

Minutes/Notes of 10th Meeting of the **EARTH** Group at ASC
Tuesday, May 6, 2008
Noon, Student Life Center, SUB
<http://www.adams.edu/sustainability> (our website)
<http://ascearth.wordpress.com/> (blog – add a comment!)

Present: Jeff Bauman, Christy Miller, Cameron Miller, Kailee Potter, Laura Moore, Mick Daniel, Kristin Young-Jaramillo, Patrick Price, Karla Hardesty, Erik van de Boogaard, Julie Waechter, Ted McNeilsmith, Larry Sveum, Chuck Reel, Matt Iklé, Audrey Liu, Ted Lay, Erwin Young, Christine Preiss, Marty Jones.

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, June 3, at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB. Regular meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month.

Announcements:

- The first annual EARTH Week was a success! In addition to modest attendance at each of the events, the garage sale raised \$151 and the reusable grocery bag sales during the week netted \$80! Thanks to all our partners who helped with EARTH Week: AS&F, Provost Mumper, ASC Community Partnerships, ASC Adventure Programs, SLV Solar Association, Alamosa Community Greenhouse, the Alamosa Live Music Association, and Stonyfield Farms.
- Planning for next year's EARTH Week will begin early in the fall of next year. Please think about volunteering to serve on the organizing committee!
- The EARTH Group was also the beneficiary of the recent Valley Community Chorus Concert. Dr. Chris Jackson, ASC Choral Director, contacted me early in the spring to ask if we would be interested in receiving the proceeds from the Community Chorus concert this spring, and I quickly agreed. At intermission of the concert, I spoke for a few minutes about our group and what we hope to accomplish. The proceeds from the concert will enrich our coffers by \$259! Please thank Dr. Jackson and the chorus members for thinking of EARTH (and for providing a wonderful concert of Aaron Copland songs)!
- This fall's Autumn at Adams, September 15-20, will have the theme of Tierra Nueva, Nuestro Valle (Our Earth, Our Valley). Mick Daniel, Linda Relyea and I (from EARTH) are on the planning committee for this event. Tentative plans include a celebration of farming/ranching/gardening in the SLV; renewable energy; sustainable building practices; water use (including acequias); use of traditional/local medicinal plants; and local food (locovore) movements. Chef Charles has agreed to provide some local foods as selections at the cafeteria each day during the week. We also hope to host a mid-week Farmer's Market on campus during A@A. Volunteers will certainly be needed for A@A, so be looking for an email with opportunities to serve!
- If you or someone you know qualifies for work-study this summer (must be registered for 6 credits), please consider working with the EARTH group. We want to be sure to continue the regular recycling pick-ups through the summer and there are other activities to fill the time also. Please contact me (mbjones@adams.edu) or Karla Hardesty (karla_hardesty@adams.edu) for more information.
- To jump-start our group's activities in the fall, we plan to have a table at the Club Fair and may try to have a presence at Convocation. We may also invite a speaker from another Colorado college/university with a longer history of sustainability initiatives to discuss their efforts and provide some ideas for us. Ted Lay suggested that we consider hosting or attending a Colorado College/University Sustainability Summit to share information.
- Tony Ross and Mary Hoffman have proposed the founding of an Eco Squad to promote the use of reusable grocery bags. Once a month (or thereabouts), the Eco Squad would visit a local grocery store and award a prize (gift cards, compact fluorescent light bulbs, etc.) to a shopper using a reusable bag. We would make a great lot of hoopla with this, play music on kazoos, put an eco-hat on the person, take pictures – just have fun with this. If you are interested in being a member of the Eco Squad, please contact me (mbjones@adams.edu) and I'll make sure you stay informed as this initiative progresses.
- We have a meeting with Mr. Don Koskelin, Alamosa City Public Works director, set for next Tuesday afternoon (May 13) at 1:30 pm to discuss the possibility of having one or more large recycling containers placed on campus. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting, which will be at 314 Hunt in

Alamosa. Audrey Liu volunteered to have Habitat for Humanity construct a “Can Cottage” for aluminum cans to have on campus. Thanks, Audrey, that would be great!

- Erik van de Boogaard, our new Associate VP for Facilities, Planning, Design & Construction, reported that Facilities Services has begun a concerted effort to use “greener” chemicals for cleaning supplies. A recent visit from a supplier of these chemicals suggests that Adams State is ahead of almost every other campus in the state in this respect. Way to go, Facilities Services! Erik also mentioned that all new state construction and renovation projects must meet the High Performance Certification Program guidelines. These are essentially the same guidelines as required for LEED certification, but for the State of Colorado (and without the LEED certification costs). The Plachy Hall addition/renovation was approved and planned prior to this requirement, so it does not fall under the HPCP guidelines, but the Richardson Hall addition/renovation just approved by the legislature will meet these guidelines.

Task Force Reports

- Energy – Cameron reported that there were six good suggestions regarding energy use put into the Energy Saving Suggestion Box at the EARTH Week events: (1) Solar hot water heat, (2) Raise temperature or turn off coolers for drinking fountains, (3) Make all new buildings passive solar design; add trombe walls to existing buildings wherever possible, (4) Use motion sensors to control room lighting; when no one is in a room, all or part of the lighting will turn off, (5) Have the computers on campus automatically shut off at 2 am every night, and (6) Turn off bathroom, classroom, and office lights every time we leave. The Energy Task Force voted to award the Kill-a-Watt meter to Carol Guerrero-Murphy for her suggestion, which was number 6. Congratulations, Carol! Julie volunteered to take pictures and write an article for publicity purposes. Jeff suggested putting signs by light switches that stated the cost per hour of leaving the lights on. Erik cautioned that the use of sensors to control lighting could present problems (e.g., sitting in a bathroom stall with no motion or sitting at a desk grading papers with little motion could cause the lights to go out!).
- Recycling – Christine reported that the dorms recycled 30 bags of plastic and cans! (I’ll bet the RD is glad to get those out of her backyard.) The dorms are also collecting food from residents to donate to the local food bank. In collaboration with the Agribusiness Club on campus, outdoor barrels for recyclable materials will be placed at the apartments.
- Composting/Local Food – Laura reported that the radishes are coming up in the teepee greenhouse and plants (tomatoes, parsley, and others) from the Community Greenhouse will be transplanted to the teepee greenhouse shortly. Look for some of these vegetables and fruit (yes, tomatoes are a fruit!) this summer.
- Transportation – Mick reported that the Green Bike Program has seen significant use since its debut on April 19. With that, however, has come the need for more hands for repairing bikes. If you’d be willing to help “wrench” on a bike in the next week or so, please contact Mick (mick_daniel@adams.edu) to set up a time.
- Communication/Education – Kristin reported that Katie Silva could still use more sustainability tips. Please send your tips to her at kgsilva@adams.edu. Those of you with meeting signs in your buildings/areas, please continue to update them through the summer (next meeting is Tuesday, June 3) – thanks.

The last item brought up at the meeting concerned leadership of our group. While I have been serving as *de facto* “chair” of the EARTH group this year, I am more than willing to step aside to let someone else take the reins. If any of you would like to become the overall leader of EARTH, please let me know and we can have a group-wide discussion on this matter.

Thanks for all of your work for EARTH.

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Submitted by Marty Jones, 5/7/08

