CACES Meeting Notes - October 31, 2013

- WA State Higher Education sustainability conference Feb. 6-7, 2014 @ WWU
  *Present what your campus is doing
  *What solutions to problems campus is working on
  *We should be there: building regional identity in sustainability; can probably be there with more than one project

*IDEAS as to how to create a presence there?

**Goals:** banning water-bottles/bag the bag campaign/composting education for students/recycling/; plans for "sustainability organization"
-"Connections": how do we connect various issues to people/to student groups to create regional or national presence; forming coalitions, etc.?
-"Sustainability organization" & ways in which students have been effective in creating change on campus…
-Can still attend to see what we can learn, maybe nothing to contribute initially?
-At minimum, do something about worm composting? Energy savings projects? Getting students to articulate what they are doing, etc.
-Another idea: landscape management
-Perhaps better to focus on what is distinct? Like the gardening…
-Third prop.: the wetlands; interesting stories about the wetlands

***above needs to be completed by next Friday (11/08/2013)

1- Water bottles
2-Gardening
3-Wetlands

*Could set up a room and invite people from campus to join the conference?
*Warren will e-mail person, etc.
• **Sustainability Organization on Seattle Campus offering Green Seed Fund Grant Program**

- Is there interest in generating something out of this organization?
- Crows, wetlands, conservatory...
- The program is fostering research that will tackle problems campuses are facing in sustainability that will lead to management solutions
- **ANY ideas or interest in generating a proposal?** should think strategically as to where the focus is going…
- $20-40k is amount of grant; but, this money is not to purchase things but to do research

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- If CACES not generating proposals then at least CACES can support those that are
- Can keep tabs on various proposals so that at CACES Nov. meeting we can look at all proposals…
- How to change cultures; KEY.
- Professional Development Plan (another idea); incentives...
- Pressing environmental issues: and various active roles
- Will discuss developing proposals during November meeting

• **Water Quality & Crows:**

- **Update:** 2500-3000 crows; soon to be 10k; they all roost on campus; more and more each year, and need to be ready as there are going to be more
- Have been in newspaper and TV
- Facility side: cleaning windows and promenade - more than before…
- Have done work on placing bird spike material on sky bridge at library
- Also have staff that work full-time in wetlands
- Are testing to see what is out there with regard to amount of poop: how affecting wetlands, and is it safe?
- Have been jostling back and forth with ways: scare crows, etc. they then feel that they are not safe anymore and will spread the word that this is no longer a safe place to be, etc.
- Company in TX that may help?
- Professors helping including Dr Turner, Marslove (sp?), and Dr Gold; all trying to work
out what is out there; in their poop, and what to do?
- Concerned about safety, etc.; do people need to be warned?
- Poop samples have been collected; a lot of e-coli bacteria; Dr Roberts discovering that much of the bacteria is antibiotic resistant
- Are going to do new techniques to see if e-coli is attached to crows
- Are going to build a strong case that crows are contributing to oxidation of water etc.
- All above may be real trigger for action
- Social justice thing; Dr Marlove brought to Tony's attention; will crows then move to an area where the people cannot move them from?
- 1. Impact of crows going beyond what we've heard about: invasive species; bird dispersed non-native weeds; soil chemistry changes?
- New protocols that are circulating to limit potential hazards to people visiting wetlands
- The reason CACES is in this issue is because we have a body of people that come here from different perspectives & it's this sort of group that can make practical adjustments based on the recommendations received.
- Are trying to get enough data to see what is actually happening; complex situation, cannot concretely point finger - yet.
- Scrutinize applications; risk management
- What is the timeline? How do we know when something has to happen?
- Most worrisome: concentrations are in the wetlands themselves
- North Creek concentrations are very variable
- Has due-diligence been done? Would a legal person be okay what is being done?
- Classes not doing research on this particular area should not be there
- Need to try to keep people out of roost areas
- CACES appropriate group to sort information that comes in
- Cost concerns
- Public tour concerns
- Need to keep bringing these things together in order to determine what will need to be done
- Area needs to remain part of "living lab" that UWB claims it has - in wetlands
- Scientists have understandable supportable story that needs to be available to everyone
- Need experts to come in and relay what works best
- Cascadia team member also involved in this
- Catalyst site ready for information to be shared

- **New Student Sustainability Organization**
  - Sustainability ambassadors; has students that are not ambassadors that would like to be involved: horticulture, etc.
  - Going to mirror UW Seattle program
  - Discussing details with Tyson
  - Earth Day plans - need help...
  - As activities move and ramp up CACES would like to support these; ask faculty to make connections and get the word out, etc.
  - Really wants to connect with non-environmental students as they are the ones that are not involved in this sort of thing
  - Trying to target as many people as possible
  - Concern in general is that results are obtained from all the good ideas: need to focus on one thing at a time; will be slow process but if that's what it takes it's worth it
  - Meeting next week for Earth Day: sustainability pledge/make large footprint to illustrate amount of pollution/difficult getting students interested in this sort of thing
  - Wants good non-profits to attend
  - Create green fees? Has produced a good bit of money to use to further environmental awareness at UW Seattle
  - Outreach for freshman awareness...
  - Commuter calculator?
  - Have speaker attend Earth Day to engage students on his one year of no emissions?
  - Wheel options program: has simple model where data is entered and numbers are given, etc.

- New Wetland website in the works; will be up and running soon…
-Will have online forms and Warren will be able to update
-Perhaps wetlands should be noted in only one area on website? This is being worked-on at the moment

**Things that group wants to begin to tackle:**
-Certain things like green laboratories program a sub-faculty will begin working on
-Sustainability coordinator as a permanent position? Denied last year; Tony will resubmit this year
-Commuter services (Tony will begin to manage); if everything could be combined, perhaps we could get full-time employee
-PSE Tony speaking about their RCM Program "resource conservation" etc. they are beginning to acknowledge UWB as an entity
-Where can more electricity be saved?
-RCM, PSE, Facilities money; maybe student funding; then maybe sustainability coordinator can be hired?
-Is there any merit to idea of going after temporary/grant funding to get this position started? Or will this be ignored when the budget time comes? What sort of strategy should we use? Figure what Sust. Coord. gaining for UWB, etc. then case can be made for continuing it, and from what source?
-Young man from North Seattle Community College; he was their Sust. Coord. and he was chosen by the students. He's very knowledgeable.
-So, perhaps this position could also support health/safety?
-Students would love to have one individual that could be sought for these issues
-Need a someone to take this on as an entity
-Need to keep clarifying what this person would do
-Problem areas: crows, conservatory (not staffed)
-Is there a precedent where faculty and staff tax themselves?