



SUSTAINABLE
SRJC

SRJC District Sustainability Committee

Minutes

September 26, 2024

Physical Location: Senate Chambers, Santa Rosa Campus

Zoom Option: <https://santarosa-edu.zoom.us/j/83741255049>

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: *We acknowledge that we gather at Santa Rosa Junior College on the territorial traditional land of the Pomo People, past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.*

EQUITY STATEMENT: *Our committee strives to fully empower all district voices in the quest for a just, equitable society. As we consider our goals and decisions, we question whether we are representing a full range of perspectives.*

We will meet in the Bertolini Senate Chambers for the rest of the semester!

1. Approval of April Meeting Minutes - 5 minutes

Motion by Alexa to approve the minutes from the last Sustainability Committee meeting in April; Seconded by Guy; minutes were approved by the Sustainability Committee.

2. Public Comment- 5 minutes

Aria – Mentioned a visioning session being hosted by Sonoma County Transportation taking place on 10/5.

Jen – Talked about campus biodiversity initiatives, such as mapping native plants and course-based sustainability components.

David – Talked about how sustainability colleagues he recently saw shared their experience in planting a micro forest using the high-density planting method as an experiment to use micro forests for carbon sequestration.

Guy – Met John Duran, “JD”, Native American Center Coordinator, shared information about the

Sustainability Committee efforts, discussed increasing representation, and talked about building on indigenous knowledge as it relates to sustainability. JD was invited to future Sustainability Committee meetings.

Kirk – Spent a week and a half in Alaska and shared SRJC sustainability initiatives with students there who were impressed. Sustainability is institutionalized in Alaska’s state’s constitution. Kids grow up understanding sustainability, they’re interested in what we’re doing with our SRJC sust. endeavors (energy, food, forest systems, wildlife). Today is Kirk’s last day working as a Climate Corps fellow.

David – Will now be working 40% of the time at the Chancellor’s level on sustainability initiatives throughout the CCCs.

Katie – On 10/10, 4pm-6pm, a green living fair will take place at the Santa Rosa Campus.

3. Introductions – 10 minutes

SRJC Sustainability Committee attendees introduced themselves.

4. Electing new Faculty Co-Chair –5 minutes

Jen Palladini is nominated as Co-Chair for the Sustainability Committee who will serve for a term lasting the current academic year.

Motion by Guy to approve the nomination of Jen as Co-Chair for the Sustainability Committee; Seconded by Sophia; the motion was approved by the Sustainability Committee.

5. Transportation Updates - 10 minutes

Week Without Driving Week – Alexa and David presented a county-wide event currently going on called Week Without Driving (September 30-October 6, 2024). The event is aimed to get the attention of elected officials and leaders who make decisions on how transportation tax dollars get spent, but the public can participate in solidarity. Orange “Week Without Driving” bracelets were handed out to the Sustainability Committee attendees to wear in solidarity with the event. During Week Without Driving, the goal is to have people replacing driving their car with walking, biking, using the bus, or carpooling for the whole week, next week starting Monday. Working with community and regional transit providers; on Saturday 10/5 Sonoma Clean Power will host a Transportation Visioning session to get input on what worked and what can improve. Sonoma County Transportation Authority will use the feedback to update their Comprehensive Transportation Plan every five years. There will be a free raffle with prizes including a month subscription for the new Sonoma County electric bikeshare, preloaded clipper cards, gift certificates for the new e-bike shop at Petaluma, etc.

Highway 101 Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing Update – Kate – The District notarized the agreements and they’re now with the City of Santa Rosa. The landing of the Highway 101 Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing will be to the north of Polly Hall, south of Pedroncelli. The next step in the approval process is CalTrans. With the project now moving forward, we’re hoping to bid in spring 2025. The completion date of the project should be in October 2026.

Bike Share Update – County getting ready to start the rollout, working with agreements with partners (working with SMART on finalizing their locations). We have a sample of their agreement. There’s a working group that is foreseeing and working out any minor issues that might arise. We got them to agree that if we wanted, we could expand the number of stations on the Santa Rosa Campus such as placing one in front of Polly Hall. The launch date will possibly be in spring 2025 or later.

Petaluma Transportation – The SMART Petaluma North Station will be completed soon and is projected to open in January 2025. Petaluma Transit is looking to run an on-demand shuttle around the train station and is asking for feedback on what the shuttle range should be. So, we’re working to have the Petaluma Campus within the shuttle range. David will share the link (that Petaluma Transit provided to everyone in the general public initially) with the Sustainability Committee for us to flood them with requests to have the SRJC Petaluma Campus as an anchor.

Shone Farm Public Transportation Option – David is working with Deb Ziccone and Hilleary Zarate on a public transportation option for Shone Farm, since it’s a regional center and students currently have to take Sonoma County Transit to River Road and then bike to Shone Farm.

PSTC SMART Shuttle Request – We’ve put out a request to the SMART Airport Station On-Demand Shuttle for the PSTC, since they’re very close to it and SMART seems interested in including them, but academy hours might be an issue.

Clipper Program Expansion – Clipper Bay Pass Program data shows that a significant amount of SRJC students use it up and down the Highway 101 corridor. We’re in talks with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission on expanding the Clipper Bay Pass Program. Students participating in the program can use the clipper card on any form of public transportation in the Bay Area. We’re in second year of the pilot program, after this year the grant runs out, but the MTC is interested in moving forward with us to continue providing the program to our students.

6. Sustainability Plan/working group Update– 10 minutes - David

-SCAP Update

We have the draft for SCAP. Cabinet is engaging in conversations on whether there should be one grand comprehensive plan, instead of many plans, or how many to have. CCC system has climate action and sustainability goals developed by the Board of Governors, they looked at greenhouse gas emission reduction, green buildings, energy, water, waste, procurement and purchasing, transportation, and food systems. Thanks to Kirk’s work, we have an updated greenhouse gas emission baseline. As of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, we’ve seen a 66% reduction in SRJC’s greenhouse gas emissions from our peak in 2014. This has been accomplished thanks to our shift away from natural gas and toward electrifying our buildings, our solar systems and procurement of cleaner electricity, and 15% of student telecommuting. We didn’t achieve their 2030 goal of being below the 75% baseline, but we are below 66%. They’re hoping that by 2035, we will have reached 100% below baseline.

We have a new food base and so SRJC is the first CCC that has completed the campus food benchmark. We have a more refined system to collect data and have had conversations with Pacific Dining.

SRJC has accomplished a huge amount of the Board of Governors' sustainability goals.

7. STARS/Green Leaf Discussion Update -20 minutes -Kirk

-STARS/SIMAP Update

Kirk gave a STARS update. STARS is not just focused on data acquisition but also encourages us to look at how other colleges are tackling sustainability in some capacities to achieve their sustainable goals. Sustainability isn't just passion about the cause but also looking at the finances. SRJC was the first CCC to participate in STARS and earned bronze. Currently, the goal is to make the campus the most sustainable that we can and obtain gold status. STARS has now been updated and is more data driven. Dr. Garcia has already provided an executive letter. J from the Foundation helped with filling out the investment section. We currently have 85% of the data we need, so we will gather the remaining data needed to finish up and submit.

8. New Agenda items for this Fall Semester

At the 10/24 Sustainability Committee meeting, will talk about any new agenda items to discuss.

Minutes submitted by Glen Salazar, Administrative Assistant III, Capital Projects