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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**  
3 **February 17, 2016**  
4 **Natural Resources Building, Olympia, WA**  
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6 **Members Attending:** Sheila Gray, Chair; Ken Armstrong, Haley Galbraith, Paula Dinius, Terry Flatley, Juli  
7 Hartwig, Jheri Ketchum, Linden Lampman, Daniel Layton, Kirsten Lints, Joe Scorcio, Kathy Sheehan; Lisa  
8 Ciecko, Cindy Deffe, Angel Spell, Kathy Wolf, David Miller, (arrived 9:30)

9 **Guests:** Karen Ripley, Ben Thompson, Micki McNaughton; Commissioner Goldmark and Mary Verner

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

11 **Welcome:** Chair, Sheila Gray welcomed members, especially new members. Members introduced  
12 themselves around the table.

13 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve minutes from the November 11, 2015 conference call, Joe  
14 Scorcio; second, Cindy Deffe. Motion passed unanimously.

15 **Agenda Approved:** No additions or corrections were made to the agenda, however the council agreed  
16 to be flexible with the schedule, since invited guests may have legislative commitments.

17 **Commissioner Goldmark welcome to the council:** The commissioner welcomed council members to  
18 Olympia, and recognized new and reappointed members. Goldmark recognizes that forestry  
19 management extends into urban areas. He has travelled to several Arbor Day and Tree City USA award  
20 events and has personally seen the impact trees makes in urban areas. He recognizes that trees have a  
21 calming influence important to urban dwellers, and thank the council for their advocacy work.

22 **Mary Verner, Deputy Supervisor, Wildfire and Administration:** Ms. Verner welcomed council members.  
23 She has tracked council activity and recognizes the substantive issues members address, from aesthetics  
24 to water quality and economic viability of communities. She thanked the members for bringing their  
25 experience and knowledge to the council. Verner encouraged the council to be active, engaged and  
26 move issues forward to the executive level. She is eager to learn what DNR can do to support the council  
27 to advance and address state-wide urban forestry issues. She noted that anything that requires a large  
28 funding request will require conversation with the Commissioner of Public Lands, and would be  
29 prioritized within other agency issues (wildfire). When asked about messages that the council might  
30 carry forward, Verner suggested the issue of urban trees as stormwater infrastructure. The council  
31 might consider impediments to achieving UCF goals in the context of that issue; education, funding,  
32 engineering?

1 **DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report:** Linden Lampman reported 2016 grants have been  
2 awarded. There were fewer awarded than expected, two community forestry assistance grants, one tree  
3 planting grant, six inventory grants. The state-wide National Disaster Resiliency Grant in collaboration  
4 with the Department of Commerce was not funded. UCF submitted a proposal for a Near Term Action  
5 for the Puget Sound Partnership action agenda.

6 Ben Thompson reported that 86 Cities qualified for the Tree City award this year, six Tree Campuses, ten  
7 Tree Line utilities. There is one new TCUSA, Duvall. Twisp, a long-time community did not apply this  
8 year. Thompson noted that with the increase in the number of Tree City communities it has become  
9 increasingly more difficult to maintain relationships with individual community managers. He suggested  
10 that council members consider supporting TCUSA communities in their region. With Arbor Day events  
11 on the horizon, council members can get involved by participating in award ceremonies. Joe Scorcio  
12 spoke up to encourage WCFC members to attend at least one award presentation on behalf of the  
13 program.

14 The 2016 UCF Seminar series is scheduled for eight communities state-wide. The topic this year is  
15 Quality Trees, Quality Cities. All of the events are listed in Tree Link newsletter.

16 Tree Link is published each month. Ben encouraged council members to promote UCF in their  
17 organizations by submitting tree link articles at any time. The Council will always be afforded space for a  
18 tree link article whenever they have an article to submit. Council members interested in writing an  
19 article should inquire with Ben. Council members were also encouraged to use the Tree Link as a source  
20 for articles that might be well-suited to other newsletters from their respective organizations. Council  
21 members looking to reprint articles in other newsletters should contact Ben for article text and photos,  
22 as requested.

23 Micki McNaughton reported that the Urban Forest Restoration Project is in full swing. This year UCF is  
24 sharing crew time with other DNR divisions, including aquatics. Partner applications for the 2016-2017  
25 crew year will be accepted June 1 through June 30 this year. She may call on council members to assist  
26 with proposal reviews.

27 Garth Davis, from the Spokane Conservation District, provides technical assistance to eastern  
28 Washington communities through an agreement with UCF. He reported that he worked extensively with  
29 communities to submit TCUSA applications this year. He is now working on developing a forestry track  
30 for the Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) annual training, and is planning a  
31 Windstorm Workshop for March 11 in Spokane. He recently presented at a Planners Forum in Moses  
32 Lake on UCF Strategic Planning, and will be presenting an Introduction to Tree Risk at the annual Turf,  
33 Tree, and Landscape Conference in Spokane. Spokane Conservation District is preparing an application  
34 for a Landscape Scale Restoration Grant through DNR.

35 Lampman told the council that the 2016 Community Tree Management Institute is being redesigned and  
36 will be held this fall; watch for a flyer and more information about registration. Council members were  
37 reminded to submit travel reimbursement requests within a month of the meeting. Forms were sent via  
38 email, and are also available as hard copies.

1 Gray asked Paula Dinius for an update of the WSU Extension Master Gardener Urban Tree Stewardship  
2 Online Training. It is about ½ complete. The deadline for the project to be posted online is July. The pilot  
3 will be provided to Master Gardeners, but will be open to the public after the course is finalized. There  
4 will be a minimal administrative cost associated with the coursework. Dinius stated that the project  
5 developers are seeking others to review training module drafts. Several council members expressed  
6 interest.

7 **USDA Forest Service Report:** US Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager, Kathy  
8 Sheehan explained her role for the benefit of new council members. UCF is a program within USFS State  
9 & Private Forestry. Her role is program manager for Washington, Oregon, and Alaska and is mostly  
10 administrative. Sheehan reported that the federal budget, although initially showed a 30% funding  
11 reduction for urban forestry, is now just slightly less than last year. The FS support a monthly Urban  
12 Forestry Connections Webinar that reports recent research and the application of that research.  
13 Information for the next webinar may be found in the email update that she sends out about twice a  
14 month. Sheehan attended a Planning Conference last week and brought stools made through the Cedar  
15 Creek urban wood use pilot project. Near the conference, the City of Portland had large tree tags with  
16 benefits displayed. It was a powerful message about the economic benefits of trees. Sheehan thanked  
17 council members for their participation; very important for determining program direction.

18 Kathy Wolf commented that DNRs recent Landscape Scale Restoration request for proposal requires a  
19 100% match, which is deterrent to participation. Lampman explained that this is a new process for the  
20 grant. Rather than internal development, DNR is asking for ideas from outside the agency. Funding is  
21 through the US Forest Service, and there is stiff competition between four program areas in all 17  
22 western states. Proposals are eventually reviewed by a west-wide team. Criteria can be found on the  
23 National Association of State Foresters webpage. While the match may be daunting, it is not necessary  
24 for the initial letter of interest. Lampman encouraged members that are interested, to submit a letter of  
25 interest to show reviewers that there is interest and great ideas within the urban forestry community.

26 **Tree City USA 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary:** Gray told the council that Arbor Day Foundation plans to celebrate the  
27 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tree City USA program this year. She asked for ideas to support and raise the  
28 visibility of the program. Council discussed several ideas, including an all-state event or regional events;  
29 Ellensburg is centrally located and is the oldest Tree City. Staff reported that in the past, these types of  
30 events took considerable staff resources to develop and were not well-attended. There was a suggestion  
31 to attend/be part of an already existing event, such as the Mayor's conference or Association of  
32 Washington Cities (AWC) conference in Everett, as presenters or with an information booth. Other  
33 suggestions were to educate leadership at AWC, DNR, etc. Staff will investigate participation in the AWC  
34 conference.

35 **Roundtable Report:** Joe Scorcio reported on impacts to the urban forest in SeaTac. Trees are being  
36 removed, as required for clearance by the airport, and will impact the adjacent community. He  
37 encouraged mindful planning for planting trees in this situation.

38 **Facilitated Discussion:** Ben Thompson led a facilitated discussion in the afternoon. The discussion  
39 opened with the question: What important issues would the council like to see addressed or better  
40 represented at the state level?

- 1 Members helped to compile a list of issues, which were recorded. The issues were categorized into five  
2 groups. Human Impacts, Education, Relationships, Statutory, and the Practice of Urban Forestry.
- 3 Thompson told the group that these ideas will be synthesized and passed up to Mary Verner for review.
- 4 Members broke into small groups to discuss ideas on how issues can be advanced to leadership.
- 5 Wrap-up. From information collected this day, suite of options will be developed. Once vetted through  
6 the council, these will be advanced for review by executive management. Management will be invited to  
7 narrow the list. Haley Galbraith and Lisa Ciecko will work with Thompson to refine the list of issues and  
8 option. Joe Scorcio, Kathy Wolf and Jheri Ketchum volunteered as reviewers for the draft produced by  
9 Lisa, Haley and Ben.
- 10 **Council Executive Election:** Nominations were uncontested. Sheila Gray, elected chair, Terry Flatley,  
11 elected vice-chair.
- 12 **Meeting Adjourned:** Gray called for meeting adjournment. Motion by Scorcio; Ken Armstrong, second.
- 13 **Next meeting:** Wenatchee, North Central Regional Library