



Minutes/Notes of 11th Meeting of the **EARTH** Group at ASC
Tuesday, June 3, 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, Linda Relyea, Laura Moore, Mick Daniel, Morgan Ramsey-Daniel, Patrick Price, Erik van de Boogaard, Julie Waechter, Ted McNeilsmith, Christine Preiss, Erika McNulty, Kyli Kehler, Edgar Thomas, Maria Mondragon-Valdez, Kat Olance, Mary Hoffman, Marty Jones.

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, July 1, at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB. Regular meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month.

Announcements:

- To jump-start our group's activities in the fall, we will have a table at the New Student Orientation Club Fair on August 22 at 4 pm. We'll be seeking volunteers to be present at the table and recruit new members, so if you are interested, please contact me (mbjones@adams.edu). This should promote more student involvement in EARTH, a necessary step to ensure long-term sustainability of EARTH. Marty suggested participating in contests like Recyclemania (<http://www.recyclemaniacs.org/Index.htm>) and/or Campus Chill Out (<http://www.nwf.org/campusecology/chillout/>) to also encourage more student participation. Other ideas are welcome!
- Tony Ross visited with City Council to promote the "Eco Squad" idea and solicit donations. Mary Hoffman will keep us apprised of developments; when there are enough "prizes" available, we'll start the program. Julie Waechter has already volunteered to be on the Eco Squad – if you would like to join her on the squad, please contact me (mbjones@adams.edu) and I'll make sure you stay informed as this initiative progresses.
- The meeting that Christine Preiss and I had with Mr. Don Koskelin, Alamosa City Public Works director, on May 13 was apparently successful. The city has ordered some recycling dumpsters that will be placed at the north end of the campus (north of the football practice field, out by the challenge course). Hopefully, we'll know by the next meeting when the dumpsters will arrive so we get ready for their placement.
- Jennifer Cook, Student Activities Coordinator for Student Life, has asked if EARTH would be interested in partnering with Student Life on projects during the summer. She has some funds available. Possible ideas at the meeting included construction of "cottages" to hold outdoor recycling barrels for the apartments/family housing, and cleanup projects. After the meeting, Christine forwarded a suggestion from Jen regarding participation in the Fourth of July parade downtown. That sounds like fun, so if you're interested in walking or riding a green bike for the parade, please contact me (mbjones@adams.edu). It would be great to have a large number of folks present. After getting input from several task force chairs, we decided to purchase a 3' x 6' banner from Extreme Graphics in Alamosa to use for the parade, the Club Fair, and other promotional ventures. Claire Russell is designing the banner, and it will have both the EARTH logo and Adams State College on it. The cost will be \$144.
- President David Svaldi, Vice-President of Finance Bill Mansheim, Associate Vice-President for Facilities Erik van de Boogaard, retiring Director of Facilities Services Jones, and I participated in a webinar on the trading of carbon credits as a means of addressing our carbon dioxide footprint on May 22. This is one method that may be employed as we strive to fulfill the commitments of being a signatory to the American College and University President's Climate Commitment. (Sorry, I forgot to mention this at the meeting)
- In previous notes, you've been made aware that Steve Cole has offered to donate the framework and associated parts (fans, etc) for a large greenhouse to the college. This is about a \$5000 value (estimate only, no appraisal has yet been completed). Erik, Paul Boice (our new Grounds and Nursery Supervisor at Facilities Services) and I met with Steve on May 29 to look at the greenhouse and assess our potential use of it. The preferred location for the greenhouse (out by the challenge course) does not currently have water or electric. To run those lines and to put in an appropriate foundation, and purchase the

necessary plastic covering was estimated by Erik to cost about \$5000. Subsequent meetings with Bill Mansheim and Erik made it apparent that the college doesn't have the finances nor the manpower needed to move this project forward in a timely fashion. If we are still interested in the greenhouse, we need to partner with other entities and/or find a donor to foot the bill. Potential partners that were suggested include Sodexo and Housing. Marty will contact those folks. Another suggestion was to place the greenhouse somewhere other than the site that Facilities Services prefers; someplace that already has water and electricity nearby, such as near the high-rise apartments or the family housing on Faculty Drive. The cost of setting up the greenhouse would be significantly less if an alternative site were used. Regardless of actual location, though, the operation of the greenhouse would be the responsibility of the EARTH group, not Facilities Services. Maria pointed out that the greenhouse could be used for service-learning projects.

- Laura Moore told us that Jan Oen from the Community Greenhouse/Gardens had suggested we sell the ecobags from Community Partnerships/EARTH at the Farmers' Market that starts on July 12. If anyone is interested in staffing a table for a couple of hours on Saturdays to sell bags, please contact Laura (moorele@adams.edu).
- Mary Hofmann told us that the ASC Community Partnership is going to sponsor a Re-Purpose, Re-Use, and Re-Cycle Product Expo this fall, and would like for EARTH to participate in some fashion. We talked about possibly scheduling this around America Recycles Day on November 15. Be thinking about what we could do with Community Partnerships for this Expo. Kat Olanco offered the Luther Bean Museum for a recycled art show/contest during this time. If we decide to do this, we should coordinate with the Art Department.
- Linda Relyea brought us up-to-date on this year's Autumn at Adams (A@A, September 15-20). The theme is Tierra Nuestra – Nuestro Valle (Our Earth – Our Valley), and will highlight the agricultural heritage of the San Luis Valley. Both modern and traditional agricultural practices will be represented. Events that are more oriented toward sustainability are likely to be on Wednesday and Thursday of that week, so EARTH members will be solicited for volunteering at those events.

Task Force Reports

- Composting/Local Food – Laura reported that the radishes from the teepee greenhouse taste pretty darn good, and plants (tomatoes, parsley, and others) from the Community Greenhouse have been transplanted to the teepee greenhouse. If you'd like to join Laura and Edgar in taking care of the plants, please contact Laura (moorele@adams.edu).
- Transportation – Mick reported that the Green Bike Program has seen significant use since its debut on April 19. All working bikes are currently checked out! Kristi Mountain Sports will be donating used (but still usable) parts to the program, so spare parts will be available. Help in wrenching would be appreciated – please contact Mick (mick_daniel@adams.edu).
- Energy – Cameron has contacted Carol Guerrero-Murphy about her Kill-a-Watt meter prize for the best suggestion regarding saving energy during the EARTH week contest. He's just waiting for a response to arrange delivery and a photo.

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, 6/4/08