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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **February 9th, 2021**
4 **Conference Call- Zoom**
5

6 **Members Attending:** Angel Spell, Ben Thompson, Juli Hartwig, Kirsten Lints, Cindy Deffe, Lisa Ciecko,
7 David Miller, Ian Gray, John Bornsworth, Kathleen Wolf, Semra Riddle, Dave Bayard

8 **Members Absent:** Gray Stamper, Paula Dinius, Kathy Sheehan

9 **Guests:** Jeremy Porter, Garth Davis, Margaret, Terra Rentz, Andy Tate, Julie Gilling

10 **Meeting Convened:** 10:30 a.m.

11 **Welcome:** Roll was taken. Chair welcomed members and guests. Review and approved agenda and last
12 meetings minutes.

13 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve agenda. Juli moved and David Miller seconded motion.
14 Unanimous approval. Motion to approve minutes from November 3rd, 2020. Juli moved and Angel
15 seconded motion. Unanimous approval.

16 **Q&A for program update:** Ben was available to answer questions from the council. Lisa had a question
17 about the statewide workshop, Ben explained that attendance was strong but was surprised that there
18 were so few questions at the end of the workshop. The information from the workshop was highlighted
19 in the TreeLink Newsletter beforehand. There were requests for technical assists and for more info
20 about the vacancies on the WCFC. The breakout rooms ended up being smaller than planned at the end
21 of the meeting, but there was still good conversation. Kathleen Wolf attended and thought that the
22 workshop was a good overview, and would encourage another meeting like it held in approximately 6
23 months. Kathleen thanked Juli and Ben for their work on the workshop.

24 Ben explained that the DNR hosted statewide stakeholder meetings at larger events in the past,
25 but the program hadn't done a workshop quite so comprehensive before. Juli mentioned that
26 presenting to an online audience was a bit difficult due to the inability to see the constituents. Ian
27 mentioned that the presentation from Snoqualmie was slick and very good, but the breakout rooms
28 could be a bit challenging to get people talking. Kathleen noted that the depth of what we do now,
29 urban forestry, is more elaborate than in the past (equity grants, legislative agenda, etc. compared to
30 just tree planting). It was pointed out that there is a richness in the conversation now. Cindy mentioned
31 how different urban forestry legislation is similar and are relative, so easier to comprehend and digest.
32 Ben mentioned that since the pandemic, community engagement with the UCF program has been
33 reduced, so the program is reaching out more to communities to see how we can be of assistance in the
34 current environment. Ben gave an update regarding UCF grants. DNR UCF staff and Ian Gray reviewed
35 grant applications. Grantees were recently contacted by phone. Community Forestry Assistance

1 grantees were discussed and their projects explained. Environmental Justice grantees were discussed
2 and projects were explained.

3 **Q&A for ECA and other Legislation:** Ben stated that the ECA has been referred to appropriations. Vote
4 on the fiscal amount, determine funding level and mechanism. Ben explained that the DNR requested
5 more funding for staff to compliment the increased work that will come with the ECA. Kathleen
6 mentioned that the first hearing for the ECA wasn't a unanimous vote, but a split vote, so she
7 mentioned the importance of advocacy for the bill. Ben expounded on the politics of those who voted
8 for and against the bill, explaining that those who voted against were for utilizing the funding for Small
9 Forest Landowner assistance instead of the ECA, not that the ECA is a bad bill unto itself.

10

11 **5 Minute Break for council**

12

13 **Council elections:** Elect 2021 Chair/Vice Chair. Cindy moved to make the minutes as changed to
14 nominate Semra as chair. David Bayard seconded. There were eleven council members who voted: Juli,
15 Ian, Angel, David M, Cindy, Lisa, David B, Kathleen, Ben, Semra, & John.

16

17 **Votes for candidates for Chair**

18 **Semra: ///// 5**

19 **Juli: /// 3**

20 **John B: /// 3**

21

22 **Votes for candidates for Vice Chair**

23 **David B: 0**

24 **Juli: ///// 5**

25 **John B: ///// 6**

26

27 **Break for council (lunch)**

28

29 **Work Session:** Council 2021 Work Plan. Reviewing the goals in the Forest Action Plan for the urban &
30 community forestry program. Discussion from each work group summarizing ideas for each goals.

31

32 Group 1: Implement norms and practices to strengthen approach to equity (land acknowledgement;
33 equity moment, etc.); Address articles of association; increase diversity on the council (adding a tribal
34 representative) Reactivation of equity subcommittee.

35

36 **Legislative Update:** Julie Gilling gave an update on ECA bill, public hearing Jan 26th, executive session, 3
37 amendments put forward, 1 amendment adopted by Representative Ramos. Confusion by

1 Representatives that thought this bill was in relation to Small Forest Landowners. Clarification for those
2 folks. Bill currently in Appropriations, then it will go to Rules. More to come, hopefully next week.

3 Kathleen asked what might be the timing or opportunities for external voices to weigh in support of the
4 bill, and there seems to be confusion with the WFFA in regards to Small Forest Landowners, how is that
5 kind of misinformation countered?

6 Julie answered, anyone can weigh in during a public meeting. DNR had a phone call with WFFA after the
7 meeting, continuing to have conversations assuring legislatures how this bill can be a win-win for
8 everyone.

9 Kathleen asked about the funding opportunity for the ECA? Julie mentioned that there is a current
10 strange financial situation with the pandemic and recession, but there is hope for funding for the bill due
11 to how much support there is. There is agency confidence from the fact that the bill is already in the
12 Governor's budget.

13

14 **Work Session continued:**

15 Group 2: Green career pathways. Video vignettes about how people came into their careers in UCF and
16 natural resources. Start with the council but expand to more diverse voices; possible connection with
17 DNR career pathways work

18 Group 3: Maintaining interagency agreements with conservation districts. Creating a conservation
19 district position on the council (WACD); working with program to create MOU's; engaging with schools
20 through healthy youth survey; connect environmental and sustainability education coordinator with
21 UCF. Connect through Project Wild.

22 Group 4: Engagement and networking subcommittee to get information about the council out to more
23 people.

24 Discussion of findings from each of the groups. Ben, Semra, and John will compile findings into a more
25 refined package for the council to review in a future meeting to create a work plan for the year.

26 **Council Check-ins:** Skipped due to time constraints.

27 **Adjourn 1:30 PM,** Semra moved to adjourn council meeting. John seconded the motion. Unanimous
28 approval.

29 **Next Meeting: April 14th, 2021 at 10:30-2:00pm (virtual meeting).**