EcoTF Meeting Minutes

Date: January 27, 2011

Title of Meeting: Ecosystem Task Force Monthly Meeting

Location: Thompson Hall, Trustees Board Room


Action Items

1. Review Waste Management Coordinator Memo and send comments to Brett.
   Assigned to: EcoTF

2. Revise Waste Management Coordinator Memo.
   Assigned to: Brett Pasinella

General Updates

1. Meeting dates set for spring semester; contact Brett if you did not receive list

Integrated Waste Management Coordinator Memo

1. Acting on the decision of the group in the December meeting to request a financial analysis of a waste management coordinator position a draft memo was presented to the group for review.

   1.1. The memo will be revised with comments from the group between now and the February meeting.

   1.2. After the final draft is reviewed by the group at the next meeting; Jim will submit the memo to Dick Cannon on behalf of the group.

   1.3. The memo should be revised to emphasize that the estimated savings generated by the coordinator would have to be greater than the costs in order to justify the position.

2. Regarding single-stream/no-sort recycling it was reported that the Town of Durham investigated the program but did not opt to adopt it because of existing infrastructure investments.
2.1. When the infrastructure needs to be replaced, the option will be reconsidered. Portsmouth had a similar experience; the switch to no-sort occurred when equipment was in need of replacement and the no-sort offered cost savings.

2.2. The Durham school and some other businesses have already adopted no-sort and have experienced 50% volume reductions.

3. The group should keep in mind the question of methane production by composting in future analyses.

3.1. Given that EcoLine is in place; we can no longer simply assume that composting has a positive impact on climate protection and cost reductions—we need to assess it in more detail.

**Indicators Plan for Spring Semester**

1. Lucy will be leading group through the process of narrowing down the list of indicators. Focusing on indicators that:

   1.1. inform policy

   1.2. are relevant to ecosystems

   1.3. transparent

   1.4. within our capacity to monitor over time.

2. Will be identifying what data and info already exist.

3. Will be doing monthly presentations throughout the spring with updates on indicators that pertain to each of the subcommittees.

   3.1. We need to be open to naturally allow connections between what are now distinct indicator groupings—indicators are not always going to remain compartmentalized.

4. In an ideal sense, would use the EcoTF indicators to draft an Ecosystem Plan

   4.1. ETF has the Greenhouse Gas Inventory with became an action plan—called WildCAP (Climate Action Plan).

**GIS Project**

1. Jim, Brett, Tom, and Michele meet with Tim Sullivan and Shane Bradt to discuss how to begin to use campus GIS resources to help with EcoTF related assessments.

   1.1. There will be a lot of overlap with the indicators project, as some of the indictors Lucy is looking at have geospatial components.

2. To help define and test the process, there will be a project using data from Jim’s ecology course.
2.1. Jim is interested in learning more about what wildlife is in College Woods and various other patches on campus.

2.2. Students in his Ecology course will be collecting data at these sites to be entered into a GIS.

2.3. They will take an image, a Geo-reference point, etc. and data will be mapped on Google Earth.

2.4. Shane will facilitate transfer of data collected from classes to Campus Planning GIS.

3. We do need to think about the quality and consistency we can expect from classes.

3.1. This work needs to be a core institutional commitment that is supported with funding.

Subcommittee Updates

Natural Resources Inventory
1. Woodlands Office is collecting spatial data for College Woods
   1.1. Cover type
   1.2. Wetlands
   1.3. Non-native species
   1.4. Still need to map patches of ancient forest

2. Will need to also work on lands west of College Woods.

Watershed/Aquifer Protection
1. Lamprey River Watershed management conference went well.
   1.1. Close to 100 people attended.

2. Upcoming regulations of waste water is a big issue
   2.1. Nitrogen and salt regulatory actions will cause costs to increase to stay within standards.
   2.2. Nitrogen is on the fast track.