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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **October 18, 2017**
4 **Yakima Area Arboretum**

5 **Members Attending:** Lisa Ciecko, Chair, Linden Lampman, Terry Flatley, Semra Riddle, Kathy Sheehan,
6 Cindy Deffe', David Bayard, John Bornsworth, Jheri Ketcham, Kirsten Lints, Ken Armstrong, Peter Dervin,
7 Angel Spell, Paula Dinius, Juli Hartwig

8 **Members Absent:** Kathleen Wolf, Sheila Gray

9 **Guests:** Christel Ratliff, Chip Rognlie (City of Yakima), Ben Thompson, (DNR) via telephone.

10 **Meeting Convened:** 9:05 a.m.

11 **Welcome:** Chair, Lisa Ciecko welcomed members, and thanked Jheri for hosting the meeting at the
12 Yakima Area Arboretum.

13 Ken Wilkinson, City of Yakima Parks and Recreation Manager welcomed the council to Yakima.

14 **Minutes Approved:** Jeri Ketcham noted the misspelling of her name. Motion to approve with correction,
15 Kirsten Lints, second. Motion passed.

16 **Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda. Angel Spell, second Kirsten Lints. Motion passed.

17 **DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report:** Linden Lampman informed the Council that Ben
18 Thompson recently welcomed a new addition to his family and is currently on paternity leave. Since the
19 legislature did not pass a Capital Budget during the 2017 session, the Urban Forestry Restoration Project
20 has been put on hold. Special Projects Coordinator, Micki McNaughton, has decided to leave DNR to
21 seek other opportunities.

22 Linden is working with Garth Davis, Spokane Conservation District, and Guy Gifford from the DNR's NE
23 region to develop a restoration project in the Spokane area. The project will be "landscape-scale" and
24 includes Urban forestry investments in Rockford, Millwood, and Ritzville (structural pruning, tree
25 planting, etc.) and Firewise activities in the urban interface (thinning and brush piling). This will be a pilot
26 project for eastern Washington, which we hope to expand in years to come.

27 Linden reviewed 21 Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant applications as part of the Western States
28 Landscape Scale Restoration Competition review committee. DNR submitted three projects to the
29 competition, two of three are community forestry projects. Project funding is expected to be announced
30 in December.

1 Linden is in conversation with the Executive Director from the Skagit County Conservation district about
2 providing assistance to four NW counties. This would be similar to the agreement the Urban and
3 Community Forestry Program (UCF) has with Spokane Conservation District to provide UCF technical
4 assistance to E Washington.

5 Planning has started for the Stormwater Effectiveness Study funded through the Department of Ecology
6 and in partnership with DNRs Aquatics Division, the City of Tacoma, and WSU Extension Stormwater
7 Center. The Technical Advisory Committee had its first meeting last week. Council members are invited
8 to be part of the technical assistance committee. Contact Linden, if interested.

9 The Western Urban and Community Forestry Network (WUCF) will hold its annual meeting in Tacoma
10 March 6 and 7, 2018. Ben has been organizing a field tour, in partnership with the city.

11 UCFs annual CARS (Community Accountability Reporting System) was recently submitted to the US
12 Forest Service.

13 Linden will attend the Forest Inventory and Assessment (FIA) client meeting in Portland next week. The
14 2014 Farm Bill requires the US Forest Service to collect FIA data on all forested land including data in
15 urban areas, although there is no funding associated with the requirement. Urban Forest data collection
16 is in high population cities throughout the United States, but can be expanded to collect additional data
17 statewide. Data is collected on both private and public land, which provides a comprehensive picture of
18 the urban forest. Expanded data collection would meet the intent of the Evergreen Communities Act in
19 Washington and would align with USFS priorities.

20 Ben continues to lead the publication of Tree Link monthly. Council members are encouraged to submit
21 articles from their organizations or on behalf of the organizations and groups which they represent.

22 **USDA Forest Service Report, Kathy Sheehan:**

23 The President's proposed federal budget initially zeroed out four State and Private Forestry programs,
24 including UCF and Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) projects. Congress recently passed a Continuing
25 Resolution that funds the federal government for Oct 1 – Dec 8, 2017. Programs were generally funded
26 at 80/90% of last year's budget.

27 Kathy explained the LSR funds are made available through a highly competitive process. Several years
28 ago, State Foresters and the Forest Service decided to support LSR projects using some of the funding
29 from UCF and 3 other State & Private Forestry programs that would otherwise be distributed to state.
30 Approximately four million dollars will fund 16 projects in FY17. Kudos to DNR for having two LSRs
31 funded in 2017.

32 US forest service hosts the [Urban Forestry Connections](https://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/) webinar series the 2nd Wednesday of each
33 month at 10AM. Webinars cover research applied topics, and are recorded. Past webinars can be
34 accessed at the link: <https://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/>

35 Kathy emphasized the huge importance of the Council providing guidance to the state and the US Forest
36 Service.

37 **Canopy Analysis Report:**

1 Ben joined the group via phone to answer questions about the report. The council had a breakout
2 session, by groups of 3, to determine further actions.

3 Discussion:

- 4 • Clarify the purpose of the report
- 5 • Recognize the need to find and include a local neighborhood champion to reach people in
6 different neighborhoods, in order to achieve project success; a single source that neighbors can
7 approach for information
- 8 • Prioritize communities with limited resources that currently have a relationship with DNR UCF
- 9 • Projects should address social, psychological, cultural, and educational barriers toward tree
10 planting with low canopy neighborhoods; often found to have low income and diverse
11 populations
- 12 • More data and analysis is needed
- 13 • Consider focus on target groups within identified Census Block Groups
- 14 • Consider reversing the filter: diverse population, economics, stormwater
- 15 • Identify communities with high resolution data and correlate with the coarse data used for the
16 study; this could lead to greater confidence in the data
- 17 • In future grant cycles, consider adding 'bonus points' to proposals from cities prioritized in this
18 report
- 19 • There may be an opportunity to provide apprenticeship programs or additional training
20 opportunities within target cities or regions
- 21 • Can priority cities be aligned with Commissioner of Public Lands priorities? Is there fiscal buy-in?
- 22 • Identify and select locations for pilot projects; build relationships and knowledge about the
23 challenges faced by these communities. Expand from there.
- 24 • Information is not statistically actionable, but could be developed further.
- 25 • Necessary to have horizontal input; several partners, non-profits, DNR, USFS and other local
26 entities

27

28 **Roundtable Reports:**

29 Semra – Lake Forest Park recently updated its tree canopy ordinance based on existing canopy percentage and a
30 policy of net zero loss of trees. The city is moving toward ecosystem-wide policy and ordinances.

31 Kirstin –Cass Turnbull, founder of PlantAmnesty, passed away this year. A garden is being created in her honor at
32 the Bullitt Estate in Seattle. Kirsten wondered a tree should be donated on behalf of the council. WSNLA training is
33 ongoing.

34 Jheri – Yakima is now a Tree City USA. She is working with the tree board, which is just starting.

35 Terry – City of Renton has strong tree regulations, but there is a need to promote and provide awareness. Trees
36 continue to be inadvertently cut. Replacement trees are based on a diameter formula, and the City also has an in-
37 lieu-of-planting account. There are plans to leverage these funds to fill vacant planting spots.

38 David – Ellensburg's downtown trees are aging, and he is encouraging the city to plan accordingly. He is working to
39 encourage Central Washington University to become a Tree Campus. Ellensburg is the oldest TCUSA, and David's
40 goal for 2018 is to approach adjacent communities about engaging TCUSA program.

- 1 John – John’s company, Peninsula Urban Forestry works throughout western Puget Sound. Recent focus has been
2 on restoration, on wildland urban interface concerns and slope restoration.
- 3 Dave B – works in the vegetation management program for Seattle City Light (SCL). SCL manages a few hundred
4 miles of right-of-way. Focus is on servicing for safe reliable power. He is on the City’s race and social justice
5 committee, approaching that topic from an urban forestry perspective.
- 6 Peter – Washington Association of Landscape Professionals educates members that are building landscapes. Peter
7 represents Deep Root and Porous Pave products in the industry.
- 8 Christel – DNR’s grants coordinator, Christel supports all of the federal grant programs in DNR.
- 9 Angel – Representing WA Recreation and Parks, expressed gratitude to UCF and the grants provided through the
10 program.
- 11 Kathy – Previously an entomologist and forest health specialist with the US Forest Service, she is now the UCF
12 program manager for the USFS, and a certified arborist.
- 13 Cindy – Spokane Community College started their Urban Forestry degree program this quarter. They are trying to
14 organize to apply for Tree Campus USA. The N/S Freeway is being built in Spokane; impacts to older campus is
15 expected.
- 16 Paula – Washington State University Extension continues working on the development of the Master Gardener
17 (MG) online UCF Tree Stewardship training. The team anticipates an initial release of the program to advanced
18 MGs statewide and eventually will be open to all interested participants. Modules will be supported with regional
19 community training.
- 20 Juli – Washington Department of Transportation manages roadsides statewide with main goal to preserve
21 vegetation, when not possible mitigation efforts re-establish disturbed vegetation.
- 22 Lisa – As a Plant Ecologist for Seattle Parks manages the parks restoration program working with volunteers and
23 contractors to enhance and improve understory growth. November 4th is Green Seattle Day.
- 24 Ken- Pacific Power utility forester, recently attended a trees and utilities conference with Utility Arborist
25 Association (UAA) and Arbor Day Foundation. Highlights from the conference: NY public utility requires all
26 employees to volunteer – most sought after is Arbor Day events; companies are seeking tree trimmers to employ –
27 the UAA offers a certification for utility forester. Thousand cankers disease is a big issue in Walla Walla.
- 28 **Council business:**
- 29 **Nominations for chair, vice-chair.**
- 30 Motion to nominate Angel Spell as Council Chair, Juli Hartwig; second by Jheri Ketcham. Angel accepted
31 the nomination. Motion passed.
- 32 Motion to nominate vice-chair, Angel Spell; second Semra Riddle. Lisa accepted the nomination. Motion
33 passed.
- 34 Vote for council positions will occur at the February meeting.
- 35 **Meeting dates for 2018:**

- 1 2/28/18 Olympia
- 2 5/16/18 Spokane
- 3 9/12/18 Ellensburg
- 4 11/7/18 (conference call)
- 5 **Work plan:**
- 6 Arbor Day 2018: Council members will have an opportunity to volunteer to present awards to
- 7 communities achieving 5-year anniversaries. More information at the February meeting.
- 8 Grant reviews: Letters of Interest for the Small Communities Forestry Assistance Grant are due at the
- 9 end of November. Standard Community Forestry Assistance Grants are due mid-December. Council
- 10 members volunteering to review proposals: Kirsten, Ken, John, Semra (LOI only).
- 11 Council advocacy: At the last meeting, there was discussion about building a more robust advocacy
- 12 program. Questions arose: What does advocacy mean? What are the barriers?
- 13 Lisa requested a contact list of state legislators and template script for approaching legislators in
- 14 support of the Urban and Community Forestry Program.
- 15 TCUSA is a direct link and portal into communities. UCF can increase visibility with participation by
- 16 additional communities. Resources have been developed for use by council members (fact sheet, power
- 17 point presentations). An idea was proposed for council members to increase outreach to communities in
- 18 their region, perhaps pair up with other council members to approach communities and provide
- 19 accountability.
- 20 Staff will align participating TCUSAs with legislative representatives, to assist in locating target
- 21 communities.
- 22 **Meeting adjourned** at 3:36 p.m. Council toured the Arboretum with Jheri, after the meeting.
- 23 **Next meeting** February 28, 2018, Olympia.