



1  
2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**

3 **Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

4 **Conference Call- Zoom**  
5

6 **Members Attending:** Ben Thompson, Semra Riddle, John Bornsworth, Juli Hartwig, Kirsten Lints, Ian  
7 Gray, Kathleen Wolf, Lisa Ciecko, David Miller, Cindy Deffe, Jessi Bloom, Margaret Brost, Dave Bayard

8 **Members Absent:** Gary Stamper, Angel Spell

9 **Guests:** Daria Gosztyla, Jess Lloyd, Jeremy Porter, Terra Rentz, Stephen Baker, Csenka Favorini-Csorba,  
10 Marissa Aho

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

12 **Welcome:** Call to order. Roll was taken. Chair welcomed members and guests. Review and approved  
13 agenda and last meetings minutes.

14 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve agenda. Kirsten Lints moved and John Bornsworth seconded  
15 motion. Unanimous approval. Motion to approve minutes from June 1st, 2021. Lisa Ciecko moved and  
16 John Bornsworth seconded motion. Unanimous approval.

17 **Q&A for program update:** Ben spoke about the reorganization within the DNR in regards to HB 1168  
18 (See *WCFC Program Update 9.8.21* for more detail). In this reorganization, the Forest Health and  
19 Resiliency Division (which houses UCF) is renamed the Forest Resiliency Division and will be more closely  
20 aligned with the newly renamed Forest Regulation Division (formerly the Forest Practices Division). State  
21 Forester George Geissler had previously been the Deputy Supervisor over the Wildfire and Forest Health  
22 Divisions. In this reorganization, George will now be dedicated to Wildfire, while the Forest Resiliency  
23 and Forest Regulation Divisions will be overseen by a newly appointed interim Deputy, Alex Smith.  
24 George will still retain a connection to UCF and other similar programs receiving federal funding from  
25 the USDA Forest Service.

26 Ben introduced Jess Lloyd, the new Urban Forestry Specialist for the DNR UFC Program. Daria has been  
27 working successfully on the 2021 Urban and Community Forestry Seminar Series. Ben touched on the  
28 programs grants and contracts, as well as the Pest Readiness Project. He also highlighted the technical  
29 assistance the UCF program continues to deliver, even through the current pandemic.  
30

31 **Committee report-outs and equity discussion:** The equity committee has been focused on the Articles  
32 of Association under the lens of equity. The council focused on finding areas that would allow  
33 recruitment from a broader pool of applicants which could increase the ability to achieve more diversity  
34 and equity on the council. A nominations committee is working in parallel to focus on recruiting new  
35 members and to develop a process for the criteria and selection of candidates. The committee, with

1 Ben’s assistance, are working to draft new Articles of Association to introduce more flexibility in the  
2 name of equity. A joint subcommittee meeting was held on 9/7/2021. Kathleen spoke about how to  
3 expand the outreach of nominations to reach a more diverse population of people, an interest in finding  
4 equity guidance documents. Semra added that HealthierHere has an equity guideline that is healthcare  
5 focused but could be a good starting point. Lisa mentioned that there is an opportunity to update the  
6 Articles, but also to create another document that could capture cultural commitments that the council  
7 would adopt that the Articles could reference to further anchor equity guidelines. Additional examples  
8 for documents to reference were provided throughout the chat.

9

10 **Briefing on E2SHB 1216:** The Evergreen Communities Act: [Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1216](#).  
11 The funding has been disbursed by the State Office of Financial Management and the internal charge  
12 codes to begin billing time, activities, and supplies have been established. Ben highlighted that they are  
13 in the process of stitching together an implementation plan while concurrently executing some early  
14 activities associated with the bill. This includes ordering equipment, revising the 2022 grant documents  
15 and schedule to accommodate new obligations of 1216, and drafting position descriptions for new staff  
16 positions (a tree inventory specialist, a tree inventory technician, and a coordinator for the yet-to-be  
17 developed Evergreen Communities recognition program).

18 Terra Rentz gave a big kudos to the WCFC for all the work the council did in assisting drafting the bill and  
19 helping it get passed. The council is being held as the ideal model for an advisory council for the DNR.  
20 Kathy Wolf expressed that the council is ready and enthusiastic to be a sounding board for HB 1216, and  
21 for the greater agency, and encouraged Terra and leadership to tap the Council for support. Terra  
22 expressed that the council’s perspective could be helpful in expanding on larger Division goals by  
23 providing their lens to the Forest Resiliency team on how they approach climate change, restoration,  
24 and equity and inclusion. DNR wants to bring more questions and opportunities for engagement to this  
25 council while the Division is redefining what “Forest Resiliency” means in the new re-org.

## 26 **5 Minute Break for council**

27 **Forest conservation and tree planting initiative:** Csenka Favorini-Csorba (DNR Senior Policy Advisor)

28 Csenka spoke about the agencies restoration goals that stem from the strategic plan. She is a leader on  
29 the 1 by 1 by 1 Initiative which refers to 3 related goals: 1 million acres restored, 1 million acres  
30 conserved, 1 million acres planted. Two of the goals are in recognition of that forests are being lost due  
31 to wildfire and development and the need to be proactive about reforestation. The other goal is related  
32 to forest conservation and protecting forests that have different values. The goal concerning tree  
33 planting and active reforestation will be both in natural forests and urban communities. The target for  
34 this is 1 million acres planted, some of which will be in urban areas. It was discussed that acreage is a  
35 more meaningful measurement in tree planting on the landscape. Csenka will be looking to the council  
36 in the future to help with determining prioritization of where trees should go and how to quantify the  
37 benefits and maintenance needs going into the future—involving the council in this strategy will be top  
38 of mind.

39 Kathy commented that DNR adapt the language of “value of forests” to an urban context and change  
40 the language to talk about trees in the ways that they have a direct impact on people’s lives. The  
41 language could include values forests provide such as stormwater management, ecosystem services, and

1 many other areas that have been recently heavily researched. Impact health assessments and their  
2 metrics may also be important to evaluate. She emphasized the importance of connecting the resource  
3 (and metrics) to the community.

4 Lisa mentioned urban natural areas and the potential for management which would provide more value.  
5 Kathy also mentioned a technical report could be created using Forest Land Assessment Tool (FLAT), to  
6 gauge the general character and quality of areas and identify areas that could use a more detailed forest  
7 management plan. Kathy stated that King County uses a similar process for their forest reserves.

8 Semra seconded the idea that with increasing urbanization and development there is less canopy  
9 coverage and there should be a focus on the preservation of canopy cover.. One way to alleviate this is  
10 by using tree canopy coverage codes. When developing land, the developer must bring canopy coverage  
11 up to code. This is an example of where policies concerning retaining canopy cover can make a  
12 difference. Semra sees this as a critical area to look into for implementation. Semra also mentioned that  
13 Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) has some language around trees and urban forestry,  
14 and it would be interesting to look into how this aligns with the DNR's goal and if a partnership could  
15 form. Ian expanded on what MRSC does, and that it can at times act as a contracting platform.

16 A discussion on climate adapted species and ensuring that the trees planted in urban areas are  
17 appropriate followed. Cindy mentioned that the state has had extreme drought and heat waves and the  
18 Department of Ecology encouraged homeowners to let their lawns go dormant, and expressed concern  
19 about trees that may receive water from lawns. Margaret added that the average citizen does not have  
20 any knowledge or experience with taking care of trees and suggested that the average urban  
21 homeowner needs additional educational resources to support planting efforts. Kathy mentioned the  
22 appeal of forest bathing and that it could help bridge the gap and bring people together for engagement  
23 and stewardship around trees.

24 John raised the concern that private forestry consultations are expensive and inaccessible to many  
25 people, but some provide their services to non-profits. Semra mentioned the need for voucher  
26 programs and citizens face the decision of removing trees because of costs. Even with city foresters and  
27 arborists, consultations, education, maintenance of trees is time sensitive work, not all cities are capable  
28 of bridging that gap or providing support to tree community outreach "boots on the ground"—lack of  
29 resources or staffing vary across the state.

30 A comment was about effective engagement and communications strategies, and telling stories in ways  
31 that people will embrace and take ownership over stewardship activities.

32 Csenka asked a question about metrics to use for reaching one of the goals in regards to number of  
33 trees vs. acreage. Members commented that canopy coverage is typically used to determine success in  
34 urban areas. Kathy was mentioned the i-tree tool from USFS and the 3-30-300 rule – 3 trees within view,  
35 30% canopy cover, green space within 300 meters of their home (or 10 minute walk). Trust for Public  
36 Land is promoting every person to have a greenspace within a 10 minute walk from their home which  
37 can be better metric for people and place rather than the tree itself.

38

1 Ben added that urban foresters have translated traditional forestry metrics onto the urban landscape  
2 and lens, however he believes that in the urban landscape trees have a greater net value—as in, it  
3 means significantly more to lose one individual tree in an urban area than in a forested area. Even if  
4 canopy cover could be converted to acres it would be difficult to stack that on top of traditional forest  
5 metrics because of development pressures and the private-public ownership of land in an urban area  
6 which creates a more limited ability to plant across the landscape. The translation is possible, but it will  
7 mean something different in the urban landscape. A conversation on urban forest rating methodology  
8 ensued, including an example from John on the Amherst.

9 Semra added that quantity can be an odd metric because small sized trees have obviously less impact  
10 than a large tree like a douglas fir. Csenka thanked council for conversation and input, adding that this is  
11 the early days of the initiative planning and that she will return for updates.

## 12 **Break for council (lunch)**

13 **WCFC recruitments:** Ben commented on the desire to be further along with the nominations process  
14 but would continue to make incremental steps and move forward as there are council positions are  
15 currently open and some are soon to be open.

16 Ben reviewed the open vacancies, which include: 1) Dept of Transportation seat, 2) Public or Private  
17 land development, urban planner, etc. seat 3) Washington State University Extension, 4) Washington  
18 State Department of Transportation 5) Non-Profit/Volunteer or Environmental Youth Conservation, 6)  
19 Washington Association of Landscape Professionals (WALP) 7) Forest Service representative, 8)  
20 University of Washington seat. Ben would like to advertise a number of these openings in the  
21 September Tree Link to start the selection process to hopefully fill those positions by the February WCFC  
22 meeting.

23 Kathy mentioned that the University of Washington seat could be altered to a general Higher Education  
24 seat for inclusivity of other institutions which are doing research and other great work. Ben also  
25 mentioned that the seat held by Gary Stamper for the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC)  
26 could be generally dismissed due to recent absences, and reappointed.

27 Semra cited that changes to nominations and roles cannot be changed until the annual meeting, which  
28 will next be held in February 2022, per the Articles of Association. Semra asked the council to consider  
29 how they themselves were recruited. Members presented their stories in a roundtable fashion, which  
30 included recruitment announcements in newsletters, direct conversations with UCF Program Manager,  
31 meetings and conversations with affiliated folks at conferences and existing work groups, attending the  
32 council as a guest, self-selection through finding the council themselves, nominated by past members,  
33 and attending presentations where the opportunity was mentioned.

34 There was additional discussion on ways to create a broader recruitment pool. Ben commented that one  
35 way to recruit from a broader pool would be to expand the roles to broader categories over specific  
36 institutions. Lisa mentioned that they could do a general recruitment rather than for specific positions  
37 since some people may not see exactly where they fit in specific categories. Ben mentioned possibility of  
38 including list of basic qualifications. Lisa thought they should encourage young, early career, and people  
39 not traditionally included in urban forestry to apply or ask about the positions.

1

2 **Break**

3 **Vote to accommodate next agenda item:** Article 8 Section 2 states the schedule should be set at the  
4 last meeting of the year. Cindy Deffe moved and David Miller seconded. Unanimous approval.

5 **Set dates for 2022 WCFC:** Council set dates for the 2022 Calendar year

6 **February 1, 2022 - annual meeting.**

7 **April 12, 2022**

8 **June 8, 2022**

9 **September 13, 2022**

10 **November 2, 2022**

11 **Council Check-ins:** Council was given an opportunity to provide updates.

12 Juli spoke about climate adaption, supply and demand, and the lack of availability of species that will  
13 work well with climate change. Competition between projects or agencies or counties creates a  
14 limitation on availability of plants and cost could be prohibitive without more supply. Suggested to start  
15 making the shift sooner before costs rise due to lack of plant availability. Lisa mentioned the NNRG  
16 group to connect with other land managers on adaptation strategies:

17 <https://www.nnrg.org/climateadaptation/forest-adaptation-network/>

18 Lisa highlighted Seattle Forest Week where they will also celebrate Arbor day. In person and online  
19 engagement opportunities are planned and the previous year generated a lot of interest in technical  
20 assistance: [www.seattleforestweek.org](http://www.seattleforestweek.org)

21 Ian mentioned Renton is in the midst of an update to the 10-year urban forest management plan,  
22 "Rooted In Renton". Infographic has some early survey results. Go here for project info:

23 [www.rentonforestryplan.com](http://www.rentonforestryplan.com)

24 **Adjourn: 1:50 PM,** David Miller moved to adjourn council meeting. Cindy Deffe seconded the motion.  
25 Unanimous approval.

26 **Next Meeting: November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 10:30-2:00pm (virtual meeting).**

27

28 **Zoom Chat Window & Referenced Links:**

29 10:42:21 From Kirsten to Everyone:

30 <https://www.wsnla.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1553698&group=>

31 10:57:06 From Cindy Deffe to Everyone:

32 Are recordings of the seminars available for those who could not attend during the presentation  
33 time?

34 11:04:07 From Ben Thompson, UCF Program Manager (h/h) to Everyone:

35 Thank you Kathy for the kind words

36 11:09:16 From Kathleen Wolf to Everyone:

37 equity guidance - Semra, do you have a model?

38 11:12:26 From Kathleen Wolf to Everyone:

1 Yes! This group is really good at sound boarding. There is a lot of U&CF passion across this  
2 council.

3 11:12:39 From Semra Riddle (s/h) to Everyone:  
4 HealthierHere has an Equity Guideline that is healthcare focused but could be a good starting  
5 point

6 11:13:02 From Ben Thompson, UCF Program Manager (h/h) to Everyone:  
7 Do you have a link to that Semra?

8 11:13:19 From Semra Riddle (s/h) to Everyone:  
9 Thank you Terra for the support and kind words!

10 11:15:01 From Kathleen Wolf to Everyone:  
11 <https://www.healthierhere.org/about/>

12 11:17:03 From Ben Thompson, UCF Program Manager (h/h) to Everyone:  
13 Thank you Kathy for the link!

14 11:23:17 From Lisa Ciecko to Everyone:  
15 Kathy - there are some helpful examples included on the King County website for both inclusive  
16 hiring and equity vision work - <https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/equity-social-justice.aspx>. The  
17 job postings each include language that would be helpful to reference in the council position postings. I  
18 think this info from SER is a good example of outlining and communicating their equity commitment:  
19 [https://www.ser.org/news/515944/Next-Steps-Towards-Ensuring-SER-and-Ecological-Restoration-are-](https://www.ser.org/news/515944/Next-Steps-Towards-Ensuring-SER-and-Ecological-Restoration-are-Diverse-Equitable-and-Inclusive.htm)  
20 [Diverse-Equitable-and-Inclusive.htm](https://www.ser.org/news/515944/Next-Steps-Towards-Ensuring-SER-and-Ecological-Restoration-are-Diverse-Equitable-and-Inclusive.htm). I would imagine the document could include info on meeting  
21 norms--discussion standards, recognition of race and gender identities, opening each meeting genuine  
22 land acknowledgment, etc.

23 11:26:23 From David Bayard (he/him) to Everyone:  
24 All - I'll have to step away for another meeting 11:30 - 12:00, so I'll see you at 12:30

25 11:28:37 From Semra Riddle (s/h) to Everyone:  
26 Thank you Lisa. One of the first things that HealthierHere did was define Equity. Setting that  
27 common foundational understanding of such a broad concept has helped that Board remain focused  
28 while we tackle the challenges of improving health outcomes for patients in King County.

29 11:29:32 From Kathleen Wolf to Everyone:  
30 An interesting equity resource, a glossary:  
31 [https://healthequity.wa.gov/Portals/9/Doc/Publications/EquityLanguageGuide\\_Final.pdf](https://healthequity.wa.gov/Portals/9/Doc/Publications/EquityLanguageGuide_Final.pdf)

32 11:30:26 From Ben Thompson, UCF Program Manager (h/h) to Everyone:  
33 All-consider changing your view to speaker view--top right of your zoom screen

34 11:34:10 From Kathleen Wolf to Everyone:  
35 Just continuing the roll on the equity topic. Annie E. Casey Foundation, Race Equity and Inclusion  
36 Action Guide <https://www.aecf.org/resources/race-equity-and-inclusion-action-guide>

37 11:44:46 From Ben Thompson, UCF Program Manager (h/h) to Everyone:  
38 [https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Environment/Environmental-Management/Urban-](https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Environment/Environmental-Management/Urban-Forestry-Street-Trees.aspx)  
39 [Forestry-Street-Trees.aspx](https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Environment/Environmental-Management/Urban-Forestry-Street-Trees.aspx)

40 11:44:52 From Semra Riddle (s/h) to Everyone:  
41 [https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Environment/Environmental-Management/Urban-](https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Environment/Environmental-Management/Urban-Forestry-Street-Trees.aspx)  
42 [Forestry-Street-Trees.aspx](https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Environment/Environmental-Management/Urban-Forestry-Street-Trees.aspx)

43 11:54:40 From Kathleen Wolf to Everyone:  
44 Urban Sustainability Directors Network, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in  
45 Recruitment, Hiring and Retention - [https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn-](https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn-equity-in-recruitment_hiring_retention-100418update.pdf)  
46 [equity-in-recruitment\\_hiring\\_retention-100418update.pdf](https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn-equity-in-recruitment_hiring_retention-100418update.pdf)

47 11:59:25 From Semra Riddle (s/h) to Everyone:  
48 [https://iucnurbanalliance.org/promoting-health-and-wellbeing-through-urban-forests-](https://iucnurbanalliance.org/promoting-health-and-wellbeing-through-urban-forests-introducing-the-3-30-300-rule/)  
49 [introducing-the-3-30-300-rule/](https://iucnurbanalliance.org/promoting-health-and-wellbeing-through-urban-forests-introducing-the-3-30-300-rule/)

50 12:02:30 From Kathleen Wolf to Everyone:  
51 Another link for 3-30-300

1 12:02:33 From Kathleen Wolf to Everyone:  
2 <https://mailchi.mp/biophiliccities/3-30-300rulebcjv4n2>  
3 12:49:05 From Cindy Deffe to Everyone:  
4 Ben you skipped WSU Extension. Do you have a replacement for Paula?  
5 12:57:48 From Kathleen Wolf to Everyone:  
6 Take care all! I leave for vacation early tomorrow, so am scrambling to take care of last emails  
7 and project details. So I'll say goodbye now.  
8 13:03:07 From Kirsten to Everyone:  
9 Just found it, I was nominated by past member Linda Vane.  
10 13:16:47 From Ben Thompson, UCF Program Manager (h/h) to Everyone:  
11 Oh Yes, Linda Vane!  
12 13:17:39 From Ben Thompson, UCF Program Manager (h/h) to Everyone:  
13 Prospective meetings in 2022 happen in Feb, Apr, June, Sep, and Nov, usually on a Tuesday or  
14 Wednesday within the first 2 weeks of each of those months.  
15 13:22:29 From Ben Thompson, UCF Program Manager (h/h) to Everyone:  
16 February 1, 2, 8, or 9  
17 April 5, 6, 12, or 13  
18 June 1, 7 or 8 (May 31 is a Tuesday, June 1 a Wednesday)  
19 September 6, 7, 13, or 14  
20 November 1, 2, 8 or 9  
21 13:30:53 From Jessi Bloom to Everyone:  
22 I cannot do Feb 9th  
23 13:31:10 From Jessi Bloom to Everyone:  
24 The NW Garden show is opening that day, I am teaching a semiar  
25 13:32:35 From Cindy Deffe to Everyone:  
26 I can't do 1st wk  
27 13:41:29 From ian gray to Everyone:  
28 Renton is in the midst of an update to the 10-year urban forest management plan, "Rooted In  
29 Renton". Infographic has some early survey results. Go here for project info: [rentonforestryplan.com](http://rentonforestryplan.com)  
30 13:41:54 From Lisa Ciecko to Everyone:  
31 This group is an excellent spot to connect with other land managers on adaptation strategies:  
32 <https://www.nnrg.org/climateadaptation/forest-adaptation-network/>  
33 13:42:29 From Juli Hartwig to Everyone:  
34 Thanks Lisaa!  
35 13:48:18 From Jess Lloyd to Everyone:  
36 Hi Juli - I watched this webinar from NIACS when I was onboarding about climate adaptive tree  
37 species. This includes information on specific tree species most and least adaptable to climate  
38 predictions <https://vimeo.com/586516679>  
39 13:49:53 From Lisa Ciecko to Everyone:  
40 [www.seattleforestweek.org](http://www.seattleforestweek.org)  
41