In Attendance:

John Wojciechowski, Jacob Deininger, David Kanoy, Leigh Brazel, Lewis Stroud, Dale Brown, Cindy Ramsey, & Abby Perry

Topics of Discussion:

Ongoing Business:

- **March Meeting Minutes** were approved by the group.
- The committee’s recommendations for the **Food Service Recommendations** were included in RFP.
- **Website**: Jacob Deininger reported that the website is in place and operational and can be found through a Google search. Committee members have the ability to add content to the site through the site blog or by contacting Jacob. A suggestion was made that an interactive component may increase views for the site.

New Business:

New Members:

It was established that all meetings of the Sustainability Committee are open to the public and that anyone interested in attending and participating in discussion as well as volunteering for committee sponsored activities are encouraged. Leigh Brazel, Madeline Brooks, and Bethanne Tobey have expressed interest in being involved in future committee activities.

Green Genome Project Webinar:

Lewis Stroud & Gena McKinley attended the Green Genome Project Webinar and reported about it to the Committee. Lewis outlined to the group the basis of the program which is “6 Steps to Green”: Establish Goals, Conduct Assessments, Develop Programs to get to Goals, Implement, Measure, and Report. (see appendix to meeting minutes for McKinley notes on Webinar)

STARS:

Discussion of the merits of the program and its feasibility for CFCC led to a broader talk about the role of the committee in leading sustainability for the college. It was determined that we need to raise our visibility on campus so that we become the leader for making decisions and not one of several isolated entities working toward the same goals. How can we coordinate and join forces to create institutional change so that we move beyond talking and into action? STARS Program sets clear goals and standards to be achieved and is likely the best solution for creating needed cohesiveness.
Cindy Ramsey researched and reported on Central Carolina Community College’s experience with becoming STAR certified. The biggest obstacle for the school was the initial data collection and gaining support from Facilities. They also cited the need for “buy in” from the President of the college.

Recommendation will be made to Dr. Spring that we commit at the STARS Reporter level. It is a non-point based level of participation in the program which allows the school to establish a timeline and structure for sustainability and to build toward a higher level of participation in the program over time.

The need for a Sustainability Coordinator was sited due to the high level of data collection and coordination within the college and with the STARS program. Also suggested was for the Sustainability Committee to establish a STARS subcommittee to set goals and establish benchmarks. Ideally, each department within the school would have a STARS liaison in charge of collecting raw data for the Sustainability Coordinator. John Wojciechowski will write a recommendation for discussion and vote at the May meeting.

CFCC Contracts:

The committee discussed the need to become aware of potential RFP’s in light of the news that a recycling company may be chosen for the school without committee input. The committee would like to influence RFP proposal requirements to reflect sustainable practices. David Kanoy will work to find out how requirements and criteria for scoring RFP proposals can be changed, what is being purchased and how can we influence sustainable choices, and if there is a public RFP list we can have access to so that we can help with environmentally sound criteria and change the dialogue surrounding purchasing and contracts.

Communication:

With the collection of more contacts at CFCC Open House, the need to define how to continue communication with the broader group was discussed. A Sustainability Committee Member list has been developed for communication about meetings and topics of discussion. The 2012-2013 Green Committee List will be cleaned up, renamed, and reestablished as a 2013-2014 Sustainability Volunteer List for communication about volunteer opportunities and promoting events and activities of the committee.

Open House:

It was reported that traffic at North Campus was light for the Open House. Downtown campus saw traffic to the table. Dale Brown reported there were many expressions of support for the committee’s activities. The bookstore donated reusable totes and pens made from recycled materials as table gifts. Thanks to Gena and Dale for working the table and Alvin Coleman for organizing student volunteers in addition to the help of student Waleed Jarrad.

Spring Fling:
Spring Fling will take place Wednesday April 23rd. A call for student volunteers to work the table will be organized. Dale will donate reusable totes and pens and an interactive activity will be created to help draw traffic to the table.

**Student Involvement:**

The need for student awareness about sustainability was discussed. One idea was to integrate sustainability into Student Orientation activities. The Committee will work on a program to create a group of “ambassadors for sustainability” with the goal of helping student volunteers understand and speak knowledgeably about the goals and mission of the Sustainability Committee and properly represent the committee at events on campus. The committee will gauge student interest at Spring Fling and develop a program based on interest.

**T Shirt Contest:**

A T-shirt contest to create a design with the goal of promoting awareness of sustainability efforts on campus was discussed. Further debate is necessary in determining when to hold the contest and how the design will be used. Two suggestions were for a T-shirt to be on sale in the bookstore or a T-shirt for volunteers to wear at campus events. The idea of having a local business sponsor the contest and production of the shirts was also suggested.

**May Meeting:**

The May meeting will be held the last week of spring semester. Jacob Deininger will send out a poll to determine the best time for the most members.
Appendix:

Green Genome Project Webinar Report by Gena McKinley

Karen Stiles, business development manager at Waste Management
Art Frazier, director of facilities management at Spelman College
Moderator of Webinar: Jesse Legg of AASHE

Sustainability Continuum—Sustainability is not a revolution; it’s an evolution. move from projects/teams to organizational changes. Moving up the continuum from light green to blue. Strategic planning takes organization to higher level. To become sustainable organization must make deeper, structural changes. Even higher on the continuum (blue) is leaving world not as we found it, but better than it was before. Most colleges are moving from light green to dark green on spectrum. Most sustain. efforts on campus begin with student or committee-led changes

See Think Green Campus Model (designed by Waste Mgmt) a tool for seeing where your campus can make a difference/make changes:
www.wm.com/map
Top menu of this tool lets you move up the continuum (color-coded light green to blue).

Different stakeholders in the college would use same tool to start conversation about sustainability.

Art Frazier (Spelman College):
Newsletter: “Sustainable Spelman”

The president acknowledges sust. efforts at opening remarks to new students, commencement, etc. Presents college as a model in the community [Dr. Spring could do this at fall in-service?] 

New “green” residential building/dorm room with suites, parking, dining hall, etc. LEED certified. Focus on indoor air quality since this is a residential space.

Spelman started efforts by conducting a focus group in fall 2007 to examine the facilities—balancing historic preservation of some buildings with sustainability. Renovations were opportunity for improving [our older buildings at CFCC?]
Spelman received a grant (Grants to Green) to reduce water and energy consumption. Saved over 50K annually once implemented!


Other measures at Spelman: sustainable irrigation, greenscaping, reduction of impervious surfaces, low-flow fixtures, interior insulation, insulated windows, recycled construction waste,

**A big commitment:** Spelman dropped intercollegiate athletics and used funds instead for wellness efforts for ALL students (Wow!) See Spelman Fitness and Wellness Center. [CFCC needs a fitness/wellness center for faculty, students, and staff]

Q & A
Any pushback at Spelman? No because all stakeholders were included in strategic planning/focus groups (faculty, staff, and students, as well as trustees and community)

How can Waste Management help colleges move up the continuum? **WM can come to campuses to get conversation started, implement bench-mark studies, and make recommendations.**

How to fund these initiatives? Revolving funds used at Spelman, along with grants

Does Spelman have a sustainability coordinator, office? No. Art Frazier’s job description modified to include sustainability efforts. Students there are more involved/empowering for them. [Different for a residential college. At CFCC, how to get students more involved? Also community would benefit too, so we need to partner with community stakeholders]

Does Spelman compost? Yes, for past 2 years from dining hall kitchens. Also has “zero waste” events. About to expand into “event composting” (Founder’s day, etc.) [We could try “zero-waste” Spring Fling, graduation, other?] Food waste a hot topic on campuses but food issues dealt with regionally given different community resources. In Florida, schools are not only composting but selling it. Some colleges have agricultural depts which helps [CFCC has the depts--landscaping, culinary,etc. inter-disciplinary collaboration will be key for us]

Curriculum sustainability initiatives at Spelman? A faculty liaison works with academic deans to present concepts to first year students and incorporate into curriculum: Environmental Studies, English, Sociology, Art, etc. [Could we launch a campaign to incorporate sustainability into our curricula? Similar to Critical Thinking initiative?]

Biggest challenge at Spelman? Training new students every year; ongoing effort of education and improvement. Trash, recycling efforts, lights, etc. getting everyone to use the facilities in most sustainable way.
How to get started?

*Focus groups/teams that include all stakeholders and look at what is right for this school overall, not just what works for individual depts/divisions. Look at the continuum and see where you are.*  
Starting the conversation at viewing college holistically. Entire campus must be represented. Find individuals who are passionate about it and let them be leaders. Everyone needs to be on board through education, advocacy, awareness raising, etc.