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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**  
3 **April 17, 2020**  
4 **Conference Call- Skype**  
5

6 **Members Attending:** Angel Spell, Dave Bayard, John Bornsworth, Juli Hartwig, Kirsten Lints, Ben  
7 Thompson, Semra Riddle, Kathleen Wolf, Kathy Sheehan, Cindy Deffe, Lisa Ciecko, Paula Dinius,

8 **Members Absent:** David Miller, Gary Stamper

9 **Guests:** Daria Gosztyla, Krista Kirkley, Jeremy Porter

10 **Meeting Convened:** 9:00 a.m.

11 **Welcome:** Roll was taken. Chair welcomed members. Addressed challenging times, thankful members  
12 were able to make meeting. Last minute's meetings were approved.

13 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve minutes from February 13, 2020, Juli motioned and Angel  
14 seconded motion.

15 **UCF Program Staff Introductions:** Ben's promotion to UCF Manager announced. Introduction to Daria  
16 Gosztyla, new Urban Forestry Outreach & Projects Specialist. Daria comes from Grand Rapids, MI with  
17 background in non-profit and municipal urban forestry work.

18 **UCF Program Updates, Ben Thompson and Daria Gosztyla:**

19 **Tree City USA**

20 94 Tree City USA's submitted state-wide, a little lower than last year. Mountlake Terrace  
21 is the newest Tree City USA. Port Angeles, WA did pull through with application; Othello  
22 and Shelton didn't complete applications this year.

23 **Tree Line USA**

24 13 Tree Line utilities state-wide. Two new utilities joined, Franklin county PUD and  
25 Cowlitz County PUD

26 **Tree Campus USA**

27 13 Tree Campus USA's submitted state-wide. Three new ones were Olympic College,  
28 Wenatchee Valley College, and Central Washington University

29 **Washington State Arbor Day**

30 Governor issued State Arbor Day proclamation. Three baby moon trees were planted at  
31 the February WCFC meeting as part of the NASF Centennial Challenge. UCF program was  
32 supposed to plant the 100<sup>th</sup> tree on Arbor Day with governor but it was canceled due to  
33 the pandemic; a virtual Arbor Day tree tour was held instead on Facebook Live.

34 **Grants Update—2 categories (Community Planning and Engagement Grant and Community**  
35 **Forestry Assistance Grant)**

36 Ben expressed plan to release 2021 grants and call for proposals one month earlier this  
37 year, in September 2020, and talked about plans to revamp and streamline the grant  
38 program to further suit the needs of our communities.

1 **Evergreen Community Act Update**

2 Revisions to the Evergreen Communities Legislation did not pass out of committee this  
3 spring. DNR initially received provisional funding for two pilot projects, but due to the  
4 current uncertain financial situation set forth by COVID-19, the funding is expected to be  
5 dropped.

6 **April Tree Link**

7 April's Tree Link featured Linden's final thoughts and farewell prior to retirement, an  
8 explanation to communities about the decision of Arbor Day Foundation to forego the  
9 Tree City USA requirement of an Arbor Day Celebration this year, and provided  
10 information to communities on alternative ways to celebrate Arbor Day. The newsletter  
11 encouraged fall-time Arbor Day celebrations.

12 **Outreach Strategy**

13 Daria expressed plan to share more achievements and stories from UCF program,  
14 creating graphics and other easily shareable content that will promote the program.

15 **Urban Forest Pest Readiness Webinars/Seminars**

16 A total of 8 virtual seminars will be held this year, registration is open and Council  
17 members were asked to encourage registration:

18 [https://www.eventbrite.com/o/washington-state-dept-of-natural-resources-urban-](https://www.eventbrite.com/o/washington-state-dept-of-natural-resources-urban-amp-community-forestry-18747375392)  
19 [amp-community-forestry-18747375392](https://www.eventbrite.com/o/washington-state-dept-of-natural-resources-urban-amp-community-forestry-18747375392)

20 **Other News/Thoughts**

21 Ben relayed that the DNR Forest Health Division will proceed with efforts to re-hire  
22 Ben's previous position of Urban Forestry Specialist. Ben mentioned that stimulus  
23 packages are being worked on and shovel-ready urban forestry projects are being  
24 considered. Semra recommended "View from Window" social media campaign to keep  
25 public interested in trees and sharing of trees at home.

26 **Subcommittee Reports:**

27 Equity subcommittee Report: During the last meeting Ben provided updates. Committee  
28 discussed keeping the current schedule, next in-person meeting will be in November. Ben  
29 suggested a guest speaker request form of some sort be created. Ideas for 3<sup>rd</sup> party phone call  
30 interview of past grantees were discussed. Daria shared that she will plan to schedule grantee  
31 review phone calls for the 2018 grants that are nearing an end on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Options on  
32 guest speaker were deliberated, council members expressed interest to recommend Vu Lee as a  
33 guest speaker to talk about grant-specific information. Mr. Lee is a content creator for a blog:  
34 <https://nonprofitaf.com/>

35 **Check-in with WCFC Members:**

36 Members shared thoughts, stories and insights on current pandemic situations at work and at  
37 home. Prompting questions were considered:

- 38 • How are you doing?
- 39 • How is your program currently running? What is/isn't being impacted?
- 40 • Have you tried any new ways of engaging with peers/network?
- 41 • What are long and short-term questions and concerns?

42  
43 **Adjourn 10:49AM**, Cindy moved and Angel second the motion to adjourn council meeting.

44 **Next meeting:** June 8, 2020 Conference Call