Members Present: Casey Barrons, Samantha Cooper, Chris Caprara, Bill Davis, Harold Glasser, Matt Hollander, Pat Holton, Maryann Lavendar, Caroline Noack, Chris Pyzik, Lowell Rinker, Anand Sankey, Pete Strazdas, Andrew Targowski, Barbara Wygant

Guests: Evan Escamilla, Energy Management Outreach Coordinator of Maintenance Services, Alex Smith, WSA Chief Justice, Doug Walls, undergraduate student and Chelsea Keck, undergraduate student

PUSC Chair Harold Glasser called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of Agenda
Motion to approve by Noack; seconded by Strazdas. Agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes
Motion to approve by Rinker; seconded by Sankey. Minutes approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please welcome guests of the PUSC Alex Smith, WSA Chief Justice, Doug Walls, undergraduate student and Chelsea Keck, undergraduate student!

Please continue sending ideas and suggestions for monthly campus sustainability events that help raise awareness and building capacity at WMU. Please also come prepared to participate in an events discussion during the March PUSC meeting.

Harold has been communicating with K College professor Kim Cummings about K and WMU (& larger community) collaboration on sustainability projects. The current focus is to bring a diverse group from Kalamazoo to visit Will Allen’s urban agriculture-community redevelopment-composting initiative in Milwaukee.

QUICK UPDATES

Lowell—Sustainability Office Funding
Lowell and Harold are currently assessing Sustainability Office funding scenarios. Lowell announced that he submitted a budget protocol of $250,000.00 for an Office of Sustainability. This request reflects a compromise between an ideal funding situation and a realistic funding rate, given present circumstances. Lowell informed Committee members that we might not receive the full requested funding, as the process is competitive. Typically, four million dollars are awarded out of an average of twenty million dollars requested each year.

Harold—Please review, and make any necessary corrections, to the PUSC Roster
Harold passed around an updated roster for review by PUSC members in order to post on the WMU Sustainability website.
Evan—Update on Eco-thon
WMU’s Ecothon is currently in its third week! Evan announced that as of week two, Valley 2 is in the lead with a 5.82 percent reduction in electricity from the calculated baseline. To date, six of the residence halls have reductions from the baseline. Evan feels that the Ecothon is going well. They are continuing to brainstorm with R.A.’s, Hall Directors and Laura Darrah, WMU Assistant Director of Residence Life regarding the rest of the Ecothon program as well as Recyclemania. Please become a fan of the Ecothon Facebook page and invite students and colleagues!

Carolyn—Update on Recyclemania and the Inter-dorm Competition
There are currently two recycling competitions happening at WMU. Carolyn reported that WMU is performing well in the waste minimization section of the national Recyclemania competition. We are not doing so well in per capita recycling. However, our numbers are steadily improving. This week, Carolyn stated that WMU’s Paper Pilot Plant recycled 20,000 pounds of paper, so our numbers should improve! The inter-dorm Recyclemania competition is currently lacking in participation, though certain dorms such as Harrison-Stinson are exhibiting strong leadership among R.A.’s. Carolyn will be handing out water bottles and backpacks through a raffle toward the end of the competition. Carolyn is also continuing to send weekly data to Cameron for inclusion on the Ecothon/Recyclamania online data-sheet.

Carolyn—The new Stainless Steel Recycling Containers are being installed
So far, five of twenty-one containers have been installed on campus. There are three containers near the chemistry building and one by the Miller parking structure. So far, the new containers have received positive reviews. Carolyn decided not to have locks on them in order to reduce maintenance. Landscape Services will be replacing the brown and yellow containers with the stainless steel containers. The rest of the new containers will be installed over the Spring.

Paul F.—Socio-Cultural Studies, Learning for Sustainability M.S. track
Paul Farber was unable to attend the February PUSC meeting. Harold discussed an ongoing conversation with the Socio-Cultural Studies Program to create a “Learning For Sustainability” Masters Track. Harold has also been communicating with public school superintendents who are seeking avenues for ongoing teacher-training certification. Paul will update the PUSC during our March PUSC meeting.

Matt—Overview of HUD’s Sustainable Communities Initiative Conference Call
We were forwarded an invitation to participate in a conference call by the city of Kalamazoo. The conference call was an advance notice and request for comment on an upcoming federal Housing and Urban Development grant. HUD is hoping to collect input before the funds are available to have a more targeted approach. This grant is intended to support integrated regional planning for sustainability. They are interested in regional integrated planning initiatives such as the Maureen Hart workshop. HUD representatives explained that they are interested in supporting implementation, though the focus is on detailed regional planning and collaboration with community groups, NGO’s, local governments, HE institutions, etc. Matt announced that this grant could support the next steps involved in following up from the Maureen Hart report.

Because this is a regional planning grant, Pete mentioned that the Kalamazoo County Council of Governments and local planning departments would likely take grant writing leadership as opposed to a university. However, Matt stated that HUD did not rule out organizations outside of
governments receiving funding. Pete stated that last year the Council Of Governments began looking at commonalities of commercial zoning nomenclature, though the follow up work has not been completed. Given the staffing situation in our local government, creating a synergy between WMU’s sustainability efforts and zoning classification experts may be necessary to move forward efficiently.

Harold stated that we are lucky to be asked to participate in the pre-planning process because our comments can help shape the RFP. Overall, there may be three million dollars available for Kalamazoo by HUD if we get involved early on in the application process. The next Council Governments meeting will be held on March 1 at 3:30 in the Chamber Office.

Chris—Overview of 2010 Campus to Senate: Let’s Talk MI Conference Call, Feb. 16.
Representatives from Senators Stabenow’s and Levin’s offices participated in the conference call. The call focused on green manufacturing and creating new jobs in the state for renewable energy technologies. In addition, they discussed protecting our more traditional manufacturing jobs instead of sending a big “carbon leak” out of the state. Sustainable agriculture and an increased diversity of energy supplies were also key topics of discussion. Different students throughout the state submitted questions, which focused on our underutilized manufacturing structure and tax incentives for new manufacturing businesses. Please contact Chris Caprara if you have questions.

Chris—Update on Filtered Water Pilot
Chris recently attended Harold’s 410 class to recruit students to help with the filtered water pilot. Students Kim Schafer and Alex Secrest volunteered to assist with creating a strategic plan. Please contact Chris Caprara if you are interested in volunteering.

Matt—Update on Waste Vegetable Oil to Mower Pilot
A meeting was recently held with Matt, Harold, Jeff Alexander, Tim Holysz, and John Bibbler. John is advocating for using waste oil from Dining Services to run campus diesel mower engines for his 410 campus sustainability project. The group discussed running the WMU lawn mowers on waste oil as well as using other vehicles to minimize conversion costs (increase the IRR). Ultimately, they will stick with mower engines for the pilot study because there are older units that are more suitable for a pilot. Matt explained that the end goal is to assess the viability of using waste oil in diesel engines on campus. Matt explained that a lot was learned from the conversation and the mower pilot will continue to be explored throughout the semester.

Harold—Update on progress with arranging the “Sustainability Across the Curriculum”
Harold recently met with the Faculty Senate along with Dr. David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies in order to get more information about the new Academic Affairs Strategic Planning document, which highlights “environmental sustainability”.. Harold will be meeting with Dave next week to report back on the provost response along with Andrea Beach from Faculty Development and Bill Rantz from the Faculty Senate to plan for the faculty Luncheon this spring.

Harold—SWMSBF Annual Meeting update & the SWM Regional Sustainability Covenant
Harold gave an overview of the SWMSBF Annual Meeting held this morning where he gave a keynote presentation on the Covenant and strategic planning for sustainability. Matt will be gave a summary of Harold’s presentation and an update on Maureen Hart follow-up work below:
Matt & Harold—Maureen Hart Events Report
Matt and Harold gave an overview of the new Maureen Hart follow-up report, which analyzes three public events and one private event including the SCI Luncheon, the public workshop with Maureen Hart and the Maureen Hart public lecture. The report gauges the opinions of the diverse group of participants from higher education, state government, neighborhood associations, area residents, college students, foundations, small-scale agricultural representatives, etc. The report also discusses potential next steps such as pruning the wealth of sustainability indicators drafted by the core workshop group. Strategies for improving the diversity of participants, especially underrepresented groups such as faith-based organizations and business leaders, are also examined in the report.

Luckily, 83 percent of survey respondents stated that they are interested in being involved with future sustainability indicators work in our region. Harold and several government officials including Bobby Hopewell, Bruce Merchant and Mike Wetzel held a meeting to discuss next steps. On Wednesday, April 14, a Sustainability Covenant meeting will discuss a Sustainability Indicators action plan with the following questions as a guide:

A. Think 50 years out! What does a sustainable and desirable SWM Region look like—or what are a few of its key characteristics—from the perspective of your organization? (Vision casting)
B. What does your organization need to be doing now to help us all to realize this vision? (development of goals & objectives)
C. Recognizing that some sustainability initiatives can only be accomplished through collaboration with other Covenant signatories, what single, high-leverage activity, action, or project is most critical to get launched—from the perspective of your organization?

PRESENTATIONS
Chris, Matt, & Sam—Sustainability Fund Initiative (SFI) Overview and Update
Matt and Sam gave an overview of the Sustainability Fund Initiative (SFI) campaign at WMU. Through best practice research, the SFI team feels that enacting a campus-wide sustainability fund will be an effective strategy for securing funds to create a culture of sustainability. The SFI initiative has been expanding their core team and meeting with key administrators such as Lowell Rinker, Diane Anderson and Chris Sligh from DOSA as well as key WSA cabinet members. Up until this point, referendums have occupied a grey-area within WSA governing documents. The SFI team is working closely with WSA to clarify the process of getting a referendum on the ballot. They are also preparing to present a resolution in support of the SFI before election week on March 15-19.

Matt gave a powerpoint presentation to track the progress and future goals of the SFI campaign. Currently, the SFI team is proposing for all students to pay $8.00 per semester and $4.00 per summer session for the purpose of funding student designed and led sustainability initiatives, an Office of Sustainability, and a WMU Green Jobs Program. This fee would be collected from students enrolled at WMU’s main campus and begin in the 2010-2011 academic year with a student majority allocation committee. PUSC members gave helpful suggestions regarding the content of the governing documents and the management structure of the sustainability fund.

Sam announced that if students pass the SFI referendum in late March, the next step is to have the Board of Trustees approve the referendum in late spring. If WMU students and the Board pass the referendum, the sustainability fund will be begin in Fall 2010.

Please join the SFI Facebook group titled, “I Support The Sustainability Initiative at WMU”!
Casey—on her Campus Sustainable Endowment Practices Report

Casey gave a great overview of her report analyzing Campus Sustainable Endowment Practices based on 2010 Sustainable Endowment Institute (SEI) Green Report Card data. Casey reminded the PUSC that WMU was named one of 80 Campus Sustainability Leaders by the SEI. Despite this honor, we received a D in relation to our endowment transparency. As a result, Casey began evaluating how other universities are increasing endowment transparency. Her goal is to inform the WSA, the Faculty Senate, and eventually the WMU administration about these best practices. From here, she hopes to help the WMU community agree on a set of endowment recommendations that can eventually be presented to President Dunn for review.

Maryann suggested that Casey focus more on why increasing endowment transparency is closely related to campus sustainability. Lowell also suggested holding additional meetings with key administrators such as Jan Vanderclay and Gail Kurtz to refine her report before her March 24 WSA presentation. Please contact Casey Barrons if you have any comments or edits to share.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Items to address at the March or subsequent PUSC meetings:

1. Brown Hall update
2. Earth Hour—March 27
3. Update on ACUPCC March 9 Webinar
4. Update on Eco-thon
5. Update on Recyclemania and the dorm Competition
6. Status and next steps for Campus Sustainable Endowment Practices Report
7. Update on conversations about a Waste Vegetable Oil to Mower Pilot
8. Update on 410 Vermicomposting Project & Dining Hall Pilot
9. Update on Filtered Water Pilot & 410 Class Project
10. Socio-Cultural Studies Learning for Sustainability M.S. track progress update
11. Progress on development of a student sustainability blog
12. Update on progress with arranging the May 4 WeSustain Faculty Luncheon to discuss sustainability related curriculum (and research) opportunities/hurdles
13. Monthly Campus Sustainability Events discussion
14. Standardization of Recycling Bins Policy Proposal
15. SFI Overview and Update
16. Discussion on PUSC annual report

The February PUSC meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Next meeting: March 18, 2010, Rm. 204 of the Bernhard Center