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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **February 11, 2015**

4 **Washington State Dept. of Transportation Headquarters, Large Commission Board Room**
5 **310 Maple Park Ave. SE, Olympia, WA 98501-2361**

6 **Members Attending:** Sheila Gray, Chair; Brian Cramer, Garth Davis, Paula Dinius, Terry Flatley, Juli
7 Hartwig, Jheri Ketchum, Linden Lampman, Daniel Layton, Kirsten Lints, David Miller, Joe Scorcio, Kathy
8 Sheehan

9 **Members Absent:** Lisa Ciecko, Cindy Deffe, David Erickson, Kathy Wolf

10 **Guests:** Aaron Everett, Washington State Forester; Lynn Peterson, Secretary of Transportation; Mark
11 Maurer, WSDOT; Sarah Foster, DNR; Jonathan Guzzo, DNR; Leif Fixen, Snohomish Conservation District;
12 Micki McNaughton, DNR.

13 **Meeting Convened:** 9:12 a.m.

14 **Welcome:** Chair Sheila Gray called the meeting to order and welcomed new council members, Paula
15 Dinius, Juli Hartwig, Jheri Ketchum, and Daniel Layton, as well as returning Council members. Council
16 members introduced themselves around the table.

17 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve minutes from the November 12, 2014, meeting: Joe Scorcio;
18 second: Garth Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

19 **Agenda Approved:** No additions or corrections were made to the agenda. UCF Program Manager,
20 Linden Lampman asked that Council maintain flexibility during the day to accommodate agency guests
21 and speakers.

22 **Tree City USA Outreach Update:** Gray asked Council members to report efforts on Tree City outreach.
23 Although members have not reached out to potential communities, it was agreed that the Tree City
24 pamphlet is a useful tool for introducing the program and its benefits to city councilmembers and other
25 decision-makers.

26 Several commented that tree-related issues continue to arise even after a city receives recognition as a
27 TCUSA. Council discussed several recurring issues including removal of apparently healthy trees,
28 controversy over the retention of open areas, view corridors and solar access.

29 Council suggested inviting officials from communities in which meetings are held, along with
30 representatives from nearby Tree City communities, to increase TCUSA awareness and urban forestry
31 advocacy.

32 Joe Scorcio suggested that efforts be made to inform decision-makers of the value of trees by
33 connecting trees to stormwater management; research the correlation between stormwater and

1 amount of water trees consume to present the value of trees in dealing with increasing stormwater
2 demands. The reduction of impacts to current stormwater and combined sewer overflow systems may
3 be a valuable outreach idea.

4 **DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report:** Lampman shared the outcome of the recent grant
5 opening; grant funding is provided by the USDA Forest Service in partnership with DNR. Community
6 Forestry Assistance (CFA), TCUSA Tree Planting (TCUSA-TP), and Public Tree Inventory (Inventory) grant
7 applications were recently reviewed. The grant review committee comprised Garth Davis, Sheila Gray,
8 Ben Thompson, and Linden Lampman. Six CFA, three TCUSA-TP and ten Inventory grants were awarded
9 for a total of \$170,238.

10 The Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI) is a nine-month educational program for people
11 who manage, maintain and care for trees in local communities; co-produced by Washington State DNR
12 UCF and Oregon Department of Forestry Urban and Community Forestry Program. The final three-day
13 session will be held March 3 – 5 at Alderbrook Resort in Union, Washington.

14 The Tree City USA Arbor Day tree-planting grant will be raised to \$500 this year. The grant reimburses
15 the cost of a tree or trees planted as part of an Arbor Day celebration; reimbursement forms are on the
16 DNR UCF website.

17 **Guest Speaker:** Secretary of Transportation Lynn Peterson, Washington State Department of
18 Transportation (WSDOT), welcomed Council members to WSDOT Headquarters in Olympia. She
19 discussed several aspects of WSDOT's tree policies and management.

20 Secretary Peterson is eager to change the engineering mindset in her organization, starting with the
21 outdated concept, based on AASHTO Green Book guidelines from the 1930s that fewer trees growing in
22 rights-of-way will result in lower accident risk. Her vision of project planning and implementation
23 encompasses leaving the site in better condition than it was at the beginning of the project, greater
24 consideration of natural settings and environmental impacts, and focusing less on cost-cutting measures
25 that may degrade adjacent environments in the long-term. Tree topping is not allowed in WSDOT rights-
26 of-way

27 **Guest Speaker:** Gray welcomed Mark Mauer, WSDOT Roadside and Site Development Manager. Mr.
28 Mauer spoke to Council about WSDOT Stormwater and Low Impact Development protocols and
29 regulatory updates. WSDOT has developed its own stormwater runoff manual, similar to the
30 stormwater/NPDES manual produced by Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE). Jurisdictions
31 must adopt their own stormwater standards by the end of July, 2015. Standards must meet or exceed
32 those set forth within the NPDES permit and in the DOE stormwater manual.

33 WSDOT incorporates ecological stormwater management solutions into projects where possible.
34 Developers receive credit for stormwater dispersion on project sites. Credit is applied when modeling
35 the amount of runoff leaving a project site. Planting a tree amounts to 'credit' which can be subtracted
36 from the amount of new impervious surface. This can reduce the size of ponds or other stormwater
37 features. Assuming a natural dispersion area is large enough, routing stormwater into a native forest can
38 mitigate the need for additional stormwater features.

1 **USDA Forest Service Report:** Kathy Sheehan, US Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program
2 Manager for Alaska and the Pacific Northwest Regions, thanked Council members for volunteering their
3 time to participate on the Washington Community Forestry Council. State urban forestry councils or
4 committees are a condition for receiving USDA Forest Service funding for UCF Programs. Washington
5 State Council members represent diverse urban and community forestry interests throughout the state
6 and are an important line of communication between constituents and UCF staff.

7 The Federal budget varies from year to year, according to Congressional decisions. This year's funding is
8 basically level with last year's; however, there has been a downward trend over the last decade.

9 Communications from Kathy's office, such as job openings, funding and grant opportunities, research,
10 and informational webinars are sent to Linden, who will forward those to Council members.

11 A new UCF webinar series, "Urban Forest Connections," is broadcast the second Wednesday of each
12 month. Topics link current research and science with real-world applications. Council members are
13 encouraged to participate in the free webinar series; the schedule of upcoming presentations and
14 archives of previous webinars are on the USDA Forest Service website.

15 2015 is the 25th Anniversary of the Farm Bill which launched state urban forestry programs throughout
16 the US. A national celebration will be held in Washington D.C., as well as one in Washington State; dates
17 and details will be announced later this spring.

18 Gray asked Sheehan if it is possible to meet with the Alaska State UF Council, perhaps through video
19 conferencing, as a way to exchange ideas. Sheehan will check with the Alaska program staff to see if
20 video conferencing is an option. Lampman will share information of interest to the Council from the
21 monthly state coordinator conference calls.

22 **DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report, continued:** Garth Davis, Spokane Conservation
23 District, provides technical assistance to NE Washington through an agreement with UCF. Davis reported
24 on technical assistance accomplishments in eastern Washington for 2014; Technical assistance included
25 a presentation at the Eastern Washington Planners' Forum in Moses Lake; a structural pruning course in
26 the Tri-Cities area; produced, delivered, or hosted several online classes for CTMI; assisted the City of
27 Spokane with planning for the city golf course; assisted the City of Endicott with developing a removal
28 and replacement plan for failing trees at a school; helped the Town of Fairfield learn how to use their
29 tree inventory; assisted the Town of Farmington with assessment of trees damaged at the city park,
30 brokered a partnership between Farmington and Avista Utilities on a tree removal/replacement plan,
31 and encouraged the Town to apply for Tree City USA (one of three new TCUSA in 2014); assessed
32 damage to trees from severe pine beetle infestation in the Town of Marcus; reviewed and evaluated
33 2015 UCF grant applications; shepherded Tree City USA applications in eastern Washington;
34 represented the UCF Program at several Arbor Day ceremonies in 2014; attended City Council meetings
35 in Spangle and Tekoa to promote urban forestry and the Tree City USA program.

36 Leif Fixen, Snohomish Conservation District, provides urban forestry technical assistance to four
37 northwest Washington counties: Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, and Island. Fixen reported technical
38 assistance activities in 2014 including team-teaching two tree-risk workshops with Ben Thompson in
39 Bremerton and Mt. Vernon; produced pruning workshops in Burlington and Millcreek; assisted the City

1 of Stanwood with their tree inventory; participated in hiring the City of Everett's new arborist, Anna
2 Heckman.

3 Micki M. coordinates and manages the Urban Forestry Restoration Project (UFRP). Funding sources for
4 the 2014-2015 project year are an amalgamation of residual funds from the 2012 Jobs Bill, the Aquatics
5 Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), and a US Forest Service Western Competitive Grant. This year, one
6 UFRP crew is based on the west side of the Puget Sound, in the City of Poulsbo (Kitsap County crew).
7 Communities on the Olympia Peninsula are enthusiastic about the program, but need additional
8 technical assistance to navigate the application and maintenance plan processes. The Kitsap County
9 crew assisted the City of Hoquiam with planting 23 new street trees; a great crew training opportunity.
10 Two other crews are located on the east side of Puget Sound, one based in the City of Puyallup (Pierce
11 County crew) and one in the City of SeaTac (King County crew). The King and Pierce County crews
12 worked together in November to prune nearly 500 street trees in the City of Renton. The Pierce County
13 crew is working on the Capitol Campus throughout the month of February with the Washington State
14 Department of Enterprise Services (DES). Council will have the opportunity to visit the crew in the field
15 later today to chat with them about project work and offer job shadow or mentoring opportunities.
16 Washington Conservation Corps and Puget SoundCorps crewmembers are required to do two job
17 shadow activities within their year of service; Council members exemplify a wonderful range of options
18 for them to explore.

19 Ben Thompson was unable to attend the meeting today, but sent a report of technical assistance and
20 support activities: Tree City USA applications for 2014 are nearly complete, it is expected that 87 TCUSA
21 communities will complete applications this year including 3 new communities (Port Angeles, Coulee
22 Dam, Farmington); 11 Tree Line utilities were certified this year; Tree Campus applications have not yet
23 been forwarded to the UCF office for review, but Washington State University is expected to become a
24 Tree Campus this year; the City of Tukwila won a UCF grant to produce pruning and tree risk awareness
25 videos, and Ben is assisting with those; regional workshops will be held at up to nine locations
26 throughout the state this year, focusing on how to use tree inventory information. Ben urged Council
27 members to support local Arbor Day ceremonies and notify him if they are available to present TCUSA
28 awards at community events or city council meetings, representing WCFC and UCF; Council members
29 are encouraged to look for opportunities to visit with communities and the organizations or groups they
30 represent to share information about urban forestry. Contact Ben if he can assist with this outreach. The
31 Council Communique column in the monthly Tree Link needs content from Council contributors.
32 Articles should be on topics of interest to the audiences that each Council member represents, and
33 should not exceed 600 words.

34 Lampman reported on the ongoing urban wood waste utilization project at Cedar Creek Correctional
35 Facility. The carpentry shop supervisor is developing a portfolio/catalog of products that can be created
36 from urban wood milled at the facility. Project partners who have donated timber may select a finished
37 product(s) of their choice from the catalog.

38 Another outcome is that wood milled at the facility will be donated to a local non-profit folk art school.
39 The sale of products created with the milled lumber will be used to fund student scholarships.

1 The proposal to develop a Washington State University Extension Master Gardeners urban forestry
2 certificate is still in development by WSU Extension (Extension). Linden and Ben have discussed proposal
3 details with the Extension team. The proposal is expected to be completed soon.

4 **Guest Speaker:** State Forester Aaron Everett welcomed the Council and asked for a report on Council
5 actions concerning stormwater management through urban forestry over the past year. Council
6 quarterly meetings in 2014 consisted of education and information gathering about the effects of green
7 infrastructure on stormwater management. Everett asked about the opportunity for Council to host a
8 conference on the topic of natural-systems stormwater management.

9 After discussion, Council agreed that implementing a full conference would be beyond the scope of the
10 group; however, Council members could help with connections within the organizations they represent
11 to locate subject matter experts. A suggestion is to consider video conferencing or smaller modules of
12 information delivered as webinars; these smaller formats would be localized, smaller, and easier to
13 handle. Other suggestions include partnering with other organizations such as Washington State
14 University, and posting the modules/webinars online.

15 Next steps for outreach concerning the use of trees for stormwater management were discussed. Aaron
16 suggested that Council might consider working through the Puget Sound Caucus, a nationally recognized
17 program, to become involved in the state legislative process, in order to link work in Washington State
18 with work at the Federal level. Terry Flatley asked what materials Council might be expected to provide;
19 Everett again suggested a conference/learning opportunities around natural-systems stormwater best
20 management practices to educate practitioners and take the conversation out into the entire state.

21 Everett asked Council to discuss possible impacts of a bill introduced to the Legislature which prohibits
22 trees from blocking solar panels. Solar access will become a bigger issue in future as alternative energy
23 sources become more widespread. Such a bill may have potential to impact communities and their trees
24 in the future. Council suggested that this is an issue that would be far better handled at the local rather
25 than the State level.

26 **Guest Speaker:** Jonathan Guzzo, Forest Action Plan Project Coordinator, was introduced. Guzzo is
27 developing the 2015 Forest Action Plan (FAP) Update; updates are required every five years. He
28 described the FAP as an assessment and strategy to guide DNR programs that are supported through the
29 Farm Bill. DNR wants to align state priorities with USDA 2008 Farm Bill goals, which include:

- 30 ○ Preserve working forests
- 31 ○ Protect forests from threats (infestations/weather/fire)
- 32 ○ Enhance public enjoyment

33 Four key issues are addressed in this update:

- 34 ○ Mitigate Impacts of Climate Change
- 35 ○ Slow the Rate of Forest Conversion
- 36 ○ Protect Communities from Impacts of Wildfire
- 37 ○ Restore the Health of Forested Landscapes

38 The role of Urban and Community Forestry might include goals such as:

- 1 ○ [Climate Change] Protect from flooding and cleanse outflows to Puget Sound
- 2 ○ [Conversion] Reconsider definition of “working forest” in light of Ecosystem Services
- 3 ○ [Forest Health] Track Emerald Ash Borer infestation and detection of exotic pests (such as at
- 4 ports of entry)

5 The updated FAP will add a section on “Essential Connections” to explain how all State Farm Bill-funded
6 programs are connected and support each other.

7 Council was invited to offer suggestions and recommendations for the Urban Forestry section of the
8 FAP. The first draft of the FAP is due April 10. Lampman will update Council at the May 13th meeting in
9 Yakima.

10 **Roundtable Reports:** Kirstin Lints, representing Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association
11 (WSNLA), reported that she has been in Seattle, setting up the WSNLA display for the Northwest Flower
12 and Garden Show. She is working with the Okanogan Conservation District, the Methow Conservancy,
13 WSNLA and the Arbor Day Foundation to help urban forest recovery efforts in the aftermath of the
14 Carlton Complex fire.

15 Joe Scorcio, representing public and private developers, suggested that comprehensive planning for
16 growth management must be an element within the UCF strategy. Scorcio referred to the groundwork
17 laid by the Evergreen Community Act signed in 2008.

18 Lints agreed, commenting that citizens do not seem to be connecting with nature; urban park lands are
19 essential for this. Comprehensive plans should include a discussion about the benefits and essential
20 nature of urban forests to urban residents, including social justice and economic equality. Water uptake
21 by trees is an essential benefit to communities, and it would be valuable to have a method to quantify
22 this service.

23 Due to insufficient time, there were no more roundtable reports.

24 **Council Work Plan 2015:** Continue to promote Tree City USA; use the flyer and PowerPoint presentation
25 developed in 2014.

26 Motion to make stormwater management the focus of the 2015 Council work plan; by Flatley, seconded
27 by David Miller Motion passed unanimously.

28 **Executive Committee Elections:** Sheila Gray was re-elected as Council Chair and Terry Flatley was
29 elected as Vice Chair.

30 Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Scorcio, seconded by Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

31 **Meeting Adjourned:** 3:30 p.m.

32 Council members were invited to walk to Heritage Park at Capitol Lake to meet the Puget SoundCorps
33 Urban Forestry Restoration Project crew and the local project liaison, Brent Chapman, Dept. of
34 Enterprise Services.

35 **Next meeting: May 13, 2015; Yakima; Jheri Ketchum organizational lead.**