

Greenhouse Committee Meeting Minutes - October 20, 2017

The meeting started at 11:02 a.m.

Present: Alan Christensen, Amy Hilske, Archie Clutter, Edgar Cahoon, Keenan Amundsen, Matt Anderson, Scott Sattler, Anne Streich, Hector Santiago, James Schnable **Absent:** Lance Meinke, Stephen Wegulo

Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2017 Meeting

Amundsen moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2017 meeting; Streich seconded. The minutes were approved with no objections.

Charge for the Year – Archie Clutter

Clutter discussed his vision and charge with the committee which is primarily focused on the continuation of building a strategy to ensure that we have high quality, world class plant growth facilities. In order to continue along the process of building a strategy, there have been some items completed. A facilities condition assessment was completed last year, and there has been some additional assessments and initial strategy built around teaching on facilities conducted. Most recently, Hector Santiago and Amy Hilske have worked on making our inventory and condition of facilities as comprehensive as possible by gathering data.

Main points of the charge:

1. Understand where we are currently
2. Understand needs (5, 10, 20 years from now) – work on building long-term capacity
3. How do we model use and different categories of space?
4. Help Vice Chancellor Boehm and Archie Clutter determine, develop, and execute a survey (s) or model in the future
5. How do we accommodate the needs most effectively?
6. How to we resource these options?

Mike and Archie will plan to layout some proposed milestones for completing that projection/survey phase and will get back to the committee on this.

James Schnable raised concerns regarding proximity of research scientists to facilities. It was recommended that the committee have a conversation about a survey tool regarding this and getting this out to faculty members. Other discussions to include if you have your most ideal situation, what does this look like, and should we consider alternatives as a community?

Project Updates – Amy Hilske

Since the last meeting, she has been working on spending the last of the FY17 NRI funds. Below is a list of items purchased with the funds. Amy has just finished up the report for these items

1. Auto-clave purchased for AGH4; finished up at end of June 2017
2. Soil cart and aerator purchased for Beadle Center
3. Computer and laptop purchased for some staff at the Beadle Center
4. Shelves and LED lights purchased for greenhouses

As of July 1, 2017, we were awarded another \$67,500 for NRI Funding. It has been proposed that with this new funding that we get 2-3 new reach in growth chambers for East Campus.

For FY19 funding, Amy proposed \$210,000 for several different items. Some of the major items are repairing all 9 growth chambers and purchasing 3 new reach in chambers.

Other projects currently being worked on:

1. Room 34 at AGH4 – all reach in chambers have been stripped out. Still working on getting the room ready to go before the new walk-in growth chamber arrives in late November. This room has ability to hold two more walk-in chambers and four reach in chambers, roughly.

Discussion on Status of Growth Facilities and Next Steps for Improvement

a. Overview of findings from growth facilities assessment – Hector Santiago and Amy Hilske

Amy Hilske and Hector Santiago reviewed the inventory spreadsheet that they have compiled. Amy will put these documents in the Greenhouse Committee box folder for the group to review.

Amy showed and discussed a facilities update spreadsheet that she reviews quarterly with the UNL Building Systems Maintenance group. It shows the tasks that the facilities department is completing on our behalf to help keep the greenhouses up to date.

Hector discussed items that were provided from the assessment which included overall conditions of greenhouses, an estimated cost of replacing greenhouses with no upgrades, those greenhouses that we shouldn't invest money in, and also an estimate for the recommended repairs which we can choose from to complete.

b. Next Steps and role of Greenhouse Committee in the path forward – Hector Santiago, Amy Hilske, and Ed Cahoon

Utilize the data that Amy and Hector have put together to help create a game plan of where funds and strategy should be focused on.

Ed Cahoon will put together a list of questions to help survey faculty regarding needs and space for the next 5-10 years. Ed and/or Hector will reach out to department heads to ask that they encourage participation in the survey.

Other Business

Discussion regarding chambers and/or space that have faculty members listed as using that have left the university. Ed suggested that it will be up to the department head or the person who bought the equipment to decide what happens with it and how it gets reassigned to ensure that there isn't equipment sitting and not being used.

Matt Anderson discussed a concern that was brought to him regarding improper disposal of materials. He passed around a picture of the material, which was tagged.

Meeting adjourned 12:00 p.m.