presenters went through a series of LID Best Management Practices (BMP) to manage water where it falls. Stormwater lines go straight to rivers. One of the new BMPs would be treating the stormwater before it goes into the river. Predevelopment the water would have fallen on the trees/ground, and would have percolated to the aquifer or run into the river. Now, stormwater runs off of streets, parking lots, and other hard surfaces into rivers without being cleaned. Objectives are to reduce the development envelope, reduce impervious surfaces, increase vegetation, and reduce concentrated flow. Some case studies were presented. One was the City of Yakima paved two city blocks in permeable pavements; one half of the road was control and one half was three types of permeable pavements. Analysis will be done on the run-off. Steve Rigby had a question about water rights and how harvesting water, like rainwater, would be impact water rights. Gene Patterson – It has no impact on water rights if you use the rainwater where it is harvested and you do not turn it into an enterprise. Terry Ryan – There once was an issue about what would happen if you reclaimed water that would have been returned to the river and used downstream like a reclamation plant. Gene Patterson – This was cleared with DOE when steps were taken to build a reclamation plant and get the plant permitted. Chad Kruger - The water rights in the state of Washington are under the jurisdiction of DOE. There is more paper than water, so there are more claims than water available.
 7. Open Discussion
 - a. It has been suggested to move the day of this meeting from a Friday afternoon to another day or time. Email suggested days of the week and times of the month that would work best to [Ade Snider](#).

NEXT MEETING: August 5, 2011 – Light 405 – 2:10pm-3:10pm