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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **June 1st, 2021**
4 **Conference Call- Zoom**
5

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

8 **Members Absent:** Gary Stamper, Paula Dinius, Cindy Deffe

9 **Guests:** Daria Gosztyla, Jeremy Porter, Garth Davis, Terra Rentz, Andy Tate

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

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

13 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve agenda. Dave Bayard moved and John seconded motion.
14 Unanimous approval. Motion to approve minutes from April 13th, 2021. Lisa moved and John seconded
15 motion. Unanimous approval.

16 **Q&A for program update:** Semra asked about the program moving from the eight in-person seminars to
17 the online seminars, does program staff prefer the new method? Ben answered that last year during the
18 pandemic all UCF seminars went virtual. Staff observed that the first couple and the last seminars were
19 well attended, while the seminars in between were lacking attendance. This seemed to indicate that
20 people will either attend the first offering or last offering of a virtual meeting. Daria added that this
21 years' seminars topic would be the creation of a Manual for Standards in UCF Practice, which will only
22 be offered twice as to encourage attendees to pick between 2 dates rather than 8. Because additional
23 time will be allowed by dropping down from 8 to 2 meetings, UCF team will offer additional topics such
24 as Urban Forestry Re-Engagement (5/25 seminar) and Invasive Forest Pests Roundtable (6/22 seminar)
25 but fewer # seminars will be held overall.

26 Council members had additional thoughts and questions regarding the creation of a technical manual.
27 Daria stated that the manual will be for best management practices to give to municipal staff so that
28 everyone has a reference when out in the field. It would be adapted for municipalities and their needs.
29 Cover all the ANSI & ISA standards, but allowing flexibility for other education specific to the community.
30 Ben added that many of our smaller communities do not have this kind of document. Kathleen
31 commented that she had received a comment from a colleague in the UK, who developed a booklet that
32 provides technical guidelines for trees & cities, as well as the why they are doing it and provided a link to
33 that in the chat. Lisa offered that forests (natural areas) in cities could also be included in a standards
34 manual as they are often overlooked more than street trees and shared a link to a document that could
35 be useful for the manual seminar.

1 Ben gave an update for the hiring of a new UCF program member. He mentioned that the UCF program
2 is checking references for the top two candidates for the open position. The position historically served
3 as the UCF program “arborist”, who would be out working hand in hand with communities providing
4 technical assistance and giving presentations. Now the position will also include Environmental Justice in
5 its core duties. The program had many strong and diverse candidates. Interestingly, most were not ISA
6 certified arborists. Ben reflected that perhaps requiring Environmental Justice in the application may
7 have deterred many certified arborists from applying if they lacked that specific experience. DNR
8 wanted to demonstrate that the UCF program is taking Environmental Justice seriously, but may have
9 deterred some applicants. Kathy indicated that including EJ in the job description was a necessary move,
10 and that the field of urban forestry is perhaps undergoing a cultural shift towards more interdisciplinary
11 candidates. Semra said that based on her experience on the interview panel, there was a wonderful
12 pool of candidates and was great to see so many interested people in the position. The UCF program is
13 hoping to have the new position start by July 1st, but may have them start July 16th.

14
15 **Nominations subcommittee:** Semra mentioned that the council has members moving into new seats,
16 but are also questioning how to include more diversity onto the council. The nomination subcommittee
17 is part of the work plan. The council is looking for a way to formally recruit for diversity and inclusion.
18 Ben mentioned that new applicants to the council will be referred to and handled by the nominations
19 subcommittee first, so the nominations subcommittee should be an active part of the council and will
20 need volunteers. If council members couldn’t commit to be on the subcommittee long term, they could
21 still volunteer to help out for the remainder of this year to get the subcommittee up and running. There
22 are currently 5 members on the equity subcommittee, some of which could volunteer for the
23 nominations subcommittee since they are related. Lisa mentioned that there are a lot of similar councils
24 that are looking at a model that includes compensation for members that may not have the time or
25 funds for folks who are currently unable to participate. Angel reminded members that her term is
26 ending this year, and that she volunteered to move from the equity subcommittee to the nominations
27 subcommittee. Kathleen also volunteered to shift from the equity committee to the nominations
28 committee. John also volunteered to be on the nominations subcommittee, helping to provide
29 recommendations and suggestions to alter the articles of association to be more inclusive. It was
30 discussed that DNR staff would look at the articles of association and provide a first draft for revisions.
31 Ben suggested that UCF staff plan to have a first draft ready for the equity subcommittee by the
32 September meeting.

33 David Miller stated that his appointment ends December next year as well, and to find ways to
34 encourage a more diverse council, to get in touch with Association of Washington Cities (AWC) to
35 encourage participation in the council. DNR could provide guidelines for organizations to get involved
36 with the council. Dave Bayard questioned compensation for participation as Lisa had mentioned; could
37 Forest Service funds from DNR be repurposed from travel expenses to support the council positions or
38 involvement? The Forest Service has been supportive of stipends for related activities.

39 Semra called for nominations for the equity subcommittee & the nominations subcommittees. David
40 Bayard, Juli, Lisa nominated for equity subcommittee. Angel, Kathleen, John for nominations
41 subcommittee. Dave Bayard moved the motion, Lisa seconded. Unanimous approval.

42 **5 Minute Break for council**

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1 **Staff presentation on equity grant investments:** Daria presented on DNR Urban & Community Forestry
2 Grants. Primarily funded with pass-through dollars from USFS. Grants funding scale has ranged from
3 \$5,000 to \$30,000. Environmental Justice (EJ) Grants & Community Forestry Assistance (CFA) Grant
4 types have been offered since 2019. Seven UCF grants awarded for the 2020 Grant Year, three CFA
5 Grants, & four EJ Grants. Daria has been tracking grants by project type. Total amount of grants awarded
6 since 2008: 189 grants, totaling \$1,974,849. The grant program is approaching 2 million dollars. The
7 average award amount has been \$10,448. Daria mentioned this figure does not include Landscape
8 Restoration Grants, just the annual competitive grants. Unveiling of a new Interactive story map for UCF
9 Environmental Justice Grants, <https://arcg.is/10GrSL>. Six EJ Grants have been awarded since its
10 inception in 2019, totaling just under \$90,000.

11 **Break for council (lunch)**

12 **Work Plan recap:** Highlights for equity, career pathways, articles of association, interagency & public
13 engagement, and ECA. Appointing equity subcommittee members successful, good topics to discuss and
14 bring to Sept meeting. Confirming UCF Equity Grants. UCF program staff plans to have a draft of
15 revisions for the articles of association to the equity subcommittee by the Sept meeting, including tribal
16 seat, conservation district seat, etc. Career pathways, council members interested in doing video
17 recordings discussing their career paths to where they are now. Ben offered to be the first one to
18 discuss his career path in a video. Interagency agreements have been postponed with schools for next
19 year. Public engagement subcommittee has been appointed. Setting a goal for grant application
20 responses. Engaging more with AWC. Increasing social media awareness. ECA updates as it is
21 implemented.

22 **Council Check-ins:**

23 David Miller – City of Ellensburg hired new City Manager. Looking forward to new energy in this position.

24 Ian Gray – Renton recently finished a city wide tree inventory, updating their 10 year urban forest
25 management plan. Hopeful completion 2022.

26 Juli Hartwig – Updates to roadside policy manual, for restoration on roadsides. Updates to preservation
27 and replacing lost function in regards to tree canopy. Built-in incentives to achieve compliance.

28 Kathleen – Book chapter published, trees in cities and their sacredness. Trees in cities from a spiritual
29 standpoint as part of mental health.

30 **Staff presentation on ECA implementation:** Ben discussed that there are still a lot of details that are
31 being worked out. Increase capacity of the program, more staff will mean greater capacity to deliver
32 program services. As of the new fiscal year there will be new positions within the UCF program. These
33 positions will increase regional tech support, GIS support, contractual support, as well as funding to
34 consult Forest Stewardship Foresters, as well as wildlife biologist support. Financial support for canopy
35 analysis and tree inventories. The UCF program requested double the amount of money as a match from
36 federal allocation. Program obligation for canopy analysis & tree inventories have a dedicated funding
37 source. Now the program can take those activities out of the community assistance grants. With canopy
38 analysis and tree inventories removed from CFA grants, there will be more potential funding devoted for

1 tree plantings, training, and education. By fiscal year 2023, the UCF will be equipped to implement ECA.
2 Waiting for more details.

3 Ben has had dialogue with individual community planners discussing what the ECA is and what it means.
4 It has been challenging for communities to understand what the ECA is and is not. It will take time for
5 communities and the UCF program to adjust to the new scope of work. Ben also mentioned there are
6 additional UCF ties to be made to the Growth Management Act and Salmon Strategy. Semra
7 commented that many communities are creating climate action plans. Andy Tate and Terra Rentz
8 mentioned that DNR is thoughtfully planning out and preparing for the changes that will come along
9 with the bill in regards to the UCF program.

10 In regards to the DNR strategic plan, the program is currently using the Forest Action Plan as their
11 strategic plan. UCF program has an opportunity to strengthen action plan through improving equitable
12 delivery of services. After ECA goes into effect, UCF program will provide 50% of program resources to
13 areas scoring 8 and above as indicated by the WA State Environmental Health Disparities Map.

14 **Commissioner Franz to address the Council:** Commissioner Franz unable to attend. A separate meeting
15 date is being finalized. Ben sent out tentative meeting dates for Council to hold.

16 **Adjourn: 1:50 PM,** David Miller moved to adjourn council meeting. Semra seconded the motion.
17 Unanimous approval.

18 **Next Meeting: September 8th, 2021 at 10:30-2:00pm (virtual meeting).**

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1 **Zoom Chat Window & Referenced Links:**

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3 10:54:40 From Lisa Ciecko to Everyone : Might I encourage you to include urban natural area
4 management in the manual. Here's our guidelines for crews: [https://www.greenseattle.org/crew-](https://www.greenseattle.org/crew-resources/)
5 [resources/](https://www.greenseattle.org/crew-resources/)

6 10:56:30 From John Bornsworth to Everyone : Thank you!

7 10:56:53 From Kathleen Wolf to Everyone : Trees in urban development group in the UK. Some great
8 resources. Just released: Trees, Planning and Development: A Guide for Delivery, Section One: Creating
9 financial, environmental and social value into the future. Link: <https://www.tdag.org.uk/>

10 10:57:57 From Daria Gosztyla to Everyone : Thank you Kathy & Lisa! We'll review and see what parts to
11 incorporate.

12 11:21:02 From Ben Thompson to Everyone : Dates to hold for a special meeting with the CPL:

13 11:22:08 From Ben Thompson to Everyone : June 28 1:00-2:00; June 28 2:00-3:00; June 29 2:00-3:00;
14 July 8 11:00-12:00.

15 11:22:39 From Ben Thompson to Everyone : Following this meeting I will send out calendar invites as a
16 hold for those dates.

17 11:29:35 From Lisa Ciecko to Everyone : Here's an example of a program that may be a source for
18 future Council Members: <https://www.pugetsoundsage.org/programs/community-leadership/cli/>

19 11:37:27 From Daria Gosztyla to Everyone : New Grants Story Map: <https://arcg.is/10GrSL>

20 11:44:37 From Kathleen Wolf to Everyone : Just one census tract metrics as env health disparity?
21 Might that be a sliding scale? So a few more in larger cities?

22 11:57:34 From Ben Thompson to Everyone : That schedule of grant activities may be subject to change
23 given ECA impacts

24 11:58:40 From Juli Hartwig to Everyone : Great presentation Daria! Thank you!

25 12:02:04 From Lisa Ciecko to Everyone : Great presentation! I'm curious about the 10K average. How
26 do you think that is effecting the type of projects and level of impact?

27 12:56:55 From Kathleen Wolf to Everyone : Ben, what is the budget for this upcoming year! Is that a
28 sustained funding by the state, or needs to be renewed on a periodic basis?

29 13:00:48 From Andy Tate to Everyone : And those totals are for grants, contracts, and projects. Staff is
30 separate so it's not in competition.

31 13:08:49 From Ben Thompson to Everyone : Addressing Lisa's question about the 10K average for
32 grants. Prior to approximately 2015, all of the grants had a maximum request of 10K, so you're seeing 7
33 years of grant awards that are 10K or lower factoring into that average. Since the value was raised to
34 20K, only about 1-3 grants awarded per year have made the maximum request. As for impact, we are
35 certainly getting more impact with the high dollar projects, but we have also found that many applicant
36 struggle with providing the required match. the ECA funding may afford an opportunity to reduce the
37 amount of match required.

38 13:39:59 From Daria Gosztyla to Everyone : Plug! Consider registering for and attending the Invasive
39 Urban Forest Pest Roundtable, being held on June 22nd-- we have a number of wonderful speakers lined
40 up from out East, in State and California! It will be a good discussion!

41 <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEqceCtrTMpHdV6OumdoJsKeajTLYvmq4qb>

42 13:42:17 From Daria Gosztyla to Everyone :

43 https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_fh_2020_forest_health_highlights.pdf

44 13:42:55 From Daria Gosztyla to Everyone : (Western Spruce Budworm page 34 in the Forest Health
45 Highlights Report)