Fall 2013 Campus Sustainability Fund Proposal

Interpretive Tools for the Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center's Maple Project

Project Leader: Thomas Manitta

Co-participants: Brian McDonnell (VIC Director), Brian McAllister (VIC Staff), Joshua Brewer (Student)

Total Amount requested: **$7984.98**

Project Goals and Supporting Objectives

The overarching goal for the request of financial assistance from the campus sustainability fund is to aid in the establishment and effectiveness of the educational maple sugaring demonstration at the Paul Smith's College (PSC) Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC). The ability to purchase **interpretive tools, signs, and electricity for the sugarhouse** is needed in order to carry out effective educational programs for the maple project at the VIC, ultimately provides means to have successful programming and resources for visitors. The specific objectives for this proposal is to be able to purchase **7 trail signs, 250 linear feet of maple tap hole lumber, and electricity for the sugarhouse.**

The trail signs will be located at the VIC sugarbush, which is located within the 3000 acre trail system between the "woods and waters" and "easy street/ skidder" trails. These will provide information to hikers about maple sugaring. The maple tap hole lumber will be incorporated into the interior of the sugarhouse in order to display to the public what happens to the tree after has been tapped. Some signs would also be presented in and on the sugarhouse for information of syrup production. The electricity would be installed by electricians to the sugarhouse.

Project Justification and Relevance

Last year the VIC, in partnership with the Wild Center was provided with a grant from the Northern New York Maple Project funded by the Northern Borders Commission. This grant provided the VIC with equipment needed in order to provide an educational display of maple syrup production. The VIC has also committed to participating in a community maple project, allowing the public to bring maple sap to the VIC in exchange for maple syrup. This allows the community to be actively involved in utilizing the North Country's large maple resource. The resources requested in this proposal would aid in the establishment of last year's commitment. These resources would also help support last year's sustainability fund grant for construction of an interpretive sugarhouse.

The programs that will be developed will utilize these tools in order to educate the public and PSC community of a sustainable resource, provide economic growth to PSC and the VIC, and provide integrative ways to tie PSC students with their studies as well as with the VIC.

These resources will also help connect and broaden opportunities for people to learn about and participate in maple syrup production. The goal of the VIC is to interpret and educate PSC maple syrup production in order to increase local participation in the maple industry.

The VIC Sugar House has been constructed utilizing wood harvested and milled on site and at the Paul Smith's College Mill by students. Much of the construction labor has been provided by work study and student volunteers interested in the project. Initially, a PSC alumni had offered to volunteer to coordinate the pouring of the concrete slab and assist with the installation of the trusses and roof. Due to circumstances beyond our control, this did not occur - causing us to hire a contractor - Hollroch Foundations to do the installation and to hire a lead carpenter to work with us on the installation of trusses and the metal roof.

We had considered adding the electric installation to the original proposal. We felt it would be best to get the building built to have a better understanding what our true power needs would be. The simplified design and larger windows provide significant natural light. Our plan includes overhead lighting, in both the sugar house and the attached pole barn, outside lighting at the doors and ground fault outlets conveniently located around the interior walls and in the pole barn. In the Northeast corner we will mount our Reverse Osmosis machine to the wall which will utilize the electric significantly as well.

Approach and Methodology

Envirosigns company have provided estimates on the costs of the signs. Envirosigns is a company with sustainable and environmentally considerate practices and materials. VIC staff would work with the company on including the information and design desired. The signs they offer are attractive, strong, long lasting, and graffiti proof. They would be a long lasting resource for the VIC to utilize for the public. The signs would include a wide variety of information regarding maple production, history, sugarbush management, different types of uses, overview of maple syrup production and steps of production. Four signs would most likely be located out on the sugarbush interpretive trail, one on the outside of the sugarhouse, and two inside the sugarhouse. Other potential **local** businesses could be considered to purchase signs from as well.

The tap hole lumber would be purchased either by Cornell's maple research center or another local price competitor. The tap hole lumber purchased would be managed by the VIC staff as well as PSC students working with them. The lumber would be used to construct a chair rail wall inside the sugarhouse as well as to make workshop tables to be used for programs and workshops. All installation would be carried out by the VIC staff as well.

The electricity would be installed North Country Electrical Services, Inc.by two certified electricians. This is a local company that would be providing these services.

Expected Products and Outcomes

The final result of the project would to have the signs installed at the VIC where students and the public can enjoy attractive, resourceful and educational information while hiking the trails. This would also reinforce the establishment of the maple project at the VIC.

Success could be measured by increase in interest of the maple project at the VIC, increased program attendance, and increased participation in the community maple project.

Budget Table/Justification

*Estimates regarding signs provided by Envirosigns (see attached estimate)

Item	Price
Signs-DuraReader Interpretive Panel 18x24 1/8" Exterior Phenolic Panel - HPL embedded with high quality 12 color digitally printed graphicsshatterproof, graffiti-resistant (graffiti can be removed), scratch-resistant UV resistant - 10 year limited warranty - 100% post consumer recycled core!	$166 each Quantity: 7 Total: **$1162**
Posts-DuraFrame posts (for outdoor sugarbush signs) Powder-coated extruded aluminum angled (30 or 45 degree) frame with post for in-ground installation (Surface mount option & additional posts available at an additional charge) ISO 9001-2000 certified. Up to 10% post-industrial recycled content.	$141 each Quantity:4 Total: $**564**
Interpretive Design	**$500**-1000 depending on design, client files provided etc. (discount was offered)
Shipping	**$200**-500 depending on location and size of order size
Tap Hole Lumber	$2/board foot Quantity: 250 linear feet Total: **$500**
Electricity for sugarhouse (see attached estimate for details)	**$4,500.98**
Extra funds for as needed materials and estimate variability	**$300**
Subtotal	**$3226**
Tax	**$258**
TOTAL	**$7984.98**

Timeline

October-Proposal

November-January- Design of signs, installation of signs at sugarhouse, acquire tap hole lumber, installation/construction with tap hole lumber, install electricity.

March- Installation of sugarbush signs, **Final Completion**

Supporting Documentation

http://envirosigns.com/

Envirosigns and Northcountry Electrical Services estimate link sent electronically

Below are example images of what would be purchased: