**Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes**

March 10, 2017, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Columbia 249

**MEMBERS PRESENT**  
**Faculty and Staff:**

Melynn Bates (Chair) – College of Education

Bob Choquette – Planning, Public Policy and Management

Peggy Schneider – Parking and Transportation

Alethea Steingisser - Geography

Marie Swarringim – Campus Planning, Design and Construction

Michael Tomcal – College of Business

**Ex-Officio:**

Steve Mital—Office of Sustainability

Eric Beeler – Student Sustainability Center

**Other Attendees:**

Taylor McHolm – Office of Sustainability

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Members introduced themselves. Melynn moved to approve the February minutes. By voice vote the minutes were unanimously approved.

**UPDATE on MANAGING CAMPUS GROUNDS, Guest: Phil Carroll, Landscape Maintenance Supervisor**

Phil Carroll spoke about a number of institutional changes regarding Landscape Maintenance:

* All members of the maintenance crew are licensed to apply chemical pest control agents. This is so they learn the risks and best practices of using this technique. Chemical controls are the very last option as part of the integrated pest management plan. It has been five to six years since an employee has used insecticide for anything other than stinging insects
* The University is pursuing whether to become a Salmon Safe university
* As a result of many of the ice storms and downed trees this winter, the University is logs down to act as nursery logs in order to establish more native and enhanced habitats
* Noise from backpack blowers and emissions from diesel service vehicles are constantly being evaluated to ensure that they are as minimal as possible

**UPDATE on GREEN PURCHASING, Guest: Greg Shabram, Associate Director, Purchasing and Contracting Services**

Greg spoke about institutional changes to purchasing and contracting that can aid the UO’s commitment in sustainability. Purchasing and Contracting is in the process of implementing a centralized procurement system for buying goods. This would allow the UO to leverage its purchasing power to get better prices on more sustainable products. The UO is also looking at fleet system for desktop printers, which could make more sustainable servicing and toner recycling easier and cost effective.

**ADJOURN**

The committee adjourned shortly after 4:00pm. Steve will give an update on UO’s Climate Action Plan during the April meeting.