

**Minutes of the Valdosta State University – Environmental Issues Committee Meeting
Friday, October 17th, 2014 in Bailey Science Center Room 2023**
(approved November 14, 2014)

Appointed Members in Attendance: Theresa Grove (Chair), Arsalan Wares (Chair-elect), Jim Nienow, Tanya Lee, Jason Allard (past-Chair), Linda Most, Rebecca Green, Lois Bellflowers, Luke Jones, Jennifer Breneiser, Steven Scheuler

Ex Officio: Ray Sable, Traycee Martin, Meredith Lancaster

The meeting starter at 12:02 pm.

A. Approve Minutes of the September 12, 2014 meeting: There were no comments on the minutes and the minutes were approved unanimously.

B. Announcements:

- a. Next meeting is November 14, 12:00 Bailey Science Center Room 2023
- b. EIC committee meeting on annual lighting and safety walk is on Oct 20, at 6:30 pm.
- c. The pruning of oak trees is scheduled for this weekend. Live Oak trees are too close to the some of the buildings.
- d. As a long term project and in response to trimming and removing trees on campus and in the Ropes Course, Richard Carter requested that invasive trees be removed on campus and replaced with the native trees: “With regard to the ropes course site, as a longer term project, I think it would be appropriate to reintroduce the following native trees and shrubs characteristic of a slope forest:

- *Fagus grandifolia* (American beech)
- *Magnolia grandiflora* (bullbay)
- *Quercus alba* (white oak)
- *Quercus michauxii* (swamp chestnut oak)
- *Pinus glabra* (spruce pine)
- *Ostrya virginiana* (hophornbeam)
- *Carpinus caroliniana* (hornbeam)
- *Acer barbatum* (Florida maple)
- *Viburnum rufidulum* (rusty blackhaw)
- *Viburnum dentatum* (southern arrow-wood)
- *Aesculus pavia* (red buckeye)
- *Rhapidophyllum hystrix* (needle palm)

These species, characteristic of a climax forest community, ought to do reasonably well planted under the existing canopy and might actually survive and – with any luck – replace the invasive

non-natives given enough time.” After the notification went out about trees in the ropes course, he also submitted a report to the CBSS (Attached), which was shared with the EIC.

C. Reports of the Subcommittees

- a. Campus Beautification: Tree-trimming and removal was discussed.
- b. Energy Conservation: Energy audit work is in progress, the committee has not met yet.
- c. Recycling: Recycling committee has not met yet. Tom Hochschild’s recycling campaign during move-out at the end of the academic year was successful.

D. Old Business

- a. Energy Audit update: According to the report we are doing good, there were some recommendations for improvement. These improvements depend on human factors like turning off the lights, and conserving water.
- b. Tree policy update: Tree policy change has been made.
- c. Sustainability committee update: The committee met two weeks ago. The following are some of the issues that were discussed. More people were encouraged to car pool and use buses. VSU buses are crowded and not always very reliable. There is a need to work with energy subcommittee on issues regarding water conservation and energy conversation.

E. New Business

- a. Lights on in buildings after hours: Lights in the Atrium have been on after hours. Tommy Crane will look into it.
- b. Suggestion of another ex officio for recycling subcommittee: Jim Nienow said that the committee has a good working relationship with Jim Muzzey and he attends their meetings, so the consensus was there is no need for an additional ex officio
- c. Work to improve water conservation: The energy audit team looked at water conservation. The problem involves human factor (usage), not infrastructure. Everything possible has been done at the infrastructure level. This was added to the Energy Conservation subcommittee.
- d. Website update: Theresa Grove is putting the minutes online. If you have any comments about it, please let her know.

F. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:25