Land & Water iCAP Team February Meeting Agenda

\*\*\*Meeting notes are blue; action items are highlighted\*\*\*

Friday, February 9th

1:00- 2:00 PM; Teams Meeting

***Attendees***: Sheri Glowinski, Betsy Richardson, Jonathon Mosley, Darin Joos, Megan Hanebuth, Carmen Ugarte, Brent Lewis, Mickey Castigador, Arthur Schmidt

1. **Update on campus water quality data**
   1. Our goal is to have baseline water quality data.
   2. Arte Schmidt – specializing in water resources engineering and science - joined our meeting.
      1. Arte shared that we have very little nitrate data.
      2. We have two nitrate sensors installed north of the INHS fishponds, but the sensors are costly and unsuccessful – they are currently reporting no data.
      3. The spot they are in doesn’t work well because sediment pools. A potential new location could be just north of Church Road on the Embarras river as the instruments would do better here.
      4. There is interest in getting funds for fixing the sensors.
         1. Arte noted that he could integrate data collection into his field work class next fall.
         2. We could ask SSC for funds – Arte and Brent will look into costs.
2. **Sustainable Farming**
   1. We need to define sustainable farming before getting a ballpark of the cost of sustainable farming.
   2. Jonathon noted that it’s hard to implement sustainable farming when it is research focused.
      1. Maybe focusing on ground that isn’t being used for research will allow for more management and conservation practices.
   3. Objective 4.3 states that 20% of total farming acreage should be cover crops.
      1. We need to define what counts as total acreage (roads and buildings should not be included in total acreage). Based on just tillable farmland, realistically we are probably over 20%.
         1. Jonathon and Darin will try to estimate land that is tillable.
      2. Carmen noted that language should be updated in iCAP… cover crops and perennial cover should both count towards this 20%.
3. **Prairie STRIPs project**
   1. Many people like this concept.
   2. We need to know what the plants should be, who would maintain it, and where the project would be located.
      1. A potential location is along the Embarras River
   3. There is an old recommendation about planting trees along Embarras River. Brent will locate this old recommendation and we can maybe transform it to planting prairie rather than trees.
4. **4.1 – Total Potable Water Usage**
   1. During covid our numbers went down for water usage.
   2. Brent has put in a request for FY23 numbers.
   3. We are going to follow up on this.