

NYSCHSE Steering Committee meeting

Minutes – March 5, 2018

712-775-7031 code 879-644

In attendance: Mary Ellen Mallia (University at Albany); Melanie Morris (Suffolk County Community College); Ryan McPherson (University of Buffalo); Melissa Cadwell (Syracuse University); Marian Brown (Wells College).

Absent: Tom Kelly (SUNY Purchase) Sarah Brylinsky (Cornell)

1. Membership report – Melissa

- Two new members :
 - Kimberly Anderson – Cornell University, Sustainability engagement manger
 - Eric Weber – The New School, Director of Sustainability

2. Regional rep report – Mary Ellen

- Mary Ellen is happy to report have someone from every region
 - Alex from Union College is taking over capital region
 - Separating Mohawk Valley from Capital Region
 - Mark Bremer of SUNY Poly - the Mohawk Valley rep
 - Kim Anderson Cornell University - Southern tier
 - Bill Herman, SUNY Maritime - NYC

3. Website report – Mary Ellen

- Mary Ellen is working with NYCSHE intern on the website
- Revamping / adding to the webinar page
- There is now an area of specialty page for resources
- Soon to be new page for specific technology's people have implemented and willing to be resources
- Adding a link for 2018 conference with the date.

4. Events roundup

- Any public or regional events can be sent to NYCHSE intern to be added to the webpage & calendar.
 - Transforming Our Tomorrow, A New Clean Energy Vision – UB, April 23rd.
 - Deadline to apply is March 16th
 - 16th Annual NYS Green Building Conference on 4/5-4/6 in Downtown Syracuse. Participants represented from many industries (architecture, engineering, consulting, government, higher ed, etc). Conference hosted by ESF in partnership with US Green Building Council NY Upstate and Syracuse CoE.
 - AASHE networking submission/conference
 - Cornell Town Gown Conference – April 2nd
 - State of NY Conference - Colgate had their first organizing call for the 2018 conference – excited about hosting.
 - The invitation to the chancellor was put in coming from NYCSHE, SSC & Colgate

5. External liaison report – Tom

- Second Nature
 - Recently had their conference, their big announcement was the University Climate Change Coalition (UC3). Still little details about it on their website.
 - “We Are Still In”: Second Nature coordinated a statement on behalf of governors, mayors, CEO’s, college/university leaders declaring that despite the federal government’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, they remain committed to climate action. School can participate in WASI with approval of president.
 - UC3 launched through a coalition of 13 North American research universities to commit their leverage in research and resources to accelerate climate action by reducing their institutional carbon footprints, making climate-friendly investments, and follow Paris Climate Agreement goals. SUNY is a part of this.

- NYSERDA – Second round of REV Campus Challenge was due.
 - The technical assistance program is still open.
 - The geothermal challenge is still accepting applications.
 - They are looking to set up a workshop in April.
 - 1000% growth in solar within the past 6 years in the state of NY due to decrease in solar equipment prices, incentive programs and a growing industry.
 - NY is hoping for 50% of statewide electricity needs to be met with renewables by 2030
 - SUNY Brockport received a \$220,000 grant from NYSERDA to develop a training program for employees who will use the New York Energy Manager (NYEM) facility operated by the New York Power Authority (NYPA). NYEM is a digital system that collects and analyzes data from public buildings across NY to identify hidden costs, inefficiencies and provide guidance for improvement. NYEM facility was created by NYS to support energy reduction by 20% by 2020 and currently housed and managed by NYPA at SUNY Albany.
 - Governor Cuomo announced completion and energization of a major power system infrastructure project under Lake Champlain. Power cables were laid down below the lake’s surface to allow power flow to and from VT and improve power communication systems.

- NYS Department of Public Service Commission:
 - NYS Department of Public Service issued an order increasing the maximum interconnection size for PV systems from 2 MW AC to 5 MW AC. A revision of tariffs by ConEd will take place. Size increase will apply to all project types except Combined Heat and Power (CHP).
 - PSC approved a plan that will allow ConEd to expand use of battery storage systems in its service territory. This will allow owners of private energy storage systems to be able to put excess energy back onto ConEd’s power grid to help effectively utilize all produced renewable energy.

- NYS DEC
 - The first of four Harmful Algal Blooms Summits brought together national and state experts with local steering communities to develop action plans for NYS waterways. This is in part of a \$65 million state initiative to combat harmful algal blooms.
 - “Restore the Gorge” restoration work in Niagara Falls has begun at the beginning of February to control invasive species and plant native species.
 - Applications for annual Environmental Excellence Awards being accepted through 4/13. This award recognizes organizations for implementing innovative approaches/technologies and

advancing sustainable practices. A DEC webinar on 3/7 will give tips on how to submit a competitive application.

- Invasive Species Awareness Week 2/26-3/2.

6. AASHE report – Sarah

- Maryellen and Ryan looking to set up a meeting with Matt Sinclair of AASHE.

7. SSC report - Ryan

- Established a separate working group for SDG's (Geneseo, Monroe CC, New Paltz, UB)
 - Trying to make the UN SDG's applicable to the SUNY system.
 - Putting together high level goals that are transferable to from the global scale to campus based scale for NYCSHE & SUNY.
 - Looking to have a feedback session later in March with some other SSC members outside the working group.
 - Once something the document is more structured, it will be sent to NYCSHE and SUNY central to start having conversations about it.
 - AAHSE is doing something similar with their conference, in framing sustainability as a broader message.
- Unsure of current status of the subcommittee that is making a recommendation to chancellor to have someone focused on sustainability at SUNY central.
- Maryellen and Ryan looking to set up a meeting with Matt Sinclair, Director of Sustainability for the University of California system.

8. Old business/updates

- AASHE STARS peer review committee –NYCSHE is setting up a subgroup to perform peer reviews
 - Melissa is going to send out a google doc to NYCSHE schools, and get a list of who needs their STARS application reviewed. She's then going to pair different schools together to avoid a conflict of interest.
 - Marian suggested creating a google doc that allows people to identify their strengths in a particular AASHE STARS area and serve as a guide and resource to others.
 - It was noted that the new version of STARS is very restrictive and the level of detail when submitting is much different than the review document AASHE provides
 - NYCSHE would like to have a member on **AASHE's technical committee** that we can funnel ideas and concerns too. If anyone's interested email Chris Pelton.
- NYCSHE logo(s) - Mary Ellen is going to send it out as a jpeg for members to use on their website
- NY Cares update – Indu and Sandy have been marching along- they have a letter of intent that will be sent out to campuses soon. Mary Ellen spoke to Joe Higgins at MIT, as they did a similar RFP. She pulled out some of their language surrounding education and is going to forward it to Indu.

9. New business

- Sean Vormwald moving ahead with campus survey in sustainability attitude survey – if anyone is interested.
- Next call April 2nd at 9:00.

Minutes submitted by : Melanie Morris