

Joint Sustainability Council Annual Report

2017-2018

Chair: Tamera Owens

Vice-Chair: Theresa Van Veelen

Secretary: Paula Halloran

PURPOSE

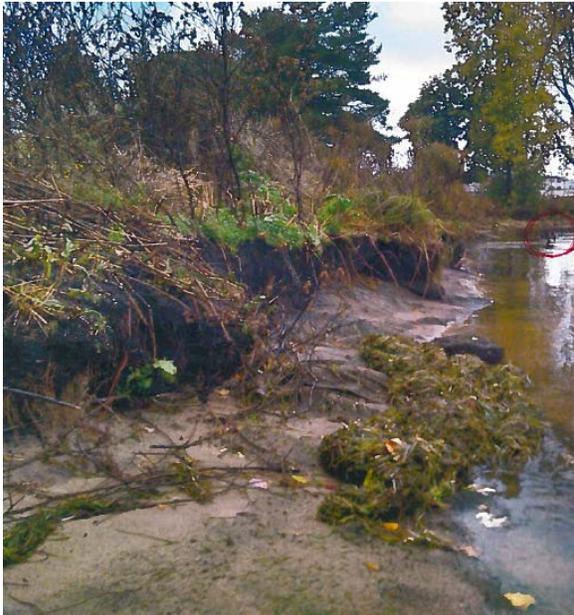
Using a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional approach, Muskegon Community College endeavors to meet the needs of the present without compromising the future by operating within a sustainable environmental, social, and economic framework. The purpose of the JSC shall be to seek opinions, express ideas, identify, investigate, review and recommend sustainability policy and procedural matters to the Coordinating Council and other pertinent groups that relate to the sustainability affairs of the College.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

Bylaws were updated in January 2018 to increase representation and add proxy voting.

CAMPUS LAND USE

1. Lakeshore Fitness Center – A combination of high water levels and unusually strong, late-summer storms in 2017 caused severe erosion of the shoreline. In the photo below, the line of stakes circled in red should be covered by fabric, rock, soil, and vegetation, and should continue toward the camera, but the shoreline has been eroded back several feet, exposing soil contaminated from past industrial discharge. The repair estimate is \$43,000 and requires permitting from the Department of Environmental Quality, which Gerry Nyland is pursuing.



2. Health and Wellness Center – The landscaping plan was reviewed in November, and recommendations were made to exclude aggressive species in favor of native and pollinating plants.

EVENTS AND PROJECTS

1. Apiary – Two hives are doing well and producing honey which will be sold.
2. Earth Week – April 16-20. This year's theme was reducing plastic pollution. We had a recycling display in the main lobby, and a drawing for refillable water bottles. Student paintings on the theme were showcased, and Phi Theta Kappa sponsored a highway cleanup. The Life Science department hosted a free book giveaway, and hundreds of books were rehomed; extras were donated to local organizations.



3. Community Family Fest – June 2. We had a table for children to plant and take home seedlings of perennial flowers, and a display of bees from the apiary.



Future Plans

We are investigating the option of beginning on-site composting. Currently, we are paying for our compostables to be hauled to a company in Zeeland, but our landscaping and golf course could produce enough compost to meet the college's needs, and perhaps have enough to sell.