Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting
June 8, 2022
Conference Call- Zoom

6 **Members Attending**: Ben Thompson, Kathy Wolfe, Tim Kohlhauff, Jess Stone, Juli Hartwig, Semra Riddle,
7 Lynn Suksdorf, Kirsten Lindst, Margaret Brost, Ian Gray, David Bayard, David Miller, Janet St. Clair, Jessi
8 Bloom

9 **Members Absent:** Angel Spell, John Bornsworth, Cindy Deffe, David Miller

10 **Guests:** Drew Lyons, Jessica Lloyd, Andy Tate, Daria Gosztyla

11 **Meeting Convened:** 10:35 a.m.

12 **Welcome:** Call to order. Roll was taken. Chair welcomed members and guests and participants
13 introduced themselves. Introduction to Drew Lyons, GIS Analyst for WA DNR Forest Resilience Division.
14 Review of agenda and previous meetings minutes.

15 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve agenda and meeting minutes from April 12, 2022. Ian moved
16 and Kirsten seconded motion. Unanimous approval.

17 **Q&A for program update:**

18 Ben provided a program update on statewide LSR projects, the 2022 grant cycle, 2 canopy assessment
19 projects, and recent technical assistance. Ben highlighted the increased engagement from cities that
20 have not historically been involved with the program and several cities increasing their investment in
21 urban forestry.

22 **Tree City USA Ordinance audit:**

23 Ben provided an update on the recent development for the Arbor Day Foundation to realign their tree
24 ordinance standards with the USFS CARs system. Of 93 Tree Cities in the state of Washington, 50 cities
25 were found to be out of compliance. DNR UCF team met with the Arbor Day Foundation and USFS to
26 discuss the path forward. ADF will be providing further guidance and communications on the tree
27 ordinance standards. It is likely that some cities will not remain Tree Cities due to new requirements.
28 Ben called on the council for support to assist cities through this process. Margaret suggested
29 developing a list of tasks for subcommittees to keep the work moving forward.

30 **5 Minute Break for council**

31 **WCFC Subcommittees**

1   Ben and Semra went over the two subcommittees that the council participates in – the equity

2   subcommittee and the nominations subcommittee. The council discussed re-establishing meetings for

3   the subcommittees and soliciting participation from new council members. Lynn, Tim, and Jess

4   expressed interest in serving on the subcommittee. Semra suggested bringing the committees together

5   to discuss the scope of work and initiate new council members. The council reviewed the open seats on

6   the council and the members that had terms expiring. Semra mentioned that part of the work of the

7   equity subcommittee was to reconsider the categories for the council positions through an equity lens.

8   Semra discussed the work plan for the whole council and highlighted areas for the council to focus their

9   efforts on.

10   **Break for council (lunch)**

11   **1216 Implementation and Discussion with Commissioner Franz.**

12   The council introduced themselves to the Commissioner and thanked the Commissioner for her

13   directives in 2017 and guidance to focus on equity, the Evergreen Communities Act, and internal focus

14   on the direction of the urban forestry program. The council provided an update on their equity work and

15   the development of the equity subcommittee which included establishing a baseline of knowledge so

16   that the council could come from a common language and mutual understanding of equity.

17   The council discussed where they see their work in the next four years and the steps they are taking to

18   get there. There is a lot of work to do in raising the literacy in environmental justice with existing

19   constituents and to the broader network to understand environmental justice. The council wants to find

20   more opportunities to connect with aligned organizations. Historically the program has engaged with

21   the natural resource community but they want to expand partnerships with new types of organizations

22   and for the council reflect the communities across the state. The council wants to serve as a resource to

23   advocate for urban forestry throughout the state and to link equity and urban forestry in people's

24   minds.

25

26   The Commissioner discussed the development of the WA State Forest Health Plan and her plans to do

27   something similar for urban forestry centered around equity. The Commissioner wants every community

28   to have achieved a certain Tree Equity Score (TES) or another method to achieve a measurable level of

29   equity and to inform the funding needed to reach that level. The Commissioner has a vision for

30   Washington to lead the nation with data driven policies - data driven science, planning, policies and

31   goals and potential opportunities for public-private partnerships and workforce development programs.

32   The council discussed the following questions: How is the urban forestry program planning to monitor

33   the progress on its work to achieve these goals? How does the TES represent smaller, rural and

34   unincorporated communities?

35   The council highlighted the need to adapt the existing tools available (like TES) to the context of western

36   urban areas. Most tools were developed on the eastern seaboard and don't take into context large

37   intact community forests. The Commissioner called on the council to consider other ways to think about

38   setting long term goals. Kathy mentioned the 3-30-300 goal as an alternative to TES. The council

1 highlighted the need to reach urban planners and address the Growth Management Act at the local
2 level.

3 **Work Session – 2022 Work Plan Review**

4 ● **Equity**:
5   ○ Equity Guiding Principles
6   ○ Equity Subcommittee
7   ▪ Strengthen approach to Equity through intentional actions
8   ● Land Acknowledgement
9   ● Equity Moment
10   ● Maintain and improve advisory role/dialogue to Commissioner
11   ○ expand equity across DNR with UCF an example
12   ○ Invite Commissioner to future meeting (June 1st)
13 ○ Encourage more coordinated effort around equity throughout DNR - currently engaging
14   consultant
15   ▪ Council Letter? Support this first step, promote equity at the forefront - suggest
16   guiding principles, etc. UCF can lead. What is the equity "North Star" or goal?
17   Why is addressing equity important to DNR?
18 ○ Equity Grant feedback and support
19   ▪ Reporting to Council
20 ● **Articles of Association review: (UCF staff first pass)**
21   ▪ Cont. discussion on membership structure
22   ▪ Equity Subcommittee review
23 ● **Career Pathways**:
24 ○ Support DNR Career Pathways position
25 ● **Public Engagement and Networking**:
26 ○ Advocacy/education/demystify of varied roles, programs, scope of work within DNR and
27   Urban Forestry
28   ▪ Outreach and education materials on how all the various areas of DNR/UCF
29   come together as a whole
30 ○ Hot topics:
31   ▪ Climate
32   ▪ Mental Health
33   ▪ Barriers analysis to having large beneficial trees (utilities, transportation, etc.)
34   ● DNR Wildfire and Utilities Task Force opportunity (Terra Rentz)
35 ● **Legislative Advocacy Task Force?**
36 ○ Foundation for next Leg Session
37 ○ One sheets for advocacy on specific Bills
38 ○ Monitor important State and Federal Bills
39 ● **Infrastructure Bill Funding Impacts/Potential**
40 ○ Provide recommendations on use for Urban and Community Forestry Program to
41   influence funding decisions
42 ○ Conflict on space for utilities and trees, etc.
43 ● **Strategic Growth Opportunities for future funding**

- o Redistribution in Federal and State funding
- o Keep Washington Evergreen Bill 2023 opportunities

Adjourn: 2:12 PM

Next Meeting: September 13, 2022 at 10:30-2:00pm (virtual meeting).

Zoom meeting chat:

10:36:26 From Kathy Wolf - U of WA to Everyone:
        I have to move to a project meeting at 11, back at noonish
10:40:36 From Ben Thompson - WA DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:
        Drew is our first hire from the 1216 dollars!
10:41:11 From DNR Urban & Community Forestry to Everyone:
        We will send the council Drew's "Faces of Urban Forestry" feature for the June Tree Link too :)
10:43:09 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:
        Ah, I've got data for Drew than!
10:49:00 From David Bayard to Everyone:
        Turning off my cam to eat some breakfast - still here though.
10:50:09 From Andy Tate to Everyone:
        A lot of that work has occurred or will be occurring through others in the Planning, Science, and Monitoring team which feed some of those other non-resource priorities into the data and products used in other places throughout the agency.
10:50:56 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
        I rebooted my internet and am back online and in the meeting.
11:03:37 From Kathy Wolf - U of WA to Everyone:
        Wow, alignment of CARS and Tree Cities. I was part of a discussion about this about 15 years ago. Consistency, particularly about tree code is good.
11:13:13 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:
        our counties
11:13:26 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:
        or couties
11:29:14 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
        When confirmed, I would happily serve on either committee.
11:56:11 From Andy Tate to Everyone:
        https://www.dnr.wa.gov/electric-utility-wildland-fire-prevention-task
11:59:41 From David Bayard to Everyone:
        I'm on the DNR Electric Utility Advisory Committee which was born out of the DNR Electric Utilities Wildland Fire Prevention Task Force which wrapped up in Dec 2020 with a report. The Committee has not met this year - one meeting got canceled last minute.
12:41:50 From David Bayard to Everyone:
        I'm back - still eating...
12:47:58 From Kathy Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
        Heads up, folks. I have had conversations with the Commish in the past. She is can-do!! Legislation celebration, yes. But let's introduce actionable thoughts - e.g. equity, climate (lots of comms about that lately from her).
12:48:57 From Kathy Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
        Heat in cities, and nature contributions to thermal comfort - some research translation.
12:50:44 From Janet St Clair, Island County to Everyone:

As we work to support urban and community forest restoration and protection, can we ask the Commissioner about the climate adaptation/adaptive ecology programs?

13:51:00 From Kathy Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:

Mapping trees and canopy across the state - what can that tell us about landscape level resource issues, eg urban fire risk, salmon recovery? Maybe we end with a brainstorm session - looking forward, rather than only retrospective.

13:11:52 From Ben Thompson - WA DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:

We are also missing Stephen Baker, who is the Urban Forestry Program Manager for USFS Region 6 and our liaison to the Forest Service.

13:42:23 From Jess Lloyd, WA DNR to Everyone:

Kathy mentioned the statewide urban tree inventory - linking one statewide example we have seen from the state of California for reference. It's not comprehensive, but highlights some examples of some of the baseline data that can be gleaned https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/880d448d-de26-48d3-b563-0c6317e456e4/page/jWHKB

13:44:46 From Ben Thompson - WA DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:

Tree Equity Score: https://www.americanforests.org/tools-research-reports-and-guides/tree-equity-score/

13:51:27 From Ben Thompson - WA DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:

American Forests does have an expansion of the tree equity score to smaller population centers in the works.

13:51:53 From Janet St Clair, Candidate Counties WSAC to Everyone:

Please send link to me Ben. :-)

13:53:57 From Ben Thompson - WA DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:

Janet--I don't there is a link to the expansion yet, but I know it is in the works.

13:55:44 From Ian Gray - Municipal Forestry representative to Everyone:

There are lots of different algorithmns out there that sift the data. Have a look at this webinar from a collaboration between PlanIT GEO and Nature Quant where a new suite of mapping allows for monitoring for health and equity based criteria in on-going manner:

13:55:55 From Ian Gray - Municipal Forestry representative to Everyone:

https://marketing.planitgeo.com/webinar/putting-a-number-to-the-health-benefits-of-nature?_ga=2.69986704.1425015760.1654543421-969947278.1644429018&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=215668002&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_wFVgm3Z3QNpo8pIXsWUHiL-u00eoedezWOsMthYNBVdvpFUTde8D63mTr5RTcIqX2Rvl4-EBy5faOeFjNRCsfNEHXrA&utm_content=215668002&utm_source=hs_automation

14:02:15 From David Bayard- Elec. Utility to Everyone:

B

To Ian's comments: can we find a way to compensate community for their contributions? On Councils, or as "subject matter experts" for their community - like we pay consultants..

14:11:13 From Kathy Wolf - U of WA to Everyone:

Related as a rep for U of WA. A degree in UF has faded, as more tradiitonal forestry outlook has dominated curriculum. Local training for future professionals is needed.

14:12:03 From David Bayard- Elec. Utility to Everyone:

I need to jump - thanks everyone. Great to see you all :)

14:12:13 From Ian Gray - Municipal Forestry representative to Everyone:

recommend building on STEM/Outdoor education programs with school districts and offering summer jobs