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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **September 13, 2022**
4 **Conference Call- Zoom**
5

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

9 **Members Absent:** Soileil Lewis

10 **Guests:** Andy Tate, Garth Davis, Jessica Lloyd

11 **Meeting Convened:** 10:37 a.m.

12 **Welcome:** Call to order. Roll was taken. Chair welcomed members and guests and participants
13 introduced themselves. Review of agenda and previous meetings minutes.

14 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve agenda and meeting minutes from June 8, 2022. Kirsten moved
15 and Jess seconded motion. Unanimous approval.

16 **UCF Staff Recruitment Update**

17 The UCF team has posted and closed 5 new job positions and is in the interview process for each of
18 those positions. The team intends for new positions to be hired before the end of the year and attend
19 the upcoming Partners in Community Forestry Conference.

20 **Federal Legislative and Budget Update**

21 There has been a lot of movement at the federal level that effect urban forestry. The UCF program
22 typically receives 400k-450k a year and this year the program will receive 550k from the USFS. The
23 bipartisan infrastructure bill also passed which provided additional funding to state forestry programs –
24 a part of which will be allocated to urban forestry from the State Forester which will bring in another
25 150K for the program, with some focus on tree planting. The other piece of federal funding is from the
26 Inflation Reduction Act which includes a 1.5 billion dollar allocation for urban forestry at the federal
27 level over a 10 year period. Ben encouraged the council to think about using the funding to the state’s
28 best advantage for their urban forestry programs throughout the state that would sustain itself after the
29 10 year period was over. They want the majority of spending to occur within the first 5-6 years. There is
30 likely to be some initial allocations to funding for states, and then there will be a process to request
31 funds based on interest and capacity.

32 Stephen emphasized the excitement of the new funding, but also the regular appropriation that
33 supports the key components of our work. The USFS is still working on the budget for fiscal year 2023

1 but it is not finalized yet. Lynn asked about additional funding for cost-share programs with fire risk
2 reduction.

3 **5 Minute Break for council**

4 **DNR Legislative Decision Package for UCF**

5 Jen and Andy introduced the state legislation that is being introduced this year centered around
6 expanding urban forestry throughout the state. Many elements will build on the work the program and
7 council already participate in, including expanding the grant program, investing directly in community
8 organizations, reinvigorating the urban forestry restoration project, dedicated attention to improving
9 tree ordinances, tree planting, statewide tree canopy analysis, among other elements. Part of the
10 funding will support Washington Conservation Corps crews, which will help implement some of these
11 components on the ground. The funding requested will also help support additional staff members to
12 work directly with communities to assist with reducing barriers to access funding and leading work
13 crews for jurisdictions without capacity. The last element will be to track and monitor the goals for the
14 funding. Jess commented that the urban forestry restoration program was essential to establishing
15 Pierce county's restoration program.

16 **Break for council (lunch)**

17 **WA DNR UCF Strategic Plan**

18 Ben provided some background information about the Forest Action Plan which was historically used as
19 a guideline for the program's strategic plan and the need to further refine the strategic plan and set
20 measurable goals and mission and vision beyond the Evergreen Communities Act. The program and
21 policy team made a proposal to the Commissioner about the strategic planning for the UCF program
22 that was well received and now they are seeking to further develop the strategy in a collaborative
23 manner. Ben and DNR staff discussed the different plans throughout the agency that intersect with UCF.
24 Ben shared the draft of goals that will inform the next steps of strategic planning.

25 **Adjourn: 1:58 PM**

26 **Next Meeting:** November 2, 2022 at 10:30-2:00pm (virtual meeting).

27 **Zoom meeting chat:**

28 10:39:11 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:

29 I will also have to step away at noon for about a half hour. That may be during our lunch break,
30 but just saying.

31 10:40:26 From John Bornsworth (Peninsula Environmental) to Everyone:

32 Same thing: I have a 15-20 minute conference call on 11am. Will be back ASAP after.

33 10:41:22 From Lynn Suksdorf to Everyone:

34 This is Lynn. For some reason my microphone is not working today.

35 10:41:44 From Lynn Suksdorf to Everyone:

36 I am working on trying to fix the issue.

37 10:44:00 From Jessica Lloyd, WA DNR (she/her) to Everyone:

38 Just a quick note - the date on the recent minutes is incorrect. I've updated it to June 8, 2022

39 10:46:41 From Semra Riddle to Everyone:

40 So noted. We will update an administrative fix. :)

1 10:52:43 From Lynn Suksdorf to Everyone:
2 I believe I have fixed the problem with my microphone.
3 10:53:21 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
4 Hmm, sounds like academic position searches
5 10:59:23 From John Bornsworth (Peninsula Environmental) to Everyone:
6 Be back in 15-20 minutes. :-D
7 11:02:38 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
8 COVID and Zoom has changed lots of settings :-]
9 11:11:52 From Janet St Clair, Island County (WSAC) to Everyone:
10 Just FYI Summary: [https://www.globenewswire.com/news-](https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2022/08/16/2499564/0/en/Inflation-Reduction-Act-Investments-in-Urban-Forestry-Will-Save-Lives.html)
11 [release/2022/08/16/2499564/0/en/Inflation-Reduction-Act-Investments-in-Urban-Forestry-Will-Save-](https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2022/08/16/2499564/0/en/Inflation-Reduction-Act-Investments-in-Urban-Forestry-Will-Save-Lives.html)
12 [Lives.html](https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2022/08/16/2499564/0/en/Inflation-Reduction-Act-Investments-in-Urban-Forestry-Will-Save-Lives.html)
13 11:18:12 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
14 White House Justice 40 initiative: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>
15 11:20:06 From Ben Thompson to Everyone:
16 USFS has never authorized UCF funds for purchase of land; I'd be surprised if that was included
17 in this new funding.
18 11:22:10 From Andy Tate to Everyone:
19 We've been exploring using funding in other programs to purchase conservation easements to
20 avoid conversion so we may be able to have similar conversations around UCF funding. We have a
21 robust program within the Small Forest Landowner Office with great experience around purchasing
22 easements.
23 11:22:11 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
24 Just one person's read on things funding won't be framed around tree planting as an end.
25 But will focus on the 'why' of tree planting, that is more issue or need identification and trees as the
26 means to the end.
27 11:26:26 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
28 Janet, both/and re: housing and green space. Would love to learn more about your work and
29 any references/thought pieces about this challenge.
30 11:32:15 From Stephen Baker (USFS R6/R10) to Everyone:
31 UCF funding cannot be used for land acquisition. However, the Inflation Reduction Act includes
32 funding for other Forest Service State & Private programs and activities, including the Forest Legacy
33 Program which helps protect privately owned forest lands through conservation easements or land
34 purchases. Additional information about wider range of funding opportunities from the Inflation
35 Reduction Act in this article: <https://forests.org/sfi-applauds-passage-of-the-inflation-reduction-act/>
36 11:34:52 From Jess Stone, Pierce County Parks to Everyone:
37 Yeah Ben and DNR team
38 11:35:47 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
39 As urban forest professionals go, looking pretty sharp! Rockin the tech pro black t-shirt!
40 11:37:39 From Ben Thompson to Everyone:
41 The T-shirt has an Al Shigo quote that says "A City Without Trees is Dead"
42 11:38:43 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
43 Might the \$1M for community apps be applied in part to capacity building? That is, as much
44 capacity development as actual project apps?
45 11:39:03 From Ben Thompson to Everyone:
46 That will be a restarting of the old "Urban forestry restoration Project" that we funded from
47 2012-2017
48 11:40:47 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
49 As a research project some years ago I/we did an urban greening org inventory (USFS Stew Map)
50 and found many organizations that do greening as a means to multiple ends - youth services, domestic
51 assistance, school PTsAs. These groups often don't have the depth of experience re: sustained projects.

1 11:43:32 From Janet St Clair, Island County (WSAC) to Everyone:
2 If tree equity scoring will be important in future funding and much of Washington is not
3 "scored", how do we build that mapping coverage.
4 11:44:26 From Ben Thompson to Everyone:
5 This decision package includes funding for a statewide tree canopy analysis and additional Tree
6 Equity score mapping to close those geographic gaps.
7 11:45:00 From Janet St Clair, Island County (WSAC) to Everyone:
8
9 11:45:15 From Ben Thompson to Everyone:
10 Fun fact, we also submitted a 1M dollar grant in partnership with American Forests to do the
11 same work. Trying to increase our chances that we will actually get the whole state mapped.
12 11:45:33 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
13 Andy, you've mentioned the contributions that this Council can/will provide if the package is
14 successful. Any thoughts about the structure of that participation? Feedback at these routine meetings?
15 Task teams? Intermittent reach out?
16 11:48:31 From Ben Thompson to Everyone:
17 The next WCFC meeting is November 2nd, and then there will be another in early February
18 11:48:45 From Ben Thompson to Everyone:
19 February meeting date tbd
20 11:49:39 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
21 After so many years of crumbs it now feels like drinking from the fire hose!
22 11:51:00 From Margaret to Everyone:
23 wild success is often the most difficult for an organization to manage. However, there are
24 certainly worse problems to have.
25 11:51:21 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
26 And hearing testimony from any of us/our orgs, as I did this a few times during the last leg
27 process.
28 11:52:11 From Andy Tate to Everyone:
29 Absolutely, we'll work to get our policy staff in front of the council to learn how to best engage.
30 11:53:41 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
31 Good point, Janet. I have encountered over the years that modeling developed in the eastern
32 U.S. (such as i-Tree) doesn't translate so well in the Western states. So our relationship with tribes and
33 smaller city sizes may not yet be well modeled by Am For tree equity modeling. Heads up should this
34 relationship come through.
35 11:54:22 From Lynn Suksdorf to Everyone:
36 Good point, Ben, regarding funding and need for small and medium size cities.
37 11:56:02 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
38 Well said, Semra. A good example of consolidating the legal/administrative challenges.
39 11:57:35 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
40 But consider giving people fish, vs teaching them how to fish. Where is the balance between
41 service delivery and capacity building?
42 11:59:27 From Ben Thompson to Everyone:
43 The salmon and other wildlife issues are baked into the program prioritization we are working
44 on as part of 1216.
45 12:02:36 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
46 Have a thought, but now must go to another meeting. Be back shortly.
47 12:06:39 From Margaret to Everyone:
48 Totally support the idea of working to build and work within "systems"
49 12:39:30 From Janet St Clair, Island County (WSAC) to Everyone:
50 I'm here but keeping camera off as I eat a messy sandwich.
51 12:40:44 From BayardD to Everyone:

1 I'm back as well
2 12:45:51 From Jessica Lloyd, WA DNR (she/her) to Everyone:
3 For additional context you can find the Forest Action Plan here: 2020 Forest Action Plan:
4 https://dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_2020_forest_action_plan.pdf - UCF pgs. 30-31, 40-43, 76, 78-79
5 12:53:25 From Terra Rentz (she/her) to Everyone:
6 It's definitely reflective of some of those plans, but some are also very, very new and UCF is one
7 of those really cool programs that sits at a planning crossroads :)
8 13:00:01 From Ben Thompson to Everyone:
9 DNR Plan for Climate Resilience:
10 https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_climateresilienceplan_feb2020.pdf
11 13:00:46 From Ben Thompson to Everyone:
12 DNR Watershed Resilience Action Plan:
13 https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_watershed_resilience_plan_feb_2022.pdf
14 13:00:48 From Lynn Suksdorf to Everyone:
15 Wonderful, Terra. Great information and opportunity to model.
16 13:01:23 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
17 Terra, about your comments, our Council members represent jurisdictions that have 'stacked'
18 strategies with combined benchmarks and metrics. So not only urban forestry, but the experience of our
19 members re: urban systems might help inform the strategy consolidation you describe.
20 13:01:48 From Terra Rentz (she/her) to Everyone:
21 Excellent flag, Kathy!!
22 13:06:44 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
23 Some recent thoughts about tree goals for urban planning (no paywall for the article):
24 <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11676-022-01523-z>
25 13:13:39 From BayardD to Everyone:
26 All - my apologies, but I am getting called away and need to jump. Good to see everyone, and
27 great to have so much good news shared!
28 13:14:58 From Semra Riddle to Everyone:
29 Consider urban forest preservation and resilience within jurisdictions' Climate Action Plans as
30 there is a lot of overlap.
31 13:15:49 From Janet St Clair, Island County (WSAC) to Everyone:
32 I would love to see the hydrology studies with forest management and any stormwater info.
33 13:24:23 From Janet St Clair, Island County (WSAC) to Everyone:
34 I need to jump off at 1:30 for a quick call. Will try to come back in.
35 13:30:40 From Ben Thompson to Everyone:
36 Tribes!
37 13:33:08 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
38 Terra, thanks for the big picture timeline for activity.
39 13:40:42 From Lynn Suksdorf to Everyone:
40 Thank you, Kathy, for raising this topic to this group. Valuable.
41 13:43:27 From Margaret to Everyone:
42 can we google earth to figure some of this out?
43 13:45:33 From Tim Kohlhauff WSU Extension to Everyone:
44 To follow up on Ian's comment, many of the canopy goals of larger cities include increased
45 planting on private property, but they don't always elaborate on how this will be accomplished
46 13:49:26 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
47 Per Lynn's and Janet's earlier comments, the draft strategic plan should address (a little more
48 strongly) existing tree/grove protection & conservation
49 13:55:23 From Juli Hartwig to Everyone:
50 Thanks for drafting the letter, Kathy!
51 13:55:49 From Tim Kohlhauff WSU Extension to Everyone:

1 Thank you Kathy!
2 13:57:08 From Cindy Deffe to Everyone:
3 Thanks everyone, I need to head into another meeting. See you in November!
4 13:58:07 From Kirsten Lints to Everyone:
5 Thank you Kathy for agreeing to present for the WSNLA PRO series! Looking forward to it!
6 <https://www.wsnla.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1660464&group=>