Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities
2019 Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2019
NIFA Board Room, Lincoln, Nebraska

Agenda
Introductions/Member Reports
Welcome
JISC Status Report
Current Projects:
  • VAPG Study/Conference
  • NIFA Evaluation Study
  • LNK Food Market Study
  • Alaska Cruise Ship Industry Conference
2018/2019 Grant Proposals
Pending Grant Proposals
  • USDA Markets Proposal
  • FFAR Urban and Peri-urban Local Foods Proposal
  • China Urban Resiliency Proposal
  • Legal Aid Nebraska Proposal
  • US Film Industry – Sustainability Proposal
  • LNK Public Market/EcoStore
Leadership Transition Planning
Expansion of Board Membership
Comments/Discussion/Recommendations
Regional Food System Report Has Been Published
As JISC continues to work toward building a sustainable 12-month regional food hub/public market in Lincoln, we have published our progress to date in a new booklet. This report is the result of intensive studies and surveys, underwritten by a U. S. Department of Agriculture Value-Added Producer Grant, with matching funds from NIFA, over a two-year period. Jerry and Renee Cornett of Lakehouse Farm and the Joslyn Institute worked together to produce the two-year study and report.

Drake Court Urban Core Neighborhood 20 Years Later
Twenty years after JISC helped to undertake a revitalization of an urban core neighborhood in Omaha, we revisited the area to see how the indicators we established and recommendations for future development panned out. The once-blighted neighborhood that had been a center of City and civic disinvestment, relatively high crime and antisocial behavior is slowly becoming a safer, stronger area with a growing sense of identity, our study has found, change from the grassroots up.

Housing Tool is Focus of JISC Study for NIFA
JISC is working with Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) to develop a tool to measure current housing conditions, the need/demand for housing, and the capacity to develop additional housing in a given community, neighborhood, or area. JISC will survey existing national, state, and local data sources for relevant indicators. The year-long project will develop a minimum of 24 metrics indicating capacity, activity, resilience, growth, strength, and tenure/length of affordability.
US Film Industry Sustainable Practices Program
Under the leadership of Karen Steward, the Joslyn Institute proposes a new program to promote sustainability practices within the film industry. Karen, an award-winning art director, has been publishing articles in trade publications and organizing colleagues to promote recycling, reuse, and other sustainable practices within the film community. The program is picking up steam and advocates across the country.

Alaska Cruise Ship and Ports of Call Summit
JISC Board Member Jim Powell is putting together a conference designed to address increasing concerns about the environmental, economic, public policy, and societal effects of the cruise ship industry. In the past year, cities around the world, including Barcelona, Cannes, Bruges, Dubrovnik, Venice, and others have been banning the enormous ocean liners. The issue has come front and center to Juneau, Alaska, and JISC will participate in the conference there next September.

Environmental Justice in the Context of Climate Change
The Midwest was among regions experiencing crippling effects of climate change in 2019, when floods decimated hundreds of towns, villages, farms and parks, gravely affecting infrastructure, local economies and individual livelihoods, and dealt a serious blow to the availability of low-income and affordable housing, which was already in deep straits. Legal Aid of Nebraska has stepped in to help victims of the flooding, and wants JISC to assist them in their efforts.
Climate Change Agents Joint Study with China
The Joslyn Institute has proposed a comparative study of international communities currently engaged in sustainable low-carbon community development with partners in China. The study will form the foundation for a global search for actionable best practices in nations around the world. Climate change impacts are affecting every city and community of all sizes and cultures, in all ecological systems. Cross-cultural, cross-national, and cross-inhabitant information is essential in our view.

Next Steps Toward a 12-Month Regional Food Market
JISC staff spent weeks this past spring and summer fine-tuning a large grant application to the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR) for work that will build upon our previous studies of a local food hub, year-round market and value-added production of local food systems. The research proposed and the broad partnership defined will provide foundational data and sustainability guidance to the linkages of urban, peri-urban and regional agriculture for local food systems. Results are due soon.

Natural and Non-Renewable Materials Conservation
We’ve found the ideal location to resurrect EcoStores, and are now waiting to hear from the City of Lincoln whether JISC may locate a new, bigger, and better EcoStores in a site near the Haymarket and downtown—a large lumber yard and offices, where we may also be able to set up a new EcoProducts and Services Resource Center and perhaps a satellite Lincoln Public Market farmers’ market. If and when we get approval from the City, we will apply to the Environmental Trust for funding help.
Recent JISC Grant Proposals

2018
Big 10 Climate Change Proposal
First National Bank Sustainometrics Proposal
Fannie Mae Challenge Grant Proposal
Lincoln Community Foundation Resiliency Proposal
USDA Local Food Promotion Program Grant Application
NIFA Workforce Housing Proposal
Peter Kiewit Foundation Sustainometrics Proposal
Rockefeller Foundation Communities Thrive Proposal
Woods Foundation Lincoln Neighborhood Proposal

2019
AARP Foundation Resiliency Proposal
Environmental Research and Education Foundation Waste Avoidance
New Earth Foundation Sustainometrics Proposal
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Resiliency Proposal
Lincoln Rotary 14 Signature Proposal – Local Food Culture
USDA Markets Proposal
Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research – Local Food Systems
The Irish poet Pádraig Ó Tuama articulates our need to build relationships with one another across differences this way:

We need ways of navigating our differences that deepen our curiosity, deepen our friendship, deepen our capacity to disagree, deepen the argument of being alive.

This is what we need.
This is what will save us.
This is the work of peace [and climate change].
This is the work of imagination.
The Future Mission of JISC Will Be Derived from Conditions of Climate Change

Action that addresses the interlinked challenges of disaster risk, sustainable development and climate change is a core priority given that 90% of recorded major disasters caused by natural hazards from 1995 to 2015 were linked to climate and weather including floods, storms, heatwaves and droughts. The five countries hit by the highest number of disasters were the United States (472), China (441), India (288), Philippines (274), and Indonesia, (163). (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction)

Proposed 2019–21 JISC Mission Objectives

Resiliency and Mitigation of Global, Regional, and Local Climate Change
Comparative Network of Urban and Peri-Urban Climate Action Plans (China Proposal)
Alaska Cruise Ship and Ports of Call Summit (Juneau Agreement)
US Film Industry Sustainable Practices (Karen Steward, LA Engagement)
Environmental Justice in the Context of Climate Change (Legal Aid of Nebraska)
Affordable and Workforce Housing (NIFA, State Of Nebraska)
Urban and Peri-Urban Local Food Systems (Lincoln & Lancaster County)
Natural and Non-Renewable Materials Conservation (EcoStore)
Organizational Structure
Joslyn Institute Board of Directors

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VIP

President

Advisor

President’s Council

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China

Los Angeles

Alaska

Office Manager

Nebraska