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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**  
3 **November 4, 2015**  
4 **Teleconference**  
5

6 **Members Attending:** Sheila Gray, Chair; Lisa Ciecko, Brian Cramer, Paula Dinius, Juli Hartwig, Jheri  
7 Ketchum, Linden Lampman, Daniel Layton, Kirsten Lints, David Miller, Joe Scorcio, Kathy Sheehan; Cindy  
8 Deffe', David Erickson

9 **Members Absent:** Garth Davis, Terry Flatley, Kathy Wolf

10 **Guests:** Ben Thompson; Micki McNaughton (first ½ hour); Ken Elliot, (Minutes)

11 **Meeting Convened:** 9:05 a.m.

12 **Welcome:** Gray welcomed council members and asked for a verbal roll call.

13 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve minutes from the September 9, 2015 meeting: Joe Scorcio;  
14 second: David Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

15 **Agenda Approved:** Motion to approve agenda with no additions, Cindy Deffe; second, Joe Scorcio.

16 **DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report:** Reports by Linden Lampman, Micki McNaughton  
17 and Ben Thompson, in order.

18 Report by Lampman:

19 Puget Sound Partnership is updating its Action Agenda for the new biennium. UCF proposed two  
20 Near Term Actions (NTA), one to inventory and assess urban areas within the region to identify  
21 areas where there is potential to increase canopy (plant trees), and provide technical assistance to  
22 communities to manage planting project. The second proposed to work with Puget Sound  
23 Conservation Districts to facilitate development of best management plans and level of service  
24 documentation for residents.

25 UCF is working Plan-It Geo, LLC to analyze tree inventory data collected over the last several years  
26 through our tree inventory grants. The project will aggregate inventory data to a geodatabase into  
27 which additional data can be merged, and will begin to describe the structure, function and value of  
28 trees in Washington communities.

29 The urban wood utilization project is crafting items from donated/milled/dried wood. The program  
30 has donated several items to non-profit and charitable organizations. The project which has been  
31 popular with cities, will continue into the new year however, grant funding (through the US Forest  
32 Service) will run out for the demonstration project by the end of the first quarter. Staff is

1 investigating partnerships that may potentially extend and sustain the program. A “task book” that  
2 documents the skills acquired by program participants has been created. Inmates can use the book,  
3 when seeking employment once released. Several items have been donated to non-profits; Boys and  
4 Girls Club of Thurston County; Department of Social and Health Services for the Combined Fund  
5 Drive, Little Rock School. Council members who know of charitable non-profit organizations that  
6 may benefit through donations of crafted wood products should contact Linden.

7 A question was raised about whether the carpentry project task book will have a completion  
8 certificate associated with it. There is a certificate, at the back of the book if all tasks are completed,  
9 but it is designed so that each task can be completed and documented individually. Participants do  
10 not need to complete the entire book to demonstrate that they have learned a significant number  
11 of skills. Lampman will forward a copy to Council members, for their review.

12 The application for funding through Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) National Disaster  
13 Resiliency Grant has been submitted; announcement of successful applications is anticipated in  
14 January. In preparation for the grant, UCF is working to prepare a roster of consulting arborists who  
15 are qualified to prepare urban forestry management plans.

16 The Community Tree Management Institute will be held in fall 2016. Lampman asked the Council to  
17 help market the program to allied professions and municipalities. A marketing brochure is being  
18 developed for that purpose. At council’s request, staff will prepare an introductory statement to  
19 embed in email with the brochure as an attachment. Council members are encouraged to edit the  
20 statement to match the interests of the target audience.

21 The team attended the PNW ATC conference in Bend OR. There Lampman informally polled  
22 commercial arborists about hiring former inmates, this in preparation for a cooperative training  
23 program at Cedar Creek Corrections facility through the Sustainability in Prisons program. The  
24 training would be designed to prepared individuals for work in the arboriculture field, once released  
25 from the prison system.

26 October was Urban and Community Forestry Month. Several communities held Arbor Day events  
27 including Seattle, Kirkland, and Kent. Scorcio attended Kent’s Arbor Day and reported that the event  
28 was successful and enjoyable. Gray mentioned that she attended Centralia and Yelm’s Arbor Days  
29 this spring. She agreed with Scorcio that the events are great fun.

30 The Community Accomplishment Reporting System (CARS) was completed and sent to the US Forest  
31 Service. The program increased technical assistance this year. Lampman recognized Ben Thompson  
32 and Micki McNaughton’s efforts, to assist communities through the Urban Forestry Restoration  
33 Program and Urban Forestry Seminar Series.

34 Lampman met with King County Conservation District about a potential collaboration to assist  
35 municipalities in King County to develop sustainable UCF programs.

36 The Tree Inventory Grant data collection is just about wrapped up. Reports are being prepared for  
37 communities.

38 **Report by McNaughton:**

39 This year’s Urban Forestry Restoration Project. Puget Sound Corps crews were funded by the  
40 legislature through the next biennium. McNaughton’s position is funded through a US Forest Service  
41 Western Competitive Grant.

1 Question arose about from where the crews are recruited.

2 **Report by Thompson:**

3 Grants: Lampman recognized Ken Elliot for creating the fillable forms that can be completed and  
4 sent electronically. The first year UCF has tried this.

5

6 Questions arose about the Tree City USA application process.

7 **Report by Kathy Sheehan:**

8 A 2-year federal budget bill was passed by Congress and signed by the President. This budget sets  
9 the overall amounts for FY16 and FY17. The next step is to approve spending bills for individual  
10 agencies at which time funding will be announced for UCF programs. The President's initial FY16  
11 budget proposal included \$20 million for UCF (= a ~30% cut from previous year), which is roughly  
12 the amount allocated during the UCF's 1<sup>st</sup> year (1995).

13 The USFS's current Director of State & Private Forestry (Teresa Raaf) is retiring in mid-December. It  
14 is hoped that the new Director will be selected before that time.

15 The monthly Urban Forest Connections webinars combine presentations on science and policy or  
16 applications for a wide range of urban and community forestry topics. These are generally  
17 presented on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of each month, although November will be skipped since many will be  
18 attending the Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Denver. For more info and to listen to  
19 podcasts of previous webinars, go to this website: [www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/](http://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/)

20 Question: Will Kathy or DNR UCF staff be attending the Urban Forestry Inventory and Assessment  
21 Meeting in Portland. UCF Staff were not aware of the opportunity. Lisa Ciecko will forward the  
22 announcement.

23 **Council Business:**

24 **Council Leadership Nominations:** Gray asked for nominations for leadership roles on the council for  
25 2016.

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- Chair – Sheila was nominated by Juli Hartwig to continue as chair. 2<sup>nd</sup> ??
  - Co-Chair – Terry Flatley was nominated by Sheila to continue as co-chair. 2<sup>nd</sup> ??
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29 **Meeting Schedules for 2016:** After discussion, it was decided to have 3 meetings instead of 4. Motion to  
30 approve the following schedule for 2016, Joe Scorcio; second, David Erickson.

- 31
- February 17<sup>th</sup>, in Olympia
  - June 8<sup>th</sup>, in Wenatchee
  - October 19<sup>th</sup>, in Spokane
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35 **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn, Cindy Deffe; second, Kirsten Lints.