December Environment & Tourism Session Minutes

Plymouth State University

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Recommended Citation
Plymouth State University, "December Environment & Tourism Session Minutes" (2015). Clusters. 110.
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Who?

- **Who was in attendance? (faculty, staff, which departments)**
  - There was no staff in attendance.
  - Faculty included Kerry Yurewicz, Ben Amsden, Brian Eisenhauer, Joe Boyer, June Hammond-Rowan, Liz Ahl, Karolyn Kinane, Kim Ritchie, Steve Whitman, Wendy Palmquist, Lisa Doner, Amy Villamagna, Sam Miller, Susan Swope, Annette Holba, Mark Green, Adam Keul, Kurt Schroeder
  - Deans – Gail Mears, Elaine Allard
  - Thad Gulbrandsen was the steering committee facilitator.

- **Who shared a project?**
  - Kim Ritchie spoke about the 10,000 steps project that involved Brian Eisenhauer, Cynthia Robertson, and Amy Villamagna
  - June Hammond-Rowan talked about the water and watershed conference held annually on campus in March
  - Adam Keul spoke about his efforts to obtain internships for students in the local area
  - EPSCOR grant

- **Who seemed to be emerging as a leader or “key player” (include some notes on why—quotes are always good!)**
  There were many faculty interested in becoming more involved with emerging projects from this cluster, including Adam Keul, Liz Ahl, Lisa Doner, Sam Miller, Steve Whitman, Amy Villamagna

- **Who self-identified as interested in taking the lead on a project/cluster?**
  Liz Ahl, Adam Keul, Sam Miller, Lisa Doner, Kim Ritchie

- **Who seemed to be good at determining next steps?**
  Not enough time to discuss next steps

- **What external partners were suggested for each project?**
  There was not much conversation about external partners

What?

- **What were some projects that were shared?**
  (See notes above)
• **What was the content of the main discussion?**
  Water seemed to emerge as a predominant theme throughout the discussion – lakes and ocean as they relate to tourism, precipitation – snow and rain and how that effects ski areas and recreation, hydrology research, etc.

• **What were identified as next steps?**
  Thad planted the seed of getting some of these people together to further flush out project ideas

• **What outcomes would there be from each projects?**
  Not discussed at this session

**Where?**

  • **Describe the time, date, location of the session**
    Wednesday, December 16 from 4-6pm at Frost Commons

  • **If additional meetings are scheduled, include information about those**

  • **Where does this cluster appear to be going?**
    This seemed to be a very engaged group and the water theme did emerge as the basis for a few possible projects.

**Why?**

  • **What was said that suggests why the projects discussed would fit within the same cluster?**
    Current projects (watershed conference, 10,000 Steps, etc) and future projects seemed to tie in arts, poetry/writing, science, meteorology and tourism quite well.

  What comments were made that hints at a conceptual definition of the cluster?
  • What rationale was presented about projects?
  • What seems to be the ROI on projects?

**How?**

  • What details were shared about ways the project would be carried out?
  • How would students, faculty, partners be engaged?
  • What resources are needed to keep things moving?
  • How soon could each project be ready to go?
  • How does each project seem to support a shared view of the cluster?
What else?

- What would you say were the key outcomes of the session?
- Include any other information that would help someone not in attendance to understand the outcomes of the session?
- Include any information that would help the steering committee to leverage the discussion to move things forward.
- Feel free to snap pictures or transcribe flip charts
- Take pictures of the session to inspire others to participate.

NOTES DURING DISCUSSION:

Ideas/Suggestions

- Sam Miller: climate change - need to establish trends, has already done work with grad student
- Wendy P: don't want to lose tourism aspect, utilize already existing attractions, need to create opportunities here in NH instead of losing them to Disney
- MaryAnn M: brochure to educate tourists to help appreciate migratory birds
- Liz: water as an umbrella idea – snow, lakes, bottled water, ocean

Current/Ongoing projects –

- measuring and creating impacts on things like lakes, drinking water – currently being done by EPSCOR and Lisa D
- regional variations in global climate change – Sam Miller
- Poems about water – Liz
- Adam: work on accessibility of lakes, lack of public access
- Mark G – doing work at Hubbard Brook

FLUSHED OUT IDEAS

Water: poems, lake access, water and recreation, drinking water, what is water worth/cost, variations in precipitation – rain vs snowfall corresponds to tourism, biological effect on water

Who at PSU should be involved, where are the opportunities and connections:

Bridget O’Donnell just approved for project on salt (involves ESP), atmospheric science and chemistry, business involved from the economic aspect – cost of using water, environmental planning, physical plant could be involved on green initiatives on campus, arts dept to help communicate, philosophy dept to explore the philosophical POV

Outside Academic Affairs – NWP, Outdoor Center, student organizations – geography club, common ground, admissions – theme tours being done by UG
admissions, res life which operates structures on campus, museum of white mtns, Sodexo,

**Off campus partners** – Plymouth Water and Sewer, National Weather Service, EPA, White Mtn National Forest, ski industry, schools K-12, DOT, recreational activities on lakes, marinas, bottled water industry, hydroelectric plants, fisheries

**WHO CAN TAKE THE IDEA OF WATER TO NEXT LEVEL?**

- Students who already involved in some of the above projects, Grad student projects/Grad Assistants
- 10,000 Steps involved a variety of depts – Brian E brought artist from Squam Lakes science center – met with Cynthia Robertson the gallery director, worked with Amy V, research based to art dept to create illustrations, philosphy dept created video, posters printed, art students worked during international week, panel discussion during int’l week
  - How many people can be involved with projects due to limited resources
  - Students presented at Legislative Brunch on 12/14
  - Cynthia Robertson was the core facilitator – how much time does this involve?
  - What was purpose – raising awareness about global water issues and to involve students, was part of art course.

**Existing initiatives:**

- NH Water and Watershed Conference on campus since 2007 on Friday of spring break, work with 10 off campus partners, this year’s focus is resiliency, more about bringing organizations to campus – creates interest in PSU programs, helps facilitate information flows throughout state, collaborative initiative would be lost without this conference, gives students opportunity to interact with these organizations. Brings 185 people to campus, involves Grad Students more than UG. Enables PSU faculty to make connections for possible student interactions/internships.

- Adam doing work trying to get students into internships in a variety of areas, not just tourism. During meeting with White Mtn Natl Forest – found out Christian B was doing the same type of work – could they work collaboratively? Getting students out into organizations. Why are internships important – good bridge for students from campus to work. Familiarize companies with PSU

- EPSCOR – National program for states who do not get a lot of funding. Funding provided for research about value placed on water. Large research project to advance knowledge about how society interacts with water. Impact is broad – 100 sites run around state collecting data and sending back to analyze. Science education bringing it into K-12 schools. Supports GR and
UG students, and faculty. Starting point for an additional follow-up project. Partners include teachers, agencies, other educational institutions, given PSU a national profile.

**What is an OPEN LAB concept – needs definition**

- How classes open up to involve others – dialogue with partners
- Does Open Lab mean the same thing at PSU that it does elsewhere, how does it differ from interdisciplinarism? Is Birx using this language from other institutions
- How could the water conference be extended to the broader campus community?

**FUTURE PROJECTS –**

- Using creative writing and the arts to generate messages about ecology and science, dance groups perform around environmental issues. Kim from Art dept interested in working on a project like this, as does Steve Whitman. Liz interested in visual representations of scientific data. Using art to communicate concepts that are harder to explain – can use metaphors to communicate. Mark G interested in talking to artists – he draws inspiration from art but tougher to lay out how it will impact PSU. Question, what is the purpose or impact. Use the arts to increase science literacy which is lacking on the national level – how does it benefit PSU.

- Lisa D would like to become involved with helping communities of the future to be more adaptable – health issues, communication, become more resilient, changes in weather in future, better infrastructure, buildings that would be better able to maintain constant temperature, hazard management projects – how to communicate if cell towers go down, mini-medical centers within neighborhoods during times of emergency. Sam M, June, Steve W, Amy V interested in this topic/project.

- Annette Holba interested in how leisure effects communities. PSU prides itself on what we think they like to do (outdoor activities, skiing, hiking, etc) but have we asked them what they actually do for leisure time, how far are they willing to travel geographically

***Being involved with clusters is not life-long commitment – can move in and out of clusters***
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE PSU DO TO SUPPORT?

- Flexible credit hours – add extra credits to account for extra time dedicated by students.
- Rethink ideas about prerequisites for courses
- More opportunities for co-teaching or group teaching
- Value statement from PSU – high level administrative supports
- Tie clusters to General Ed requirements. Opportunity to introduce new courses, getting to first and second year students earlier. Gen Ed portion of curriculum most nimble=
- Spaces to use/support creative work
- More upper administrative outreach to businesses – matchmaking at a higher level. Admin support and a budget.
- Time and Facilitator – release time, someone to coordinate and tie projects together.
- Time and space for small groups to meet together to brainstorm and be supported beyond the classes they teach and their research.
- Evaluate language tied to P&
- Workplan development
- The cluster process cannot create more levels of bureaucracy. We don’t need more rules and regulations.