

DRAFT

Minutes of the Sustainability and Climate Change Task Force

March 11, 2009 - Milton Hall Room 85

Attendees: Greg Block, Ellen Castello, Tim Darden, Bud Jones, Margaret Loring, Frank Torres, Orasa Vaught, Theresa Westbrook, Russell Winn, Jon Boren, Alex Deucalion, Susan Brown, Elaine Kastmann, Art Lucero, Lois Stanford, John Mexal, Deb Guenther, Glen Haubold, Jennifer Villa, Judy Harmon, Paul Gutierrez, Kathy Reddington, David Weir, Sonya Cooper; Via Tele-conference: Dan Christmann, Albert Castenida, Lori Mitchell

1. Call to order at 8:35am

2. Approval of Minutes for February 11, 2009 meeting

The minutes/notes of the February 11, 2009 meeting were distributed with no action taken.

Introduced Dr. Jon Boren, CES Interim Director, who will be working with Dr. Gutierrez and Mr. David Weir, Community and Dev. Director for the City of Las Cruces.

Steve Loring announced the Organic Conference Tour that he participated in and reported that NMSU received great recognition in the Alamogordo newspaper.

3. Report from Teams Leaders

- a. Campus Operations – Glen Haubold – He announced introduced Art Lucero to report on Recycle Mania. Art announced that in week 6, out of 513 schools, NMSU ranks #2, but since NMSU weighs material, NMSU actually ranks #1.

This is the first time NM schools participate. He also announced “See a bin, drop it in”.

- b. Outreach – Paul Gutierrez – Several meetings have or will be taking place on and off campus. The Federal Stimulus Package over the Year of Sustainability will help. Service Learning, Green Building –the college of Engineering and Dona Ana Community College are assisting a local builder with Job training to build the first totally green community. State Level – State agencies and non-profit agencies are working together with NMSU and Communities.
- c. Learning & Curriculum – Steve Loring (Temp) – Announced there is a minor in Renewable Engineering Technology. There was a recent tour during organic conference, which brought about great recognition in the Alamogordo paper. Also, Dr. Caruthers is teaching a class on Sustainability. Steve Loring and Glen Haubold will be speaking to students in different classes. EPA round table discussion April 30at the Ramada Palms specializing in Bio-fuels, solar energies, etc.
- d. Communications – Ellen Castello - The communications team is up to twelve (12) members and growing. The first meeting for this group will be March 24. The main goal for the communications team is to get the website up and running. Each team will have a “Webmaster”. That person will be in charge of updating information on each individual team’s site and then there will be a “Master Webmaster” to maintain the whole site. Mr.

Frank Torres, currently the Marketing Associate and Web Developer for NMSU, has joined the Communications Team and has been working on getting the web site up and running. Frank is using a program developed by Media Production called Mango, which is easier to update and use. More outlets can be used to get the word out such as Youtube, myspace, facebook, etc. Ellen said the site would be basic, then branch out to other areas to talk about each individual teams projects and updates on progress.

Art Lucero from OFS Recycling has used Mango and said the site is really easy to use.

IV. Community Colleges

Carlsbad – Aware of recycling and will be working more with the city in the efforts.

Grants – getting working on recycling. Collected plastics and an average one 1 ton of cardboard in a two to three month time frame. The efforts are there, but a little harder for them since the campus is not so close to town with a recycling plant.

Remodel of Library will be taking place soon and is seeking LEED Silver Certification as a green building.

Alamogordo – No one present, but Michael Rickenbacker spoke on the project under construction seeking LEED Silver, close to Gold levels. Joni Newcomer is the representative on the regional council of the USGBC (US Green Building Council).

Steve Loring announced that Governor Richardson announced that LEED Silver level will be met on all new building.

Dona Ana - Kathy Reddington said that Art Lucero is helping them get their recycling going and also new building projects will be LEED silver. Art Lucero announced that in a couple weeks Dona Ana Community college will be “a greener shade of blue”.

V. Upcoming Events

The World Wildlife Fund is hosting “Earth Hour” March 28th at 8:30pm to turn off your lights for an hour to try to bring attention to climate control and Carbon foot print.

Also, that will be holding a candle light vigil outside of Corbett Center on March 28th at 8:30pm. (www.earthhourus.org)

VI. Other

Judy Harmon, Program Coordinator for cross campus advising announced she is adding a discussion group called “a major decision” for academic advisors to help students get involved in any major decision including sustainability and also to try to combine the City of Las Cruces with the NMSU community in the “Green” efforts.

Michael Rickenbacker reminded everyone to turn off lights all the time. 20 to 40% of lights are on all weekend. Some rooms now have sensors, but the majority don't.

Dr. Gutierrez announced the Civic Learning/Civic Engagement group is working with UNM, which already has similar a group.

Also, Community Sustainability thru food systems which is a local effort in Las Cruces area that involves, community gardens and weather groups. Dr. Mark Uchanski is involved in these groups and can be contacted for information.

Community colleges can use green building weatherization and green jobs.

Engineering Extension is getting underway to educate on energy conservation (Lights off) and finally the Transportation areas.

Any help is welcome in all the areas.

Art Lucero introduced Bud Jones, who announced the Upward Bound program. 75 students will be on campus on Saturday, March 14th from 9:30am – 12:00pm to help spread compost and mulch on planters and flower beds and to be educated on NMSU's sustainability efforts. The Sustainability council advised to contact Darrell Pehr from University Communications to get the word out to the public regarding NMSU's sustainability efforts and events.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:27am

Minutes taken by Teri Diaz (AES)