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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **February 28, 2018**
4 **Natural Resources Building, Olympia, WA**
5

6 **Members Attending:** Lisa Ciecko-Chair (call-in), Kirsten Lints, Vice-chair, Sheila Gray, Ken Armstrong,
7 Paula Dinius, Terry Flatley, Juli Hartwig, Linden Lampman, Kathy Sheehan, Cindy Deffe, Angel Spell,
8 Kathy Wolf, Peter Dervin, David Bayard, Semra Riddle, John Bornsworth.

9 **Members Absent:** David Miller

10 **Guests:** Gerry Day, Chuck Turley, Chuck Hersey, Ben Thompson, Garth Davis

11 **Meeting Convened:** 9:10 a.m. by Vice-Chair Kirsten Lints.

12 **Welcome and DNR Executive Guests:** Vice-Chair Kirsten Lints welcomed members. Members introduced
13 themselves around the table.

14 Chuck Turley, DNR Wildfire Division Manager: welcomed the council to Olympia and thanked them for
15 their work on behalf of the Urban Forestry Program (UCF). A new Wildfire Strategic plan is in
16 development. Chuck invited council members to provide input as the plan moves forward through
17 public surveys, or by contacting him directly: chuck.turley@dnr.wa.gov. The goal is to have the plan
18 completed by the end of the State fiscal year, June 30.

19 Chuck Hersey, DNR Forest Health Assistant Division Manager: thanked council members for the state-
20 wide perspective they bring to UCF. In response to the recent Equity report, Commissioner of Public
21 Lands (CPL) Hilary Franz suggested that existing resources be used for pilot projects in key areas.
22 Successful projects will increase program visibility and may garner further investments by partner
23 organizations, foundations, agencies or the state. Important to recognize geographic diversity and
24 include projects on both east and west sides of the state. Council members can advise about
25 investments; existing, collaborative or new programs. Question: who might help screen for legislators
26 that may want to be involved in expanding UCF program? Policy Director, Dave Warren at DNR, but also
27 align with key local, regional and state-wide advocate organizations; NGOs like Forterra, the Nature
28 Conservancy, Audubon.

29 State Forester Gerry Day: complimented the level of experience and the diverse range of backgrounds of
30 council members. He recognizes the need to raise the level of awareness of UCF on a number of fronts;
31 local, state, and federal. Council members can educate decision-makers and citizens about impacts to
32 communities due to reduced federal UCF budgets by contacting Senator Murray's office. Gerry recently
33 spoke to her staff, on behalf of the National Association of State Foresters, in support of securing federal
34 funding for forestry programs. An omnibus bill is due March 23, and the 2019 budget is now in
35 development. As a ranking member of the appropriations committee, Murray needs to hear from UCF

1 advocates. One funding challenge that UCF competes against is wildfire funding, which now consumes
2 over 50% of the US Forest Service budget.

3 Gerry suggested looking for new alliances and different approaches to raising program visibility. For
4 example Council might invite WA state representative Ruth Kagy, who championed the Evergreen
5 Community Act (ECA), to attend the next meeting and brief her on changes and challenges to UCF.

6 Discussion: revisit alignments with a state-level environmental coalition to determine a shared platform;
7 look for nexus of intersections with CPL priorities like rural partnerships and investments; find ways to
8 use talent and resources throughout the agency to address issues – look for ways that UCF can
9 collaborate; find a way to express discomfort with equity as it now exists in the state, and propose
10 funding to solve specific questions, building community partnerships; develop a professional-level
11 summary sheet for the equity report.

12 Summary: Pursue parallel paths; better maps/better results. At the same time pursue a pilot project
13 with willing partners on both sides of the state. Connect with Associations for Community Health. Equity
14 and health goals associated with trees and tree planting can drive the need for the ECA. Council
15 members challenged to

- 16 • Advocate
- 17 • Solicit projects in legislative areas that are UCF proponents
- 18 • Council sub-group work with staff to design pilot project

19 Dan Stonington, Policy Director, talked about DNR/Commissioner policies that might dovetail with UCF.
20 DNR Climate Resilience Principles were developed as a guide to conversation with legislators. The four
21 principles are progressive in nature and include:

- 22 • Address the root cause – carbon pollution – and invest in reduction efforts
- 23 • Strengthen the resilience of our lands, water, and communities
- 24 • Accelerate carbon sequestration
- 25 • Invest in and incentivize solutions with multiple benefits (this element includes tree planning, planting
26 and management)

27 Discussion: While DNR needs to support the Governor and carbon, not all agree with supporting a carbon tax.
28 DNR looked at risks to agency-managed resources in terms of climate change; some are positive, more are
29 negative, with impacts to trees and waterways, and to resource-dependent communities.

30 Summary: Council will provide additional feedback about aligning resilience principles with an urban
31 audience; send feedback to Dan through Linden.

32 **Agenda Approved:** Motion to approve meeting agenda, Semra Riddle; second, Cindy Deffe. Motion
33 passed unanimously.

34 **Minutes Approved:** minutes from the October 18 meeting, Ken Armstrong, Semra Riddle. Motion
35 passed unanimously.

36 **Council elections:** Motion to approve Angel Spell as council chair for 2018, Cindy; Terry Flatley, second.
37 Motion carried. Motion to approve Lisa Ciecko as vice-chair, Angel Spell; Semra Riddle, second. Motion
38 carried.

1 Angel thanked the council and encouraged everyone to keep in touch between meetings.

2 **DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report:**

3 Garth Davis, from the Spokane Conservation District, provides technical assistance to eastern
4 Washington communities through an agreement with UCF. He reported that he worked Ritzville,
5 Millwood, Rockford and Spokane on an Urban Forest Restoration Project this fall. The project was the
6 first of a kind in eastern WA; most of the UFRP has been implemented in the Puget Sound. Garth worked
7 with a WA Conservation Corps crew to plant, prune, and mulch trees in the smaller cities. In Spokane,
8 crews worked on a fuel reduction project adjacent to a housing development. Projects were successful,
9 and communities appreciative of the assistance. Garth also helped to facilitate a storm restoration grant
10 in Ritzville; developing a request for proposal for commercial arborist services for the city.

11 Ben Thompson reported that 91 Cities qualified for the Tree City award this year, nine Tree Campuses,
12 ten Tree Line utilities. This year Arbor Day recognition events will be limited to Tree Cities with 5-year
13 anniversaries. Ben gauged council member interest in award presentations. He will send up follow-up
14 information and event specifics. The 2018 Seminar is title Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities.
15 Presentations will be in the same locations as last year. The March Tree Link will contain a list of
16 locations and dates. Ben helped facilitate a pilot project for the #HealthyTreesHealthyLives initiative by
17 the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC). Kathy Wolf wrote an article that was posted to the
18 WFLC website then posted to the Twitter hashtag listed above. The article will also be shared in Tree
19 Link and on other DNR social media sites. Council members are encouraged to search the Twitter
20 hashtag and contribute content. Ben recently submitted a walking tour proposal for the Association of
21 Washington Cities conference; ecosystem services and environmental benefits and linked to human
22 health, or follow this link to the Twitter hashtag:

23 <https://twitter.com/search?q=%23healthytreeshealthylikes&src=typd&lang=en>

24 Follow-up question: Is it possible to map geographically state coverage by Tree Line utilities based on
25 service area? Growth management areas for Cities? Include Campuses? Staff will investigate and report
26 back.

27 Linden Lampman reported four 2018 small community forestry grants were awarded. Now working to
28 further assist small communities to develop full grant proposals. Agreements should be complete by
29 April. Final draft of the Effectiveness of Trees/Stormwater study is waiting for review by Department of
30 Ecology. Completing three Near Term Action proposals for submission to Puget Sound Partnership's
31 2018-2022 Action Agenda Update. DNR UCF is hosting the Western Urban and Community Forestry
32 State Coordinators Network in Tacoma the first week of March. The 2017 Landscape Scale Restoration
33 grant project was just launched; announced at the Green Stormwater Summit.

34 **USDA Forest Service Report:** Federal budget for UCF is reduced from years past. Allotment will be
35 announced once the 2018 Federal budget is final. Currently under continuing resolution. Kathy
36 presented new infographics and UCF outreach materials completed through a NUCFAC grant (ref.
37 attachment). USFS UCF research is focusing on urban nature in relation to human health and well-being.

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39 **Roundtable Reports:**

1 Angel told the story of Spokane’s positive experience partnering with the Arbor Day Foundation’s
2 Community Canopy program, including the execution of a webinar with ADF to help promote the
3 program.

4 Kathy W. talked about her project for health Canada to look into health-related research articles that
5 specifically deal with potential health impacts of trees. She is working with 2 grad students from
6 Vancouver B.C. and Toronto, Ontario.

7 Kathy S. discussed the current state of the congressional budgeting process and how the USFS and the
8 Region 6 office in particular are proactively pursuing strategies to streamline the delivery of funding to
9 the states. She talked about how WA has been successful in the LSR competitive funding pool. She also
10 promoted the USFS webinar series.

11 Semra briefed the council on some recent tree code violations in Lake Forest park and how that has led
12 to some important revisions to tree protection ordinance language, as well as the city’s recent hiring of
13 a part-time arborist to take the place of what was formerly contracted urban forestry services.

14 David B. informed the council of the creation of an internal Urban Forestry Advisory group, made up of
15 staff from 6 of the 8 departments that deal with trees in the city. This advisory group interfaces directly
16 with the City’s policy shop and theoretically provides greater visibility for Seattle’s tree programs and
17 may help departments that work with trees to cooperate with greater efficiency.

18 John mentioned the recent growth of his company and cited a couple of upcoming projects including a
19 contract with the City of Tumwater on development of their urban forestry management plan.

20 Paula gave a thorough status report on development of the WSU on-line tree stewards training
21 curriculum, including revised timelines for completion.

22 **Health and Urban Forests presentation:** Council member Dr. Kathleen Wolf presented research studies
23 that demonstrate the positive effects of green infrastructure on human health.

24 Summary: Human response to trees may be conscious or non-conscious. Regardless, research shows
25 positive outcomes to human health with the presence of trees and green infrastructure in communities.

26 **Council working session:** Breakout session – Discussion of essential components for UCF programming.

27 Discussion results reported:

- 28 • education/outreach – tree ordinance assistance, trees to homeowners
- 29 • policy development and resources
- 30 • increase diversity in arboriculture
- 31 • Carbon initiative/diversify resources – explore California example.
- 32 • Raise visibility, increase marketing options and tools that encourage interaction with trees

33 Discussion summary: Engage youth through stewardship activities; facilitate community
34 mentorships/policy support; outreach equitably to all communities; lobby for ECA and diverse funding
35 sources; increase program visibility; develop strategies to act upon data from equity report.

- 1 **November Conference Call:** changed to November 14, to avoid conflict with the Partners in Community
- 2 Forestry Conference.
- 3 **Meeting Adjourned:** 3:30 p.m.
- 4 Next meeting 5/16/18 in Spokane