

**A Greener UMD and UMD Annual Storm Water  
Pollution Prevention Plan Community Meeting  
April 18, 2007**

The meeting began with Candice Richards giving an overview of what would take place at the meeting. John Rashid was then introduced and the two of them presented a power point presentation titled "Working Toward a Sustainable UMD."

John Rashid discussed the following topics and explained what was being done on campus:

**What has UMD been doing?**

**Mission and Values**

**Energy Saving Solutions**

- energy efficient buildings
- campus-wide projects

**LEED Certification**

**Campus Utility Trends**

Candice Richards discussed the following topics:

**Protecting Clean Air**

IAQ Program

Green Seal Cleaning Chemicals

Low VOC Paints and Chemicals

Mercury Use Minimization

Responsible Transportation

- U-Pass bus

**Protecting Lake Superior**

Caring for our green spaces

Community involvement

Re-wrote 5 year Stormwater program and went up for review

Wetland study done on campus watersheds

Rain garden plants maturing and have received a lot of attention from the media, conferences, garden clubs and college classes

SSB Building

- Captures roof water from west end of academic wing & footing drains
- Wild rice research
- Reflecting pond

Impervious Surfaces

- Provide fast route for pollutant to waterways, less water soaks into the ground
- Lot G example of underground oil and grit separators to protect Tischer Creek

Anti-Litter Education

- Student involvement in adding trash cans
- 250 volunteers in campus cleanup
- Furniture pickup

## **Protecting Green Spaces**

- Native tree restoration
- Chipping wood waste for mulch
- Trail maintenance
- Mechanical and cultural weed control
- Invasive plant control
- Pond no mow zones
- Rock Hill road stabilization
- Compost plant waste
- Minimum fertilization and herbicide
- Alternative ground covers
- Eliminate sand to reduce sediment
- Salt monitoring and reduction

## **Working with Larger Duluth**

- Community Involvement
  - Superior hiking trail was extended
  - UMD Rain Garden
  - Watershed festival
  - Regional Stormwater workshop
  - Contractor/Developer training for construction site for storm water and pollution control

## **Community Partnership**

- Farmer market
- Cities for climate protection
- Regional storm water
- Lake Superior Streams.org (most comprehensive storm water education resource in region)

## **What's Next** (Future possibilities we are in investigating)

- Impervious paving
- Green roofs
- Electric trucks
- Alternative ground cover
- Wind power

During and after the presentation there were questions and comments made by those who attended. They were asked to fill out an evaluation form. (See evaluation form summary.)

## **Summary of Comments and Responses**

Comment: What do you do with the old windows after they're removed?

John: We give the windows to the contractor or have them taken to the landfill. We are looking at ways to recycle the pieces in the future.

Comment: At what point do you apply for LEED's certification?

John: We register at the design phase. It can be awarded at the end of the design phase or end of construction. We won't get certified until after the project is completed.

Comment: Is there any correlation between utility costs and tuition?

John: No, tuition is not affected by utility costs.

Comment: Can you expand on the food compost program?

John: This is an Auxillary Services program. They have bins where they put discarded food and WLSSD picks it up.

Comment: Can someone get some of the discarded furniture from the Furniture Pickup?

Candice: I encourage students to try to and sell or give away their furniture first. If they can't, then we'll be happy to pick it up. The furniture pickup is free to students.

Comment: Where can a person bring glass for recycling?

John: That would be through Food Services. The only glass recycling bins are in Auxillary Services.

Comment: I feel there is a need for more recycling bins on campus. Containers are sometimes removed from one area to another.

Comment: We need more paper recycling bins on campus.

Comment: More e-mails should be sent out on recycling.

Comment: A WLSSD employee stated that if anyone is interested in learning more about recycling, to leave their phone number with her and she will contact them.

Comment: I was not aware of the discarded furniture pickup and think e-mail reminders should be sent out.

Candice: An ad is put in the Statesman advertising the event. The Student Association is responsible for publicizing.

Comment: Are you going to help the DTA with the new hydro system?

John: The DTA partnership is managed by Auxillary Services not Facilities Management. UMD Business Office has two hybrid cars on campus and I will be test driving one tomorrow. Facilities Management also has some E-85 vehicles, but there are no fueling stations nearby.

Comment: Are there any Rain Gardens near Stadium Apartments?

Candice: No, there are not. We are looking at putting in additional stormwater controls in 2009.

Comment: Is the Rain Garden in an area of campus where most of the water runs into it from campus.

Candice: The Rain Garden collects the run off from Lot B.

Comment: When doing impervious walkways do you take students into consideration?

Candice: We have a landscape plan that takes into consideration the paths people take, but it is not the only issue.

Comment: You need to educate students as well as faculty.

Comment: There's a long way to go and more people need to become involved. Other places have hired a Sustainability Director.

John: Morris campus has a Sustainability Director. We are looking at sharing or hiring someone.

Comment: Are there any obstacles to it?

John: None, I feel it's a great idea and there is a need.

Comment: If the University expands and is growing, are we consuming the same or more? Are we buying more highly packaged products? What are some other efforts?

John: Purchase good quality products, trade-ins old equipment with vendor when purchasing new equipment, and work more on packaging.

Comment: Are any other universities in the region interacting?

John: This is a learning mode and we have a long way to go. We get ideas from people who attend these presentations.

Comment: How many toilets are there on campus with automatic sensors?

John: The toilets with automatic sensors have not worked well on toilets, but work on urinals. We will continue to use them on urinals. We are considering up and down flushing to conserve on water.

Comment: Suggest we educate students as well as faculty. Give presentations at orientation. Need better ways to get word out.

Comment: Offer extra credit to attend things like this.

Comment: Have assignments to tie into this.

Comment: Utilize student groups. Make it fun for students.

John stated that UMD is looking at an alternative fuel project. UMD is currently investigating the current concerns on wind solar power on campus to heat hot water with solar panels. There will be a test pilot project. Due to snow in this area the wind turbines need to be kept away from people because of ice chunks falling off of them

John Rashid said Facilities Management deals with buildings. Housing, parking and the bookstore need to be made more aware. ITSS also has things they can do. It's up the individuals to let them know.

John Rashid stated that to conserve energy certain lights in Lot A are dimmed after 9 or 10 p.m. and they are looking to do that on more parking lots.

Candice thanked those who were present today.

