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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **April 13th, 2021**
4 **Conference Call- Zoom**
5

6 **Members Attending:** Semra Riddle, John Bronsworth, Ian Gray, Juli Hartwig, Dave Bayard, Lisa Ciecko,
7 Kathleen Wolf, Kirsten Lints

8 **Members Absent:** Gray Stamper, Paula Dinius, Cindy Deffe, Angel Spell, David Miller

9 **Guests:** Daria Gosztyla, Jeremy Porter, Ben Thompson, Jessi Bloom, Craig Anderson, Margaret Bross

10 **Meeting Convened:** 10:31 a.m.

11 **Welcome:** Roll was taken. Chair welcomed members and guests. Last minute's meetings and agenda
12 were approved.

13 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve agenda for today's April 13th, 2021 meeting: Ian Gray moved and
14 Dave Bayard seconded motion. Unanimous approval. Motion to approve last meeting's February 9th,
15 2021 minutes: Kirsten Lints moved and Ian Gray seconded the motion.

16 **Q&A for UCF Program Updates and ECA, Ben Thompson and Daria Gosztyla:** Ben asked if there were
17 any questions to the program updates he sent via email prior to the meeting.

18
19 Kathy Wolf inquired about an update regarding the ECA, HB 1216. Ben spoke about the support from
20 constituents for the ECA, its current standing and next steps. HB 1216 re: Urban and Community
21 Forestry still needs to be signed by the Speaker and President, then by the Governor. Ben explained that
22 HB 1216 will need to go through another budgetary process, but is unsure what that looks like.

23
24 Ian Gray expressed that cities are willing to provide further support for the ECA, if and when needed.
25 Ben provided an overview of HB 1216 Amendment: 1216-S2 AMH SHMK LEWI 013 and the resulting HB
26 1216 Amendment: 1216-S2.E AMS AWNP S2101.1. Members expressed support for the clarifying
27 language in the second amendment. Council spoke about the process and changes to amendments to
28 the ECA, and lessons learned. Strong positive response from constituents showed the level of support of
29 the bill to the legislature.

30
31 Daria provided an update on UCF grants including the close out of the 2020 grant cycle, start of the 2021
32 cycle and current grant extensions that are being processed.

33
34 Ben provided an update on how the UCF program is walking through the language of the ECA to identify
35 tasks that will be required of the program to complete.

36
37 **Nominations Subcommittee:** Ideas for a nominations subcommittee in regards to onboarding new
38 members who are interested in joining the council. John Bornsworth mentioned the council has
39 collaboration with PNW ISA and other associations, and that there could be contact with other

1 associations which we engage with to advertise open positions on the council. Leverage our
2 connections. In regards to evaluating candidates, historical nominations have been potentially flimsy.
3 John suggests a standardization approach or ranking system for scoring candidates. Filtering down to
4 particular candidates.

5
6 Ben talked about how there was no outlined process in appointment selection in the last year and that
7 the council has not always done its due diligence in advertising positions, relying on existing
8 relationships. Ben is hopeful that the ECA will provide more interest in Urban Forestry in general and will
9 provide more awareness of the Council, which may increase interest in nominations. A subcommittee
10 could develop a process for nominations. Lisa commented that we should review the structure and
11 positions of the Council as well, especially under the lens of equity to ensure that positions are more
12 representative of the industry as a whole.

13
14 **Recap/Debrief of February Work Session:** Semra reviewed the 2021 WCFC Work Plan as well as a brief
15 history of work plans in 2019 & 2020. There were no follow up questions on the 2021 draft.

16
17 **Break. Meeting resumed at 11:26AM.**

18
19 **Work Session Continued.** Semra read the Articles of Association of the Council for members to review
20 and keep top of mind. Semra then reviewed the drafted Council priority topics which were created in
21 breakout groups in the last work session: Equity, Career Pathways, Public Engagement and Outreach,
22 Interagency Agreements, ECA Opportunities.

23
24 Equity: Semra proposed adding in a goal to confirm equity/EJ grants are reaching their intended equity
25 targets or goals. John Bornsworth questioned if the Council or Program staff could create a matrix for
26 impact. Daria relayed that from inception, the intention of the grant is spatial, since the EJ Equity grants
27 are targeted only at the 8+ Environmental Health Disparity Score areas. Daria also mentioned that it
28 would be difficult to cross examine the projects since many encourage relationship development
29 between the grant recipient and community—they are not very quantitative and UCF program judges
30 them based on completion of deliverables. Ben added that the program strives to award funding to the
31 correct recipients to create the best impact and that equity grants are still new.

32
33 Kathy reluctant to put measures around impacts from grants. Focus more on story and meaning what is
34 gained by equity grants (base evaluation approach/qualitative). Lisa Ciecko mentioned that Council and
35 UCF Program has to be intentional with follow up and come from a supportive role to grantees, asking
36 about what improvements can be made in the grant process and how DNR can help an organization's
37 efforts in the community. Ian asked if there is a way to improve/add demographic info with grant
38 applications. Kathleen suggested that the top Equity component of the Council to be providing an
39 advisory role to Commissioner. Kathleen relayed that perhaps UCF Program is best suited to pursue
40 equity across the agency. Anything learned from grantees could be used to help advise the
41 Commissioner. Encourage more coordinated effort around equity throughout the DNR. Invite
42 Commissioner to June's WCFC meeting. Letter to Commissioner expounding on what the WCFC has
43 been doing on equity and what they would like to recommend the DNR do. There is a lot of content for
44 the equity subcommittee to address, Dave mentions that all tasks may not be able to be achieved in a
45 year. Cannot rely on equity subcommittee to address all topics regarded to equity, whole council must
46 be involved to some degree.

47
48 Council agreed that re-engaging Equity subcommittee is a top priority of the Council. David Bayard
49 expressed need to prioritize identified tasks as the Council has identified many bullets and sub-bullets
50 that could be actionable items. David recommended identifying a top three. Semra agreed that Council
51 should stay focused on key goals. Semra proposed that all the grant review and technical assistance

1 recommendations should be suggested to UCF staff to start and Council should focus on the other items
2 identified.

3
4 Lisa suggested reaching out to Front and Center (F&C), who helped develop the Environmental Health
5 Disparities Map, to continue discussions. F&C was a developer of the EHDM and was the lead org
6 promoting the HEAL ACT. With HEAL Act Passage, there may be opportunities for WCFC to promote
7 equity internally with leverage from the HEAL ACT and UCF program use of the map.

8
9 **Break. Meeting resumed at 12:45PM.** Semra suggested that UCF staff review the Articles of Association
10 first. Review and update Articles of Association. Expand council to include a Tribal council seat.

11
12 Career Pathways was discussed next. Semra reviewed actionable items identified at the February
13 meeting related to career pathways. Ben explained DNR's relationship with schools and explained that
14 DNR staff are stretched thin for new projects, as they are already trying to match and maintain current
15 workload.

16
17 Lisa, David and Daria expressed need to join forces with other organizations such as PNW ISA and
18 American Forests on career pathway work. Daria provided information and link to the Vibrant Cities Lab
19 Career Pathways Action Guide.

20
21 Council members agreed it would be a good idea to create and share personal videos of their career
22 pathway, outside of council's scheduled time. Dovetail career pathways within Treelink, a monthly video
23 w/WCFC. Urban forestry "baseball" cards – career pathways of astronauts. List of questions to figure out
24 their interest in urban forestry could also be an option.

25 Ben mentioned being more social media savvy within the UCF program. Potentially able to create a
26 social media account exclusively for the WCFC in the future. Ian in support of doing personal videos of
27 council members to promote their own pathways. John suggests a 5 question self-interview, perhaps
28 DNR hosts the videos on a platform. Semra added much of this work will need to happen after 2021,
29 since it is a lot of action items. Daria mentioned Faces of Urban Forestry on the Tree Link would be a
30 good place to display videos of council members.

31 Interagency Agreements were discussed next. Council would like to create Memo of Understandings
32 with key agencies, organizations, etc. as well as drafting up connections to Growth Management Act,
33 climate change mitigation and salmon recovery.

34
35 Semra's recommendation is to postpone engagement with students due to COVID uncertainties and
36 continued transitions. Juli agreed that postponing any student items to 2022 would be beneficial as
37 school administrators continue to combat changes. Craig Anderson commented that school children have
38 suffered largely due to COVID, especially in the social sphere. Craig recommends not shying away from
39 engagement, but instead, encouraging outreach to a handful of targeted schools—i.e. ones that suffered
40 deeply due to isolation and lack of engagement opportunities. Craig encouraged weighing the benefit
41 for children when considering outreach to schools.

42
43 Public Engagement and Networking section was reviewed by Semra. John mentioned that some items
44 from this section could be moved to Nominations Subcommittee work, as they would be taken care of
45 with the creation of nomination outreach and criteria. Ben commented there is some need to set targets
46 for Tree City #'s, UCF grant application #'s and Council appointment #'s—and to track how efforts in
47 engagement might affect the numbers. Ben also mentioned that staff has historically focused on White

1 paper/speaking engagements/webinars, but if Council would like to assist, staff would be happy to
2 include them.

3

4 John Bornsworth recommends that someone from the Council should do a presentation to the PNW ISA
5 Annual Training Conference (ATC) to highlight the council and its efforts more. Daria mentioned that the
6 ATC deadline for speaker RFP is Monday, May 10th (Tree Link article), and provided a link.

7

8 Lisa asked if UCF has their own Instagram handle. Daria explained that it is all under the WashDNR
9 account, and that the DNR Facebook regularly posts content regarding urban forestry. Council
10 questioned if Instagram is more accessible now and to consider a UCF or Council standalone Instagram
11 account. Reposting other content in lieu of developing our own content may be easier at first. Lisa also
12 mentioned that if there is any available funding, social media contractors do a great job at outreach and
13 creating more elaborate campaigns and presence.

14

15 Council discussed adding a Mini-survey via Tree Link to understand audience's engagement to UCF
16 Program and to brainstorm other survey topics. Semra would like to see more engagement with AWC–
17 to get more info out there as well.

18

19 **ECA Opportunities if it passes:** Council will wait to see what occurs if the ECA passes before looking for
20 opportunities to guide or assist.

21 **Council Check-ins:** No updates from council members.

22 **Adjourn 1:45 PM,** Semra moved to adjourn council meeting. John seconded the motion. Unanimous
23 approval.

24 **Next Meeting: June 1st, 10:30AM-2PM (virtual meeting).**