**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of September 23, 2022

**Members Present:** Pam Grothe, Sean Morrow, Kevin Caffrey, Jackson Davis, Anna Velardi, Brian Ogle, Jeremy Larochelle, Shadwick Yoder, Mary Becelia, Eliana Nachman, Eric Bonds, Jenna Montgomery, Ryan Vanderhoof, Jay Sullivan, Lauren McDonald, Swati Agrawal, Curtis Kasiski, Melanie Szulczewski, Alan Griffith, Katherine Cook

**Members Absent:** Michael Reno (in class), Holly Chichester, Ava Spencer

**Public Present:** Chandler Carlson

Meeting began at 1:03 PM

* **Introductions**
	+ Members introduced themselves
* **Action-Oriented Subcommittees**
	+ Discussion action-oriented focused subcommittee – contact the chair if interested in serving on subcommittee (reminder that PCS membership requires active participation to making UMW a more sustainable campus)
	+ Communication subcommittee (chaired by Kevin Caffrey)
		- Advocating for PCS and communicating about our meetings and activities
	+ Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee (chaired by Jackson Davis)
		- Outreach and engagement with UMW community, including documenting events
		- Feedback from student population to relay to PCS about how to be more sustainable
	+ Discussion potential subcommittees help support Climate Action Task Force and then opened discussion for more subcommittee’s idea
		- Sustainability landscaping – proposed by Eric and agreed by PCS members (chaired by Sean Morrow)
			* E.g. native pollinators, chemicals, polluting lawn equipment, e.g. loudness and polluters from leaf blowers, etc.; spaces for more pollinators, e.g. near Alvey lot; eliminate phosphate on campus, etc.
			* Require communicating with Holly - know what we are doing well and what we need to be better
			* Require communicating with Operations Subcommittee on Climate Action Task Force, which Sean Morrow is on
		- Zero waste sustainability subcommittee – proposed by Melanie Szulczewski and agreed by PCS members **(needs a chair)**
			* E.g. student-led recycling audit, reduced printing, food waste, eliminate plastic policies, etc.
				+ Mary and others observed cleaning staff dump recycling bins into the trash. Sean mentioned to work with PBM to make efforts easier for recycling. Jenna brought up that it might be a city issue as well. Keep in mind janitorial staff work for low pay. Alan mentioned there are lots of moving parts, different for offices and dormitories; need to know how it works now, how it is supposed to happen, and then tackle the problem. Jay mentioned we should reach out to Fredericksburg about the city’s recycling. Question - is UMW recycling the same as Fredericksburg. Sean said goal is to unify our approach with the city on outreach for recycling
* **Updates from Climate Action Task Force**
	+ Update from Alan
	+ Subcommittees
		- Transportation – partner with city to transition fleet to zero carbon
		- Operations – e.g. landscaping
		- Greenhouse Gas Emissions – collecting data on UMW’s greenhouse emissions, through SIMAP
		- Outreach – how to reach out to partners to community and communicate
		- Energy Management Subcommittee – rooftop solar on campus
			* Power purchase agreements (PPA) – rooftop solar; put out request for information for companies to work with us; tennis center, Anderson center, Jepson, Parking Deck brought up as options
			* Energy Saving Performance Contracts – companies to help find efficiencies; put out request for qualification
			* Should hear back from both by end of month
		- Jay – PPA also looking into future for a remote site for solar farm
* **Updates from Office of Sustainability**
	+ Sean – introduced new interns (will be interns for the full year)
		- Anna Velardi – programs and projects
		- Jackson Davis – outreach and social media and increase engagement
		- Katherine Cook – coordinate volunteer efforts in gardens across campus
	+ Tree Festival – Thursday 9/29 12-3pm Jefferson Square
	+ [Trick or Trash Program](https://www.rubicon.com/trick-or-trash/#block_612491fbea0bb) – recycling program on campus to collect single use candy wrappers on campus
	+ Youth Climate Conference – early in process but will happen next Spring, tentatively April 2 in the Chandler Ballroom; looking for more UMW students to be in part of the planning group
* **Sponsorship/Partnership opportunity with Gwen Hale Resource Center**
	+ Eric – did not follow up on sponsorship with Gwen Hale Resource Center; will look into it for more information
	+ Jenna – dining already brings over pre-packaged meals on Wed. and Fri.
* **Open for Group Discussion**
	+ Eric – Fossil Free Fredericksburg will do a Walk and Pedal for Earth event at Old Mill Park on October 22nd 10am; spread the word for UMW student involvement
	+ Ryan – Harvest Festival, Oct. 27, 5pm – focus will be a Farmers Market and Craft Market
	+ Jay – EV charger –
		- Sean - in conversation with [Greenspot](https://joingreenspot.com/about/) to bring EV chargers to campus, possibly using Alvie parking deck for public chargers
		- Jeremy – asked about the EV charger already on campus; no clear understanding about its operational status
	+ Mary – survey over the summer
		- Sean – was part of the operations subcommittee for Climate Action Task Force; will share the results next meeting
	+ Jackson – here to help with engagement so contact him for help (jdavis22@mail.umw.edu)

Meeting ended at approximately – 2:02 PM

**PCS Meeting 10/18/22**

In attendance: Sean Morrow, Jackson Davis, Alan Griffith, Pam Grothe, Mary Becelia, Anna Velardi, Chandler Carlson, Brian Ogle, Kevin Caffrey, Jay Sullivan, Swati Agrawal, Brian Gorham, Katherine Cook

Not in attendance: Eric Bonds, Lauren McDonald, Holly Chichester, Curtis Kasiski, Ava Spencer, Ryan Vanderhoof, Eliana Nachman, Shad Yoder, Jenna Montgomery, Melanie Szulczewski, Michael Reno

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm

* Subcommittee Updates
	+ Communication (Kevin Caffrey)
		- Publish section about PCS in the Eagle Eye. Hasn’t gone out yet, but should be published soon.
		- Regular campus communications such as Eagle eye will become a goal throughout the year
	+ Outreach & Engagement (Jackson Davis)
		- Regular outreach and online engagement programs such as “water bottle Wednesdays” and student sustainability interviews
		- Looking for more group involvement, ideas for engagement
	+ Sustainability Landscaping (Sean Morrow)
		- Looking for more committee involvement
	+ Zero Waste Sustainability (TBD)
		- Looking for more committee involvement
		- Ideas revolving minimizing plastic bottle use, in addition to other waste reduction programs have begun
* Climate Action Task Force (CATF) Update
	+ In the middle of two major projects that the group believes will address UMW’s larger Greenhouse Gas concerns
		- Solar RFPs
			* CATF and Procurement are in the middle of writing proposal for solar companies for two major projects on campus – solar installation & power purchase agreements
			* RFP will be issued by the end of the month – allowing solar companies to make
		- Energy Service Contracts
			* The CATF received 6 proposals from energy companies offering their work
			* The group is in the process of narrowing the number of groups to 5
			* The process will then move in to the “Back of the Envelope” phase, where groups will offer recommendations to reducing campus energy-use
		- Sean will be a part of a CLEAR panel on Wednesday, Oct. 26th presented at the Food Co-op
			* Large part of the presentation will focus on climate action work so far
			* A good opportunity to hear about progress and offer community feedback
	+ On October 27th an Electric Vehicle Workshop will be held in Fredericksburg.
		- The University’s Fleet Assessment results (along with the City of Fredericksburg and FXBG Public Schools) will be shared
		- Presentation on EV financing options for state entities
		- Will conclude with EV demos which allows attendees to test drive vehicles with providers
		- The workshop is open forum. Sean will share RSVP following meeting.
* Office of Sustainability Update
	+ Trick or Trash
		- Part of a 3-week campaign to help collect and properly recycle single-use candy wrappers.
		- Box will be placed in the UC near the elevators
		- Campaign from Rubicon – food waste turned into animal feed, plastic pellets turned into pet waste bags, any remaining waste turned to energy.
		- Relying largely on word of mouth and social media – please spread the word!
	+ Recycling Audit
		- Anna Velardi is working on organizing a campus recycling audit
			* Will focus primarily on “pre-pickup” operations – such as
				+ Where is education and signage located
				+ What physical barriers exists across campus
				+ Where are bins missing/non-existent
				+ Etc
		- Residence Life has been added to the conversation
		- Audit will be Nov. 4th – details and volunteer signups to come soon
	+ Website feedback
		- Over the Summer the Office of Sustainability website was updated
		- Changes & more information will continue to be added
		- Please feel free to offer feedback to Sean (smorrow2@umw.edu)
	+ Climate Conference
		- The Office of Sustainability is working with Fossil Free Fredericksburg, The City of Fredericksburg and Fredericksburg Public Schools to plan a Youth Climate Conference
		- Date is set for Sunday, April 2nd in the Chandler Ballroom
		- Anyone interested in being a part of the planning group, please contact Sean (smorrow2@umw.edu)
* Open Forum/Announcements
	+ Jeremy - Wild & Scenic Film Festival is back this year
		- Working on making a bigger this year. Celebrating progress and achievements in sustainability and climate action
		- Including more departments, work that UMW is doing to promote sustainability
	+ New Facilities Executive Director, Brian Gorham introduced himself.
		- Joins UMW from Prince William County Schools
		- Supportive of Sustainability work on campus and hope to work closely with the PCS

**Reminder to submit subcommittee preferences to co-chairs moving forward**!

Food for thought: Do we want to keep meetings virtual? Or would we like to approach in-person meetings.

* Idea for hybrid schedule was noted
* Outside meetings on days with good weather.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

**Fall Meeting #3 – 11/18/2022**

Members Present: Pam G, Sean M, Eric B, Melanie S, Jackson D, Chandler C, Shadwick Y, Brian O, Mary B, Jeremy L

Members Absent: Jay S, Lauren M, Holly C, Ava S, Katherine C, Anna V, Curtis K, Jenna M, Ryan V, Eliana N, Alan G, Swati A, Michael R

Meeting began at 1:05

1. VCC’s Drive Clean Rural Presentation
	1. Sarah Stalcup-Jones gave a presentation on UMW’s ongoing fleet assessment with Virginia Clean Cities’
		1. View slideshow [here](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1JM2dLlHTLJSLEIxe1O1zdfGX_pUlihGd/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104518562756081024721&rtpof=true&sd=true)
	2. Eric asked about the future of incentives that will benefit UMW
		1. Sarah said that there is hope for early 2023 to focus on light-duty vehicle tax credits that will benefit UMW
		2. Credits are also being prioritized in areas of smaller, more environmentally susceptible communities. UMW is in a zone of “low-air quality” and may benefit from future credits
	3. Pam asked how does the financing calculation play out? What does VCC take into consideration when calculating payback?
		1. VCC does not take in to account selling of old vehicles. Calculations purely based on purchase price and mileage usage. General maintenance costs also taken into some consideration.
		2. They tend to recommend “phased” approach to move towards EV transitions
	4. Eric asked if this process has been done at other universities and what their experience has been like.
		1. Sarah mentioned that JMU has been hesitant to this process – UMW is the first university Sarah has seen making steps towards a fleet transition
		2. Hope to use UMW as a case study for future promotion
	5. Brian mentioned that Stafford county is looking at a transportation plan and wonders is VCC being in the conversation could be beneficial
		1. Sarah says that VCC frequently reaches out to counties to invite them to EV workshops and events to provide more information and guidance.
2. Updates from Committees
	1. Communications
		1. Put out announcement with Eagle Eye – will be regular announcements
		2. Looking to promote PCS meetings more in the future
	2. Outreach
		1. Online education and promotional content
		2. Tabling opportunities
	3. Zero Waste
		1. Brainstorming session – talked mainstream recycling issues. Current issues about reducing waste in general – Katora coffee cups, investigating Terracycle, looking into current objectives – printer cartridges
		2. Continue efforts in reducing single-use plastic across campus
	4. Landscaping
		1. Group met to brainstorm ideas and talk about how sustainability is currently built into our landscaping efforts
			1. Group decided to research and attempt to draft and sustainability landscaping plan to house current and future strategies
			2. Additionally, the group will look into new education opportunities and chances to improve our current education
3. Discuss opportunities with [Fredericksburg Climate Vision](https://fredericksburgclimatevision.org/)
	1. Eric and Pam discussed Fredericksburg Climate Vision. The idea is to focus on ambitious and comprehensive plan for the City of Fredericksburg’s vision for climate action.
	2. The hope is to bring students and the community together to brainstorm ideas from given topics and host educational opportunities to speak about the vision
	3. Looking for potential PCS support in planning UMW outreach opportunities
4. Updates from Climate Action Task Force
	1. The group is close to an RFP for both solar and Energy Service Contract endeavors
		1. UMW will host a BOE kick off meeting on 12/15 that will invite energy service contractors to begin forming proposals
		2. Contractors have been made aware of climate action efforts and will use this as a focus within their presentations
	2. Communication and outreach surrounding the plan shows that students, faculty and staff are still relatively unaware of climate planning efforts
		1. Task force is working with University communications to develop systems for feedback to make sure the plan meets UMW stakeholders’ visions.
	3. Team is also working on potential agreement to bring public EV chargers to Alvey deck
5. Updates from Sustainability Office
	1. The trick or trash campaign has ended – Over two weeks, the box was filled and sent back for recycling
	2. Phase 1 of the recycling audit was completed. Interns will be organizing data and working with ResLife to propose solutions to inefficiencies
	3. Students rebuilt the pollinator garden’s compost bin this week. Interns will be working on a new program/signage to add to it.

**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of January 17, 2023

Present: Sean Morrow, Kevin Caffrey, Jeremy Larochelle, Eric Bonds, Jackson Davis, Lauren McDonald, Anna Velardi, Katherine Cook, Shadwick Yoder, Alan Griffith, Brian Ogle, Pam Grothe, Jay Sullivan, Swati Agrawal, Melanie Szulczewski

* **Welcome Back**

Sean welcomed back members of the PCS after the holiday break.

* **In-person/Hybrid Meetings moving forward**

Sean brought up the idea of in-person/hybrid meetings for the spring semester. Kevin voiced in favor of hybrid meetings. With no objections from other PCS members, Sean is going to pursue making the change for future spring meetings. Alan suggested getting a room that has the appropriate audio/video requirements.

* **Subcommittee Updates**
	+ Kevin (Communications) submitted our spring 2023 meeting dates to the [Eagle Vision](https://umw.orcatv.com/home) screens to spread the word about our PCS meetings and how they are open to the public. Once we have an in-person location for hybrid meetings, Kevin will submit a new slide with this information.
	+ Sean (Sustainability Landscaping) is planning to initiate a meeting with this subcommittee now that the spring semester is in session
* **Center for Biological Diversity/Women’s Month events**

Melanie discussed an upcoming event on Wednesday March 22nd from 5-7pm in the Digital Auditorium of the HCC co-hosted with the Center for Biological Diversity (https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/) and the Women's History Month (march) celebration. They have a grant and will pay for a screening and panel discussion of the documentary [my so called selfish life](https://myselfishlife.com/) and its topic of women who decide not to have children in the United States.

They often ask groups to do tabling at these screenings. Melanie suggested individuals think about who to be on the panel and what groups may want to table at the event. Melanie is also going to reach out to Eric Bonds (Sociology), women’s, gender, and sexuality studies professors, and the Health Center for their potential involvement in the panel, but students should be invited to participate as well. Swati suggested women in STEM should be represented. Those on the panel can get a link to view the movie ahead of time.

Eric gave some background on CBD and the issue of population control. Eric brought up the recent New York Times story on China overpopulation ([“China’s Population Falls, Heralding a Demographic Crisis”](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/16/business/china-birth-rate.html))

Pam suggested the idea of climate change advocacy group tabling at the event.

Sean offered PCS’ help in any way we can.

**Climate Action Task Force Update**

Sean explained that this semester the task force must present a draft to the BOV by May. The PCS will have an opportunity to review the draft and provide feedback this semester. A student is doing a capstone course on creating a social media presence on climate action that this task force will be working with as well.

He also provided an update on working on a solar PPA agreement which should be coming pretty soon.

Sean and Jay mentioned current efforts working with energy service contractors. 6 companies that have done their site visit are working on their presentations for late March; will then work with the President’s Office to make a decision.

Jay discussed how he is currently answering questions from 5 companies, two that really stuck out to him: “Why couldn’t we just do an extension with the 2016 company?” and “Does UMW want to start with decentralizing the campus and going off of gas now since it will have to be done eventually?” Jay mentioned how this should be in the report to President Paino. Eric mentioned how that is ultimately the goal so it has to have a starting point and why not consider it now?

Alan brought up what that would mean is to decommission the steam plant. The Climate Action Task Force has not considered this at this point. Moving through the semester, the task force will be finalizing their list of objectives to be included in the final climate action plan. This will be a significant document that will take some time to review it. Sharing it with the PCS for their review/feedback will be crucial. Sean & Alan also got feedback from a class this week, and will also be working with communications to share information as it is finalized.

**Office of Sustainability Updates**

Sean provided some key updates/events being planned for the spring semester:

* FXBG Area Climate Conference March 26th – Chandler Ballroom; details being finalized; the more volunteers, the better
* Earth Day event will be Friday April 14th
* Wild & Science Film Festival April 15th
* Tree Planting events being planned
* March will be Pollinator Month
	+ Online education, fun content about the importance of pollinators;
	+ a kickoff event is being planned to take place at the pollinator garden on campus

**Other News & Updates**

Melanie discussed recent discussions with the Rappahannock Sierra Club, where she was informed that the FXBG Earth Day celebration at Old Mill Park gets over 5000 people to attend (mentioning 7000 in 2022). In the past, it was a challenge to get UMW reps to attend as a non-profit vendor, but it may be more feasible now with a sustainability coordinator. $25 fee for a table.

Eric & Pam shared that Bill Johnson w/ the Sierra Club and their foundation that supports and offers grants to students doing local environmental research. They are actively seeking students doing environmentally-related work. Eric and Pam can share this information with anyone who would like it. Pam gave an example from Ava Spencer’s project in Fredericksburg and how she has been working side-by-side with the city. Pam is going to FWD the information about the application. Jeremy had information on other student opportunities as well. Swati recommended posting these opportunities to the PCS website and social media platforms.

Jay brought up a recent video he watched by an “energy guru” regarding energy security. He will share the video with Sean to review.

Next Meeting: Monday February 13th 12-1pm in the Colonnade Room in the Cedric Rucker University Center and via Zoom at <https://umw-sso.zoom.us/j/89056105124>

**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of February 13, 2023

**Present:** Sean Morrow, Kevin Caffrey, Pamela Grothe, Jenna Montgomery, Melanie Szulczewski, Jeremy Larochelle, Alan Griffith, Anna Velardi, Jay Sullivan, Eliana Nachman, Lauren McDonald

* **Committee Updates**
	+ Communications

Kevin has submitted updated slides to Eagle Screen about our future hybrid meetings, as well as advertised them in the Eagle Eye

* + Outreach
	Sean said Jackson is still looking for more participation in outreach
	+ Sustainable Landscaping

Sean mentioned they are looking at building out sustainable landscape guidelines. Currently they are building an outline for the guidelines and will continue researching practices and work with Holly Chestire and hope to have the guidelines completed by the end of the semester.

Alan requested a “solemn ceremony” when heritage trees are removed. He’s seen some big trees removed, and even though we developed the heritage trees map, he wasn’t notified of those removals. He also thinks we should make a big deal of the end of cycle of important trees on campus.

* + Zero Waste
	Pam broke out five different initiatives they are focusing on.
1. Campus Race to Zero Waste. The goal is to research this more this semester so that we can reinstate this next year. The competition runs Jan. – March. This replaces Recyclmania which UMW use to participate in. <https://campusracetozerowaste.org/>
2. Promote Zero Waste on Office of Sustainability Website. Anna plans on tackling this through her digital media studies project. We want to promote all of our zero waste initiatives. This will include a list/map of refillable water stations. Additionally, working on promoting printer cartridge recycling that is already happening.
3. Reusable Cups Dining. This is in conversation with Sodexo, Katora, and Panera. Looking at logistics, incentives, and outreach for making this happen.
4. Terracycling Program. Learning from The Food Coop on how to become dropoff recycling for Terracycle for batteries, Bic stationary, disposable razors, and Colgate Oral Care. This could be set up in the UC.
5. End of Year Moveout. Make a PCS event and partner with Community Engagement to facilitate items that could be donated to the Gwen Hale Resource Center and also help with donation items to Goodwill to reduce what goes in the trash. May require finding a larger place to store items. Kevin mentioned it would be good to even have signs posted with items needed for the Gwen Hale Resource Center.
* **Climate Action Task Force Update**

Alan and Sean met with Amy Jessee about communication and outreach on Climate Action Plan. They will be connecting with campus groups in the next two weeks giving an overview presentation. Sean ran through the presentation (slides attached in email with minutes) they will be running through with other campus groups, including faculty council. Important points mentioned were that they plan to present the Climate Action Plan by July 2023 and that this will be the first of many iterative and updated plans. The goal is carbon neutrality by 2035. They would like feedback on the PowerPoint presentation from PCS but need it immediately since will be presenting it this week. The presentation is more to get feedback and introduce the Climate Plan (in more detail) to the community. They will offer a Feedback Dropbox via a QR code.

Sean mentioned the Climate Action Task Force is looking for feedback on the objectives. They plan to provide the PCS with the draft objectives in the next week and asked specifically for feedback on who is the responsible group for implementing the objective and the prioritization of “high”, “medium”, or “low”.

Jay updated that the ESCO firm search is continuing (should choose a firm by end of March) and need to consider that who we choose will be important in us meeting our longterm Climate Action Plan goals since our carbon neutrality is only 12 years away. Sean said it is also important to consider how students can work alongside contractors. Jay also brought up a question about it we should begin thinking about a plan (with the ESCO) to decommission the heat plant as that will be important in being carbon neutral.

* **Office of Sustainability Update**

Sean ran through several events this semester. March is pollinator month. They will have an on-line campaign on social media educating the community on local pollinators. There will also be a pollinator tournament where the community can vote on their favorite pollinators.

Spring Kick Off. They are hoping to host this at the pollinator garden. Looking for different ways to promote other than social medium. There will have tabling and hope to connect with campus rec and get a food truck. There will have campus pollinator t-shirts and stickers giveaways.

April is Earth Month. The Earth day festival is April 14; registration will open in March. They are working with UMW dining and vendors. Sean asked if PCS would be interested in tabling the event. They are also looking into a few other attractions such as puppies or service dogs, expanding the event slightly from last year. There will be a few other service events in April that go along with it as well such as tree planting.

March 26 is the youth-led Fredericksburg Climate Conference in the UC. Registration should be up soon; they are currently building out the website. There will be an area for tabling and poster sessions for students working on climate/sustainability and to contact Sean if interested.

Sean said they are looking at making all events with the Office of Sustainability plastic free events. Currently compiling resources to provide vendors single use plastic alternative guidelines or event guidelines. All vendors at Office of Sustainability events will have to agree with a no plastic acknowledgement that all materials and giveaways need to be plastic free. The guidelines will be available on the website soon.

Melanie mentioned she looked into this for her event on the screening of *My So Called Selfish Life* and ran into issues with supply chain and a $3 extra charge. She mentioned to make sure the guidelines include options for vendors.

* **Member Updates**
	+ Jeremy reminded the Wild Scenic Film Festival is the day after the UMW Earth Day event on April 15th in Chandler Ballroom. Doors open at 5:30pm.
	+ Next meeting in Tuesday 3/14 at 3pm in Collonade Room with Zoom link as well for a hybrid option.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50

**PCS Spring Meeting #3 Minutes - 3/14**

Members in Attendance: Sean M, Pam G, Lauren M, Eric B, Brian O, Swati A, Jenna M, Melanie S, Jeremy L, Alan G

Members not in Attendance: Kevin C, Jackson D, Katherine C, Anna V, Jay S, Mary B, Holly C, Shadwick Y, Ryan V, Eliana N, Michael R

Agenda

1. Updates from subcommittees
	1. Outreach
		1. N/A
	2. Communications
		1. N/A
	3. Zero Waste
		1. Will look to meet before next PCS Meeting – Update to come.
	4. Green Landscaping
		1. Still working with Landscaping to discuss sustainable landscaping initiatives. Update to come.
2. Updates from Office of Sustainability
	1. **2023 Fredericksburg Area Climate Conference** - Sunday, 3/26 - Chandler Ballroom – 12:30 – 4:00
		1. [Link](https://secure.everyaction.com/GZzuxh8tWUGAt1HoBSWJgA2?fbclid=IwAR1ubJPkbUSr8CafP84ZgY4dwUkjy1WIdIu0C3HNBFDJ0FrtJfnFBHWVsZo) to register for the conference
		2. Local youth-led panels & presentations surrounding climate action & sustainability
		3. Flyer and registration link will be sent out, feel free to share
	2. **Earth Day Festival** – Friday, 4/14 – 12:00-4:00 – The “Link” across from GW
		1. Tabling registration was just sent out. If you are connected to a UMW or local environmental group, please keep an eye out.
		2. Will have tabling groups, market sponsored by Dining, giveaways, etc.
		3. Flyer and event details will be live soon
	3. **Pollinator Month**
		1. Tabling in the UC 22nd from 1:00 – 3:00
			1. Will be giving out new “UMW Pollinators” T-shirts, live voting for “Pollinator March Madness” and volunteer sign ups.
		2. Pollinator Garden Volunteer Event March 15th from 2:00 – 4:00
3. Discussion on [CATF objectives](https://mailumw.sharepoint.com/%3Ax%3A/s/UMWClimateActionTaskForce/EbVpHGQWQGFCqi6TTMPSiT8BhoFFm-YImshUZJ5no-owFQ?e=cHhXar) and role PCS can play moving forward to implement many of the objectives
	1. Link to objectives were sent (Link to Objectives – [Detailed](https://mailumw.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/s/UMWClimateActionTaskForce/ESmBzj6pNstMudgodPGK3egBA9g5zqe8io3Ef6anQMaLqA?e=MEXeWh) or [Overview](https://mailumw.sharepoint.com/%3Ax%3A/s/UMWClimateActionTaskForce/EbVpHGQWQGFCqi6TTMPSiT8BhoFFm-YImshUZJ5no-owFQ?e=YqLcs3))
		1. If you have not reviewed objectives, additional feedback can be provided still. Links will remain open (feedback form and objectives).
	2. What role can we foresee the PCS?
		1. With a goal of July to submit the drafted plan, the CATF is planning for life after July
			1. How can we continue to hold accountability towards achieving goals once the plan is approved?
		2. Melanie mentioned part of the plan could include a “point person” for each larger objective
			1. For example - Fellows can be a point person for academic goals, can serve on PCS / under jurisdiction of PCS (Sustainability Fellow)
			2. Fellows would exist in certain departments i.e. Facilities
		3. Eric asked if there is plan to write a “Structure for implementation” within plan – could PCS be written in as part of that implementation structure.
		4. Is there plan to outline a reporting structure for implementing objectives? Potentially yearly report to PCS regarding updates to plan, objectives and higher ups on progress.
			1. Should the CAP Draft have written structure on delivery? Or should this be developed post-completion?
				1. Eric said on delivery, group agrees
		5. Melanie mentioned communication being a large point of focus – if we make a big deal about this, people will care and remember the focus
		6. Alan mentioned connecting the progress reporting structure to GHG Inventory progress.
		7. Next steps for PCS: Identifying who are the highest of each objective and initiative… Who are our contacts to follow up in reporting?
		8. CATF will research reporting structures (Brian mentioned Univ. of Richmond) and have it added to outline.
4. Announcement about commentary to defend RGGI (*please see attachment for details*)
	1. Melanie brought up the topic of Virginia withdrawing from RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative).
	2. RGGI is a market-based initiative requiring power companies to purchase carbon offsets
	3. Legality of Governor pulling out of RGGI is in question since the initiative was passed under the VA General Assembly
	4. RGGI has proven to reduce state emissions and provides money to communities combating climate change and financing resiliency.
	5. RGGI comment period is open – You can now submit comments opposing VA’s withdrawal from RGGI [here](https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/ViewStage.cfm?stageid=9879)
	6. ***Comment period ends March 31st*** – more comments the better
5. Updates from members on events
	1. **My Co Called Selfish Life Film Screening (flyer in email)**
		1. Next Wed, 5:00 in Digital Auditorium (PCS co-sponsoring). Film shows sustainability under the realm of family planning, gender, etc.
			1. Film screening of “My so-called selfish life”
			2. Followed by panel of faculty, Q&A
	2. **Bragg Hill Community Garden**
		1. Eric & the garden are going to into year 2 of operations
		2. New grants have been acquired with assistance from Center for Community Engagement
		3. Will help provide new youth-connected programs, education and volunteer-oriented opportunities
		4. Garden Club now at UMW. Will help directly support the Bragg Hill Garden.
	3. **Downtown Greens tour of newly acquired property**
		1. Downtown Greens has purchased a new 56-acre property and are researching a partnership with UMW to connect with future educational opportunities.
		2. They are offering a tour to anyone interested on *March 25th @ 10 am*
		3. If interested in attending the tour, please let Sean know ASAP
	4. **Wild and Scenic Festival**
		1. Chandler Ballroom April 15th, 5:30 – 8:30
		2. Tickets now available

Meeting concluded at 3:59

Next meeting will be April 10th from 12:00 – 1:00

**MINUTES**

**President’s Council on Sustainability**

Meeting of April 10, 2023

**Present:** Sean Morrow, Pamela Grothe, Alan Griffith, Eric Bonds, Jackson Davis, Jeremy Larochelle, Jenna Montgomery, Lauren McDonald, Anna Velardi, Mary Becilia, Jay Sullivan, Melanie Szulczewksi

Sean thanked the group for all the work on the PCS this year.

1. **Update on membership**

Reminder that students are on a renewable one year term. We will be in touch about general interest for serving on PCS next year. Faculty and staff members are a three year term. Co-chairs will reach out to you based on availability and interest in serving on PCS.

1. **Follow up on recent Sustainability Events**

Climate Conference was a success. Presentations from high schoolers and many local organizations were involved. It was the first conference since COVID and despite the learning experience, overall, it went well with great feedback. There is a feedback form available if you did attend. This will be an annual event and would like the feedback to improve subsequent events. Eric Bonds thought it was a great event and thanked the University for bringing high schoolers but would like to see more UMW student participation. He suggested the James Farmer Social Justice Leadership could be a good model.

Feedback link – <https://forms.gle/TvPWZjupZ4QLeDLN8>

1. **Updates from the Office of Sustainability**

This is a busy week on campus for Sustainabilty for UMW Earth Week

Monday, April 10 – Celebratory Arbor Day Tree Planting from 2-3pm below the “rock” by Woodward Hall. Dr. Paino will give a talk, as well as Holly Chichester and Tree Fredericksburg. Looking for students/faculty/staff to come by to learn more and be involved

Wednesday, April 12 – Final pollinator volunteering event from 1-2 pm behind Anderson center. Looking for help in the garden and help promoting event. All tools are provided and snacks and water will be provided.

Friday, April 14 – Earth Day festival 12-4pm by The Beach in front of GW Hall. There will be food vendors, fresh produce market, and other local environmental organizations. Will be scaled up from last year. Please come out and support the event.

Saturday, April 15 – Wild and Scenic festival in Chandler Ballroom. Doors open at 5:30pm. Jeremy would love to have PCS there in support.

Year End Move out – Sean will be working with Residence Life and Goodwill for move out to reduce move out waste. Focusing on upscaling the program with conversations with Residence Life, looking at other campuses like George Mason, who do this in a more sustainable way. Let Sean know if you want to me a part of that conversation.

Sean will be restructuring the Office of Sustainability internships. Currently, we have three interns who help out with outreach, events, and gardening. More information coming soon on the new roles of the interns for next year.

Melanie asked for a list of all the events so we can easily share. Sean will forward it along.

1. **Updates from the Climate Action Plan**

Looking to increase visibility of the draft objectives. If you have not provided feedback, you still can. The next step is to share the draft with the University community. Co-chairs have connected one-on-one with the champions of the objectives. We are hosting four Town Halls for the community to learn more about the objectives and provide feedback. They are on Thursday, April 13 from 4-5 and 5-6 and Tuesday April 18 from 4-5 and 5-6.

Alan did a presentation to the Chairs of the CAS. Alan wants faculty on PCS to reiterate at department meetings about the release of the objectives and Town Halls.

Eric asked how moveable is the plan at this point. Eric pointing out that he did not see a reneable energy goal, like the Fredericksburg City powered by renewable energy goal by 2035. He would like to see UMW ahead, rather than behind city schools. Sean responded that we are still gathering more information with energy contracts and solar PPA’s but we do want to meet the city’s reneweable energy goals. Jay mentioned we are looking at descaling the central steam plant which is a good start as the heating plant is a large portion of our emissions. Alan responded that the objectives are still very moldable.

Energy Service Performance Contracts – we have six contracts we are currently reviewing and should have that finished by end of April.

1. **Updates from Subcommittees**

Communication - Kevin continues to advertise meetins in Eagle Eye

Zero Waste – Working on scaling up recycling of “hard-to-recycle” items. Focusing on batteries (Call to Recycle), razors/blades (Terracycle), Bic Stationary/all basic office writing supplies (Terracycle), and Colgate Oral Care/all oral care producets (Terracycle). Looking for help in creating a professional looking drop off bin, similar to the Food Coop. Anna is working on a website to showcase our Zero Waste initiatives. They are researching UMW’s plan/commitment to phasing out single use plastic.

Outreach – None to report

Sustainable Landscaping – Sean will send us an email with a landscaping plan. He is still working with Holly and Charles to understand what they are doing and how we can improve. Will hope to reformulate the plan over the summer.

1. **Open Discussion/Updates from Members**

None

Meeting adjourned at 12:43pm.