**Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes**

May 14, 2013, Noon to 1 pm

Coquille Room, EMU

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Alan Dickman – Environmental Sciences/Biology (chair)

Meg Mattson – Academic affairs

Mark Reed – Geology

Bitty Roy - Biology

Fred Tepfer – Campus Planning and Real Estate

Steve Mital – Office of Sustainability (ex officio)

Christine Thompson - Campus Planning and Real Estate (ex officio)

Louisa de Heer – Stdent Sustainability Center (ex officio)

Andrew Louw- Office of Sustainability

**WELCOME AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS**

Alan welcomed the committee back and committee introduced themselves.

**REVIEW OF RIVERFRONT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Louisa, Christine, Meg and Bitty updated the committee on their progress and presented a draft report of riparian management guidelines for the UO riverfront property. The subcommittee was charged with reviewing riparian buffer management options and suggesting best management practices “consistent with current ecological value of UO riverfront property, to help inform future decisions about Riverfront Research Park master planning and development.” Specifically, the subcommittee reviewed the EWEB 2010 Riverfront Master Plan and ASUO Riverfront Report and compared these with Riverfront Research Park Master Plan and Design Guidelines.

After reviewing the planning documents relevant to the site, the subcommittee found that each document stipulated a different riparian setback. The documents are also inconsistent in regards to education and access. All the reports favor bicycle access with the EWEB plan relocating the existing bike path further south of the bank to allow the bank to be re-graded.

The subcommittee made the following DRAFT recommendations:

* Promote riparian vegetation and restoration efforts
* Re-grade the existing bank to historic condition to manage invasive plant species and provide better access
* Retain dead trees and snags that provide animal habitat
* Restore native flora
* Control the spread of invasive species
* Manage stormwater runoff
* Consider options for contaminated area
* Consider the needs of management species

The committee acknowledged the opportunity to make recommendations about the riverfront before a development project is proposed, but stressed the need for a balanced approach to addressing the competing needs of access (for commuting and recreation) and ecological restoration. Committee members discussed how the UO might address planning needs related to the bicycle path, Millrace outfall, playing field, and contaminated site. The next steps in the EIC subcommittee’s process is to complete the draft report and present it the full committee which will vote to include it in it’s annual report to Jamie Moffitt.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Monday June 3rd, 2013 from Noon - 1pm in the EMU Coquille Room.