BIOENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY
MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 6, 2005 Location: N-Z 376, University of Florida Campus Time: 7:00 PM

Purpose: Annual Meeting with presentation by Dr. Ann Wilkie

Attendees:

Name	Department	email
Brian Becker	SFRC	brbecker@ufl.edu
Candace Dorn	SNRE	candilea@gmail.com
Dr. Ann Wilkie	Soil and Water Science	acwilkie@ifas.ufl.edu
Dr. Steve Humphrey	SNRE	humphrey@ufl.edu
Jennifer Nestler	SNRE	jnestler@ufl.edu
Jensen Montambault	SNRE	jensenrm@ufl.edu
John Hurford		jhurford@gmail.com
Johnny Davis	Microbiology and Cell Science	jblaze@ufl.edu
Luis Fernando Monroy	EES	lfmonroy@ufl.edu
Matt Pellnitz		pellmr@ufl.edu
Rebecca Kelner	EES/Jones Edmunds & Associates	rkelner@jea.net
Sara Leitman	SNRE/Math	skagauna@hotmail.com
Shalabh Maroo		shalabh@grove.ufl.edu
Shruthi Korupolu		shruthik@ufl.edu
Shunpei Iguchi	SNRE	shunpei@ufl.edu
'Soupy' Alexander		salex@ufl.edu
Stephanie Henry		steph2uf@ufl.edu

Brian Becker called the meeting to order.

Speakers

Dr. Ann Wilkie, our faculty advisor was introduced. After brief comments she gave a half hour presentation titled: Biogas Energy and Sustainability. The presentation covered the basics of anaerobic digestion biogas technology, the types of manures and other materials that could be digested, and some of the advantages of this technology including odor reduction, potential to reduce energy requirements of dairy units by providing heat source for hot water required for sanitation, and improved handling of the biosolids and conversion to biofertilizer post fermentation. Dr. Wilkie stressed that while no single technology is the solution, anaerobic digestion can reduce the footprint of livestock operations.

Some lively discussion was generated during the presentation, high lighting the complexities of renewable technologies, and the necessity to approach the subject honestly about the realities and limitations of each technology and where they fit within today's economic and political climate.

Following the presentation Dr. Steve Humphrey, Director of the School of Natural Resources and the Environment presented the group with the challenge of assisting the school in developing part of their strategic vision. Dr. Humphrey would like the group to develop an 'inventory' of renewable related resources at the University of Florida including professors, courses, laboratories, research projects and other relevant facilities and staff members that could be drawn on in the development of a comprehensive or interdisciplinary 'Renewable Energy' program. Dr. Humphrey's email will accompany these minutes.

Next, Shalab Maroo, representative of American Solar Energy Society (ASES) at UF, graduate student in the Solar Energy and Energy Conversion Lab (SEECL) spoke about the ASES. It turns out that at the same

time that BESTS was forming, Shalab's group was making plans to make the ASES open to students all across campus. Their objectives are essentially the same as that of BEST, and though their name contains Solar, the society addresses all forms of renewable energy. Ongoing discussions with ASES are taking place and all seem to agree that we have common goals and objectives and would benefit from working together. Our May meeting has been proposed to be a joint meeting of ASES and BESTS.

Society Business

The requirements for starting a group on campus were again explained that a constitution be ratified and officials elected. Consensus appeared to be that until the first regular elections held at beginning of the Fall semester, Brian Becker will remain interim President, Johnny Davis will remain interim Treasurer (BTW: our non-exist bank account balance is currently $0.00) and we will seek an interim secretary. The draft constitution is available for review by the club members.

Website: SNRE has agreed to host a website for us. A hosted website would require us to follow the established templates and remain non-political. We could also have a website via GROVE that is allocated to all student groups. GROVE websites can be designed as we see fit and we could probably avoid any potential concerns over addressing 'sensitive' topics. A hosted website with SNRE would require us to submit text, images, and links to the SNRE Research Outreach/Extension office for them to post and maintain. A GROVE website would have to be maintained by us. Shumpei Iguchi has volunteered his web talents for that if we desire. We could also consider a combination of both, having a SNRE site as an educational outreach tool and a GROVE site as a more real time society activities bulletin board.

There was a brief discussion of field trips. Current proposals are the Alachua County Landfill Gas to Energy Project and the UF dairy farm where a Fixed-film Anaerobic Digester is currently operational. Both sites are about ½ hour from Gainesville and could potentially be visited in a single morning.

The next meeting has been scheduled to be held May 18th. We will request continued use of the conference room in Newins-Ziegler. Further announcements will be made once the speaker topic and agenda items have been finalized.

Action Items that could be included in the Agenda for the next meeting include:

- Meet and Greet with ASES
- Review draft constitution and prepare comments
- Brainstorm ideas for society objectives and develop action plan for fall
    - Educational activities such as seminars and field trips
    - Possible fundraising for programs and groups that examine special topics such as policy barrier to renewables, etc.
    - Educational topic packets covering various renewable and sustainable resources, conversion technologies, policies, economics, etc.
    - Website

END OF MINUTES

Minutes prepared by: Brian Becker brbecker@ufl.edu