

Minutes

COTR Sustainability Committee Meeting

Feb 2, 2022

3:30-4:40pm Room S220/Teams

Present: Alice, Sarah, Anna, Sylvia, Sheena, John, Allan, Karen, Cori T

Regrets: Brian, Cori A, Darrell, Colleen

Introductions and welcome to students and new members.

1) Order of Business

- a. Agenda – addition of 3f Bike Racks.
- b. Minutes – one amendment: John asked the welding program if they would be able to do the work on the bike racks.
- c. No one stepped forward as a nomination for chair, so Sheena will stay on as chair this year.

2) Old Business

- a. Committee Terms of Reference – Discussion around updating these and membership composition. Members present did not see a reason to have a communications and marketing rep as a member, but to employ the services of marketing and communications (using the student assistant to communicate committee marketing needs). The student assistant will be added as ex-officio to the membership, appointed or elected by the sustainability committee (the committee requests the student opportunity fund and interviews/hires the assistant). Made updates to titles and added language around attendance at meetings.
Also, chair term amended from one year to two years.
Action: John to update, circulate to the committee and then submit to VPAC for consideration
- b. Composter – The feeder is not working right now. To have composting college wide, we need to buy the composter add-on for the current 3-bin (recycling, returnable, landfill) receptacles. **Action: Allan** to look into ordering these at the beginning of the next fiscal year (and facilities budget to cover this cost). This would allow for a spring roll-out of college wide composting. We would need marketing to update the signage on the receptacles. Question arose if composting would be available for student housing. Allan informed the committee that student housing currently doesn't have the 3-bin receptacles. A suggestion was made to have individual compost buckets if students wanted to compost. There may be an issue with collection of the material with this. **Action: Allan** to have a conversation around the 3-bin receptacles and composting at student housing with Meghan, Residence Supervisor and/or Cori A, Manager of Student Life.
- c. Bottled water update – There are currently six Culligan water stations around the college that are paid for by various departments. It was thought that this exists as these departments do not like the taste of the filtered water stations. **Action: Anna** to ask Wendy Roberts, Facilities, to see where

these Culligan stations are and get department contacts. She will also research the sustainability benefits of the filtered water stations versus the Culligan stations and report back to the committee. She will draft a letter that could be sent to the departments with Culligan stations to encourage them to using the filtered water stations as opposed to the Culligan stations (which would also have economical benefits).

Bottled water continues to be used in the vending machines (overseen by Campus Life). The cafeteria will stop selling bottled water once there is no longer bottled water provided in the vending machines.

d. Recycling update – Sheena sent out an email to all employees informing them what can go into the blue office recycling bins

e. The Sustainability Committee has an outward facing webpage ([Sustainability - College of the Rockies \(cotr.bc.ca\)](https://sustainability.coltr.bc.ca)) – look under About us/sustainability and inward facing location for meeting minutes, etc. on SharePoint. **Action: Sheena** to ensure that all committee members have access to this SharePoint site.

f. Bike racks – John met with Ken McKay, welding instructor, and he said that they could make modifications to the west (Summit lot) bike rack to accommodate fat bike tires as well as modify the main entrance racks to accommodate fat bikes and bikes with fenders. It was suggested we allow for 2 fat bikes per rack. **Action: John** to approach Ken to undertake this work. It was also suggested that we use a different colour for the fat bike spots so they can be differentiated.

3) New Business

a. Discussion around meeting schedule and current language will remain; however, committee members agreed that it would be beneficial to meet for one hour, monthly from Sep-Apr, working around the student schedules.

b. Sustainability stories project – Due to time constraints, this topic was moved to the next meeting.

c. STARS program (AASHE) – STARS ([Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™](https://www.aashe.org/standards)) rating system. Cost is \$975 for membership (\$585 for yearly renewal). Discussion around compiling data and working towards a STARS medal. **Action: Sheena** will make sure Anna has a log-in to the AASHE site. **Action: Anna** will look at starting to gather data from the College for the STARS reporting.

4) Next meeting – Mar 2 3:30-4:30pm