

President's Sustainability Advisory Committee

February 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Krista Jacobsen, Mari Long, Steve Kay, Bob Jewell, Rebecca McCulley, Lee Meyer, Andrea Connor (guest from KY Geological Survey), Esther Moberly, Britney Ragland, Shane Tedder, Phil Crowley and Megan Seifert (guest presenters)

- Co-Chairs call meeting to order
- Introductions
- Presentation by Dr. Phil Crowley of EREC
 - Phil and Megan provided a presentation and summary of the research and outreach happening at the Ecological Research and Education Center. The presentation is included with the minutes on pages 6-18.
- Action Items:
 - Final Review and Approval of AR 6:8 Revisions
 - Committee approved a final version of the AR revisions and these have been submitted to Marcy Deaton for review by the AR committee. Draft attached, pages 3-5.
 - Review and approval of Outreach Survey for Sustainability Strategic Plan
 - Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the campus outreach survey for the Sustainability Strategic Plan. Survey went live on Monday 2/13.
<https://uknow.uky.edu/campus-news/share-your-thoughts-campus-sustainability-short-survey>.
- Updates on current initiatives:
 - UK Dining Sustainability ([website](#))
 - They are working on a contract revision that will better define their local purchasing commitment in terms of farm impact and local business impact.
 - Ramping up their recycling effort beyond cardboard
 - Exploring some opportunities to reduce/eliminate polystyrene food and beverage containers.
 - Have established employee green teams.

- Emissions Reduction Plan Update ([website](#))
 - Task force has been assembled to develop implementation plan. The plan will be called the UK Emissions Reduction Plan.
 - Will be two phases: 1) 2018-2021 2) 2022-2025
 - Phase one will be well defined in plan released this spring. Phase 2 will be outlined and will be dialed in during a second planning phase that will take place in 2021.
- Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment ([website](#))
 - New full time programming assistant (filling Suzette's position) will start work on February 21.
 - Work Groups: Food Systems hosting a lecture of March 9. More info.
 - UFI hosting an event screening short films about trees. More info.
- UK HealthCare Sustainability Steering Committee ([website](#))
 - Sustainability Fair on April 26 at Chandler Hospital, PSAC invited to table
 - Continuing roll-out and expansion of recycling efforts.
 - Exploring some opportunities to reduce/eliminate polystyrene food and beverage containers.
- Faculty Sustainability Council ([website](#))
 - Group has met twice. Established a Canvas site for compiling information and have formed two work groups. One focused on an internal SWOT analysis and the second looking at external examples of best practices and reviewing efforts of UK's traditional benchmarks as well as other KY schools.

I. Introduction (no change)

Institutions of higher education have a crucial role in advancing the goal of a sustainable society because of their missions of research, education, and community engagement. The University of Kentucky strives to be a leader and role model in the application of sustainability principles and practices and to become a sustainable campus. This regulation establishes a campus-wide Sustainability Advisory Committee to focus and coordinate the University's activities within the broad meaning of sustainability, as reflected in the University's Statement on Sustainability Policy and Principles

II. Entities Affected (no change)

This regulation applies to all employees, students, and units of the University.

III. Responsibilities

The Sustainability Advisory Committee shall:

- A. Pursue the principles outlined in the University's "Statement on Sustainability Policy and Principles;"
- B. Develop an annual set of committee goals and planned actions designed to further promote and advance an institutional culture of sustainability in the areas of campus business operations, education, research, and community engagement;
- C. Publicize and communicate current University sustainability initiatives to the University community;
- D. Support the work of the Office of Sustainability in developing indicators to measure progress and make suggestions and recommendations for improvements;
- E. Conduct periodic reviews of the University in terms of sustainability, including an assessment of the completeness and progress of University sustainability efforts as compared to national benchmark institutions;
- F. Sponsor and promote campus events, workshops, showcases, exhibits and symposia focused on enhancing sustainability efforts and practices
- G. Be a platform for assisting faculty, staff, and students with sustainability related initiatives;
- H. Promote and encourage sustainable best practices and processes across the University;
- I. Support the implementation of the University's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Commitment; and
- J. Create and appoint such technical advisory task forces and committees as may be appropriate to advise the Committee and to foster increased opportunities for campus community involvement and input.

IV. Membership

A. The Committee shall be composed of members appointed by the President and ex-officio members:

Appointed positions:

1. Three faculty members;
2. Two student members;
3. One member from Student and Academic Life (Provost);
4. One member from the University research mission (Vice President for Research);
5. One member from UK Public Relations (non-voting)
6. One member from the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government;
7. Up to four members at large;

Ex-Officio positions:

1. University Sustainability Coordinator;
2. Director of the Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment, or designee;
3. Vice President for Facilities Management or designee;
4. Director of Environmental Management, or designee;
5. Manager of UK Recycling and Waste Management, or designee;
6. Director of Utilities or designee; and
7. Sustainability Manager for UK Dining

C. Members shall normally be appointed for staggered two-year terms.

D. The Committee shall select two (2) co-chairs from the Committee membership.

V. Meetings

The members of the Committee shall meet regularly during the academic year. Meeting agendas shall be distributed in advance to members, and shall be publicized on campus.

VI. Reporting

The Committee shall publish and present to the President an annual report each August on University sustainability activities undertaken during the reporting period. The annual report shall also provide information regarding progress in meeting goals in campus business operations, education, research, and community engagement and establish Committee goals and action items for the following year

VII. References and Related Materials

Statement on Sustainability Policy and Principles
(<http://www.uky.edu/sustainability/sites/www.uky.edu.sustainability/files/University%20of%20Kentucky%20Statement%20on%20Sustainability%20Policy.pdf>)

Campus Master Plan (<http://www.uky.edu/EVPFA/Facilities/MasterPlan/reports.html>)

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Commitment
(<http://www.uky.edu/sustainability/greenhouse-gas-emissions-reduction-commitment>)

UK Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Reporting System Report (STARS)
(<https://stars.aashe.org/institutions/university-of-kentucky-ky/report/2015-10-16/>)

Ecological Research & Education Center

The Ecological Field Station of the Bluegrass



UK/Lexmark Building
1737 Russell Cave Road
Lexington, KY 40505

<http://darwin.uky.edu/~erec/>

UK
UNIVERSITY OF
KENTUCKY[®]

Vision

EREC is a unique field station *linked* both directly and through advanced telecommunications to researchers, teachers, students, and citizens at a *local-to-global* scale.

EREC advances our *knowledge* of the natural and human-modified world and expands the general *awareness* and *understanding* of the scientific enterprise.

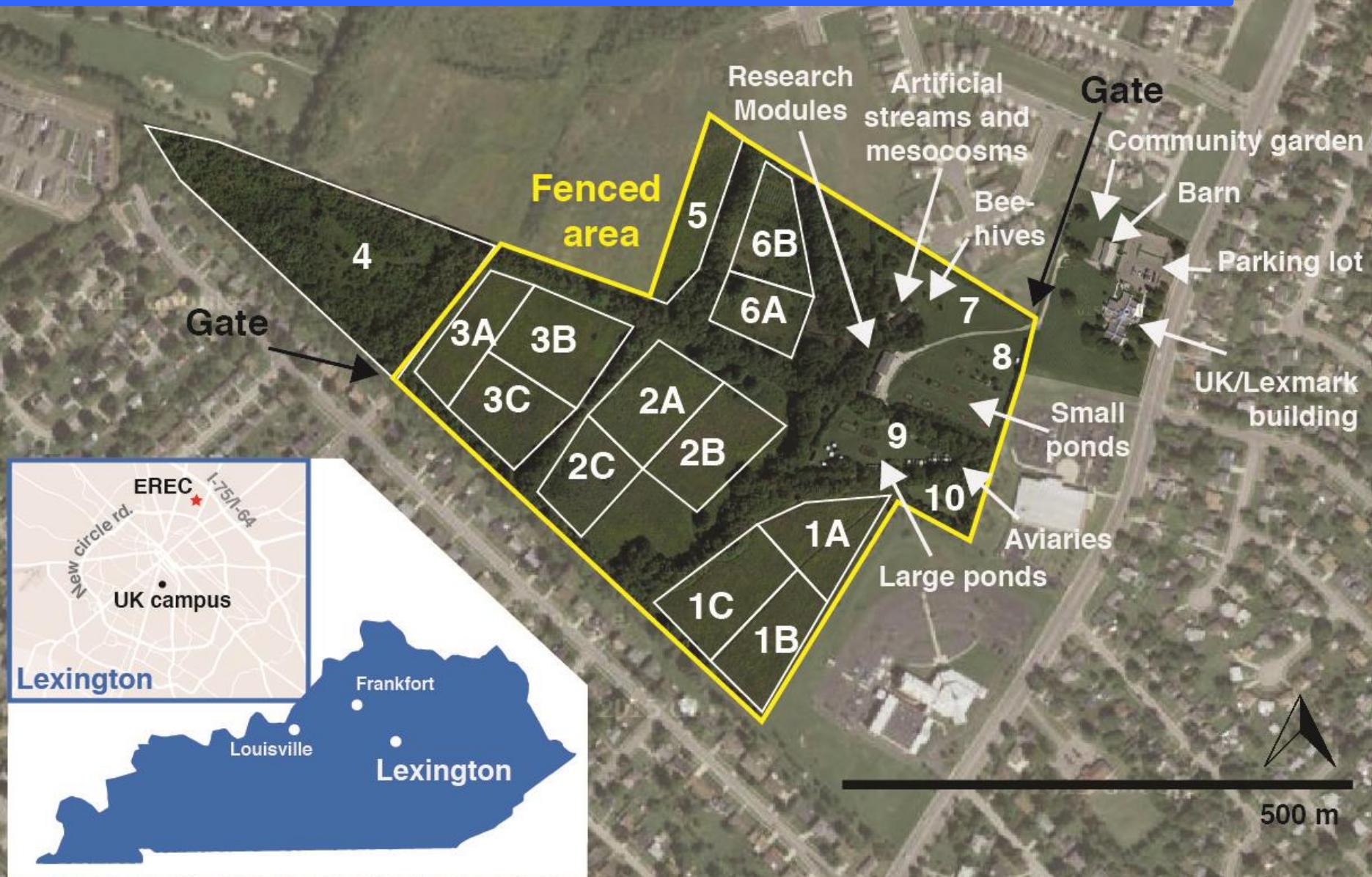
Mission

EREC functions as a highly connected *node* in the regional and national ecological research and education network.

EREC facilitates research, education, and community engagement, strongly emphasizing their *integration*.

Its accessible *suburban* location in the heart of the *Bluegrass* provides a hub for studies of the Bluegrass ecoregion.

Ecological Research Facility: field and semi-field research



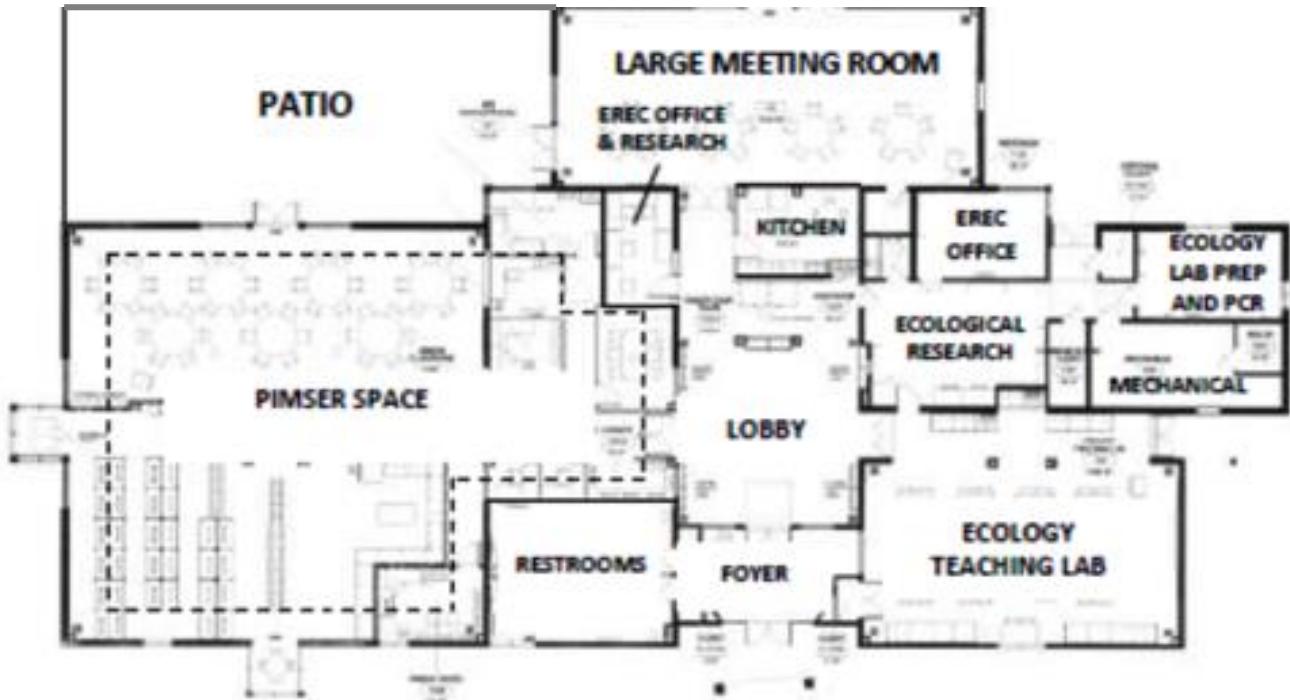
Indoor Space: Meeting, Teaching & Research

Molecular lab

Teaching lab

Large meeting room

Outdoor patio/lawn space



Research themes: Invasive species
Bluegrass species and ecosystems
Global change
Adaptive behavior
Mutualism/symbiosis
Diurnal/seasonal rhythms
Urban/suburban ecology

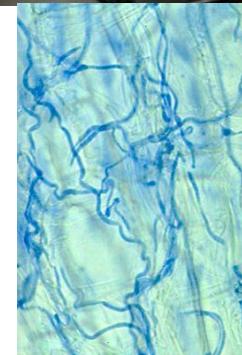


Research projects:

Invasiveness and dispersal of mosquitofish
Parental care in house sparrows
Genetics, physiology, and rhythms in birds
Bluegrass tree-sapling survival & herbivory
Aphids and symbionts vs locust trees
Goldenrod competition for pollinators
Urban gardens as ecological traps
Invasive mosquito monitoring
Fungal endophytes and herbivory of grasses
Cooperative breeding in bess beetles
Crayfish as ecological engineers



School Powered Academic Research in Kentucky



Facilitating broader impacts of
research in association with
K-12 STEM classes

BIOTIC

*BIOlogy: Teams In
the Community*



**Connecting researchers,
educators, students and citizens
to develop science-based
educational activities that best
serve the community**





EREC: Ecological Research and Education Center

Learn more about opportunities at EREC on the website at <http://darwin.uky.edu/~erec/>, which has more on research, teaching, community engagement, along with **contact information**.

Or speak with your unit or institution's representative(s) on the EREC Oversight Committee.

*Sign-up for the EREC newsletter **EcoLink** to stay up to date on current research and events.*

EcoLink
February 2016 (Volume 1, Issue 1)



Ecological Research & Education Center | *The Field Station of the Bluegrass*

Letter from the Director
With our first, semi-annual newsletter, we are passing on the word about EREC - what it is, what's going on, and what we intend to accomplish. After 20 years as an ecological research site, EREC has been funded by the National Science Foundation to plan its emergence as a field station. Our plan is to combine research with education and community engagement. EREC is an unique field station located in the Bluegrass ecoregion. Nestled within a suburban landscape, it is a field site for researchers studying one of the most dynamic processes in the context of natural and human-influenced environments. Examples of this year's research projects include the restoration of native trees, pollination of native goldenrod, seasonal patterns of bird behavior, and the ecology of invasive plants.

Our goal is to attract top-tier experimental researchers looking to work in semi-natural systems. In addition, we hope to become a beacon for the outdoor education of students and citizens, and for broad engagement of the community in science and science-related activities. Dr. Lou Hirsch is the Program Coordinator and leads SPARK program (School-Powered Action Research in the Community). Dr. Hirsch is working closely with K-12 students as collaborators. Our Community Engagement Coordinator, Dr. Megan Seifert, heads the BIOTIC community engagement program (Biology Teams In the Community). This spring BIOTIC will launch its first biologically-themed art exhibit and a community garden. To find out more about EREC activities, visit our website at <http://darwin.uky.edu/~erec/>.

Welcome new research projects, ideas for bringing science effectively to schools, and queries about EREC for those interested in volunteering or other forms of participation.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Philip H. Crowley,
Director of EREC

Stay up to date on EREC news and events or contribute to the Newsletter.
Contact Megan Seifert at megan.seifert@uky.edu

Workshops and Symposia
Strengthening the Connection Between Research and K-12 (April 2)

UK Center for Ecology, Evolution and Behavior Symposium (May 12)

For Credit & Professional Development Courses
PCR Ecology (June 6 - July 1)

Informal Classes
Beginning Beekeeping (February 27, March 19)
Beyond Beginning Beekeeping (May 14, June 25)
Beginning Birding (March-April)

Community Events
Community Garden: Gardening Meeting (April 3), Gardening Open House (April 2), AgExt Growing Community Garden Fair (April 23)
Biology + Art Exhibit Opening Reception (March TBA)

Additional slides if needed

Research Area and Facilities

Over 50 acres of research space and maintained facilities

10 field plots, including 3 old field succession plots

