**Resilience iCAP Team April Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 6th, 2021

11:00 am via Zoom

*Members in attendance: Morgan White (Co-Chair), Scott Tess (Co-Chair), Warren Lavey (Faculty), Meredith Moore (Staff), Lisa Merrifield (Staff), Stacy Gloss (Faculty), Genevieve Zilmer (Student), Kimmy Chuang (Clerk)*

**Meeting**

1. **Discussion about public engagement for EJ plan [8.3] – Meredith** 
   1. Thoughts so far: engage university students at SSC Coffee Hour with Warren, use Champaign County Community Health Survey, send out public call for comments
   2. EJ Team can look to collaborate with Engagement iCAP Team, iSEE Communications Team, and Campus Public Affairs
   3. Multiple iterations, possibly starting with a focus group
   4. Scott: My worry is about implementation and who is going to do.
   5. Morgan: The Chancellor would certainly be in favor. As a starting point though we should know what we are actually implementing.
   6. Scott: Costs are highly variable. Would prefer to ask what money is available first and plan around that.

**Should this be internal or external?**

* 1. Morgan: Likely would overload Meredith if we were to do it in-house.
  2. Campus Landscape Master Plan specifically contracts a firm for engagement and honing the plan for specific areas. The Master Plan project, as a whole, costs $300,000. Stakeholder engagement sessions will happen at various levels and will be focused on campus.
  3. Lisa: Intention is to do several focus groups and surveys for the Biodiversity plan. Much of that can be done in-house at relatively little cost. Eventually could apply for grants.
  4. Morgan: **EJ is so important we shouldn’t try to fit it into our existing workloads.** How much would it cost for RPC to do public engagement?
  5. Warren: Illinois EPA has an EJ unit and we could find out what they’ve done in our community. They could also have grant money or a survey that they could make available to us. **Center for Social and Behavior Science exists at the University under Brent Roberts and also has grant money available.** The United Way organization has also collaborated with the center and seems like a good group with a similar background in related issues.

**What would be our ideal result from public engagement?**

* 1. Stacy: Finding partners to conduct some sort of analysis of environmental risks in our community. Creating a Bike Plan or a Biodiversity Plan is much more concrete compared to an EJ plan. **The connections between exposure and health is on a much longer time horizon that may not be easily observable to residents and wouldn’t show up in public engagement processes.**
  2. Morgan: Do we know what our air quality is? Water quality? It seems like we comply with most of the standards.
  3. Scott: Our next steps seems to be to take existing local data and general literature review, add local intuition and priorities, plan projects and additional data collection and research. Through this step, we would add in local intuitions about what concerns exist and which of those are priorities.
  4. Genevieve: We could also incorporate a research study or lab.
  5. Stacy: Could we start with some meetings/ interviews with Champaign County Health Care Consumers and Prairie Rivers Network? People & organizations with pulse on environmental conditions in our County & locally
  6. Lisa: Department of Urban Planning is looking for capstone projects and she has submitted the Biodiversity Plan. **We could submit this as a project (would need to have GIS skills). It would take the whole of next year**. DURP Capstone RFP form: <https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/7701>

**Who should we include in focus groups?**

* 1. Warren: 5th and Hill. Garden Hills neighborhood has experience flooding and mold and Champaign has plans to expand infrastructure in that community so people there would have concerns. Urbana has identified areas of noise pollution due to proximity to highways. Could also ask government for group of small residents that could speak about having concerns.
  2. Kimmy: I have conducted research transcribing focus group interviews and interpreting that data to create a model of stakeholder opinions. As a preliminary step before we possibly hire an outside consultant, the RPC, or submit a project to DURP, I could work on conducting research as focus groups this summer.
  3. Genevieve: I also have experience and am looking to learn more about transcribing interviews.
  4. Morgan: **Let’s find funding to hire Kimmy and/or Genevieve to do this work in the summer.**

1. **Status update and next steps for remaining objectives**
   1. 8.1 [Extension w/F&S] Develop a coordinated urban biodiversity master plan by FY24 to make the Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, and campus metro area a model for biodiversity.
      1. Waiting for two comments from iWG, but if we don’t receive it by tomorrow, we’ll send it out without them.
   2. 8.2 [F&S w/Extension] Coordinate rainwater management plans for the entire urbanized areas of Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, and the university. Starting in FY21, share the total number of green infrastructure locations on the iCAP Portal on an annual basis.
      1. *Likely postponing until Campus Landscape Master Plan* to know where we should add more water features on campus, some of which can include rainwater. F&S staff will be focused on that plan, which is also inclusive of the whole community.
   3. 8.4 [iSEE] Take leadership in addressing the most pressing sustainability challenges in our local communities through collaboration with local governments and related community groups, by forming an advisory panel for coordinating efforts across jurisdictional boundaries. By FY24, select at least three major local sustainability issues to address and identify lead agency and key stakeholders.
      1. Thoughts so far: decided to look for similarities between existing sustainability plans and identify major issues from overlapping needs
      2. Morgan: **We could get WeGFX students next Fall to do this**
      3. Genevieve: Dr. Constance Brown could be a good person to reach out because she teaches a course called “Challenges of Sustainability”
   4. 8.5 [iSEE] By FY23, collaborate with colleges and community groups to inventory existing certification opportunities for green jobs and identify gaps.
      1. Thoughts so far: need to find a student to inventory green jobs and has possible overlap with Eric Green’s students working on developing a green internship
      2. Meredith: **Understanding is that one of Eric’s student is working on this, but we will clarify. We also want them to take this on.**
   5. 8.6 [F&S] Support Vision Zero as a county-wide goal for safe and sustainable transportation.
      1. **Invite F&S (Stacey and Sarthak) and researchers to a meeting with interested Resilience members** (Ray Benekohal and his student)
      2. Warren: It doesn’t seem to be very important and there doesn’t appear to be a lot of work left for us to do.
   6. 8.7 [iSEE] Establish a local offsets program by FY24.
      1. WeGFX class students that were working on this finished last year so no progress has been made. They worked on developing a pilot program with Engineering Study Abroad program that was very small-scale.
      2. Meredith currently has a student doing preliminary research on what is being done at other universities. Most of them don’t have their own plan and simply purchase from other sources.
      3. **Brent Lewis reached out to Prairieland Research Inc. and had discussion about getting our offsets actually verified. We could have a discussion about what the local offsets could be.**