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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **July 2, 2024**
4 **Conference Call- Teams**
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6 **Members Attending:** Ben Thompson, Jessi Bloom, Tim Kohlhauff, Joanna Martin, John Bornsworth,
7 Jessica Stone, Ian Gray, Lynn Suksdorf, Zandria Michaud, Kathleen Wolf, David Bayard, Alyssa Chen
8 (USFS), Joanna Martin

9 **Members Absent:** Megan Dunn, Margaret Brost

10 **Guests:** Julia Kast (DNR), Zeima Kassahun (DNR), Em Roberts (DNR), Claire Sobetski (DNR), Andy Tate
11 (DNR)

12 **Meeting Convened:** 2:05 pm

13 **Welcome:** Call to order. Roll was taken. Chair welcomed members and guests, round of introductions.

14 **Agenda Approved:** Motion to approve agenda. Lynn Suksdorf moved, and Zandria Michaud seconded
15 the motion. Unanimous approval.

16 **Meeting Minutes: Minutes were edited to reflect changes proposed by Lynn.** Lynn moved to approve
17 meeting minutes. Zandria seconded. Unanimous approval.

18 **Presentation: DNR Youth Education & Outreach**

19 Claire Sobetski completed a presentation on DNR's Youth Education and Outreach Program (YEOP).

20 YEOP's is leveraging DNR's resources including all 5.6 million acres of public lands and 1,600 +
21 environmental professionals to bolster environmental education and literacy statewide while also
22 promoting workplace development. The workplace development aspect of YEOP focuses on youth
23 education & outreach, adult training & education and continuing education. After nine months of
24 outreach and research to internal and external partners, in February of 2024 DNR published the Youth
25 Education and Outreach Program Strategic Plan. YEOP currently has 2 staff- which include the program
26 manager, Claire and a Regional Coordinator in SW Washington with hopes of expanding into all regions.

27 Kathy emphasized the importance of the students' heart vs heads in their participation of this work &
28 finding ways to keep their heart involved. Kathy suggested a reflection activity, which may include forest
29 bathing.

30 Zandria asked about outreach and how the schools were finding and learning more about YEOP. Claire
31 shared there is an external webpage, ongoing distribution of newsletters, and that a lot of it is
32 relationship building.

1 Lynn asked about the structure of teaching the teacher. Claire shared they have a handful of teacher
2 trainings happening in this summer.

3 **Review of WCFC Work Plan**

4 Jessica Stone shared the draft 2024-2025 Work Plan for the WCFC to review and revise as a council.

5 **Equity Portion:**

6 Suggestions made included,

- 7 • Clarification on what equity applies to on this draft (council membership, activity, etc.).
- 8 • Continuing work with Grant Awards
- 9 • Curiosity/clarification on how DNR and WCFC defines “Equity” (Ben shared DNR is working
10 towards unified definition)
 - 11 ○ Several members of the Council shared the importance of tangible concrete Todo’s
- 12 • Adding equity messaging and conversation starter to the beginning of WCFC meetings

13 **Public Engagement and Networking**

14 Suggestions made included,

- 15 • Ben shared a temporary hold on the hiring of the Outreach Position
- 16 • Videos
 - 17 ○ DNR UCF 101 Video
 - 18 ○ Storytelling around Grants
 - 19 ○ Vignette Videos: sharing the stages on how council members got to where they are now
20 ■ Start creating guidelines around the video during Summer of 2024 (portrait vs.
21 landscape, set of questions, time scale, etc.)

22 **Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee**

23 Suggestion made included,

- 24 • Clarification on if WCFC to focus on legislative advocacy or act as support role to the
25 Commissioner of Public Lands/is the Council a “voice or source of information”
- 26 • Taking Advocacy out of the section title and add “response”
- 27 • Add Legislative Review to future agendas as standing topic

28 **Infrastructure Bill Funding Impacts/Potential**

29 Suggestions made included,

- 30 • Rather than input, changing to providing recommendations

31 **Evergreen Communities Designation Application/Reapplication process improvement**

32 Suggestions made included,

- 33 • Julia Kast to present on Evergreen Communities on September 11 WCFC meeting

1 **Program Support- no suggestions made**

2 **Hot Topics**

3 Suggestions made included,

- 4 • Clearing up language around Policy vs. Codes

5 **Key Messages for new CPL Welcome Letter**

6 Ben shared the previous letter to the Commissioner of Public Lands transition letter related to Evergreen
7 Communities. Jess and Ian with support Ben to create the first draft of letter(s) in base form for the
8 Council to review before next meeting in September, with expectations to adjust once the new
9 Commissioner is voted in.

10 **Tree Ordinance and Policy Work**

11 Ben shared there is approximately \$150,000 that can go towards contractual work to bring someone in
12 to provide some level of support around ordinances.

13 Suggestions made included:

- 14 • Analysis of what ordinances exist
- 15 • How can DNR's UCF efforts can complement or expand on King County's comparative document
16 looking at retention
- 17 • Design guidelines
- 18 • Additional Information can be shared via email to Ben.

19 **Brief Program Update Since Last Meeting**

20 There is approximately \$46,000 that the agency may receive towards Emerald Ash Borer response from
21 the Forest Service. A funding request of \$20 million was put forward internally to meet the demand
22 from grants last year, the agency is tentatively prepared to support \$6 million.

23 Jessica Stone and Ben to briefly put together video information. Jessi Bloom and John Bornsworth
24 volunteered to learn more about participating in a video.

25 **Next Meeting:** September 11, 2024 from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM. via Zoom.

26 **Upcoming schedule for 2024:**

27 September 11

28 November 13

29

30 **Adjourn: 4:00 PM**