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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **June 14, 2017**
4 **Evergreen Arboretum, Everett, WA**
5

6 **Members Attending:** Lisa Ciecko, Chair; Ken Armstrong, Terry Flatley, Sheila Gray, Jheri Ketcham, Linden
7 Lampman, Kirsten Lints, Kathy Sheehan (phone), Cindy Deffe (phone), David Miller

8 **Members Absent:** Peter Dervin, Paula Dinius, Juli Hartwig, Angel Spell, Kathy Wolf,

9 **Guests:** Micki McNaughton, Justin Bush, Executive Coordinator, Invasive Species Council.

10 **Meeting Convened:** 9:10 a.m.

11 **Welcome:** Chair, Lisa Ciecko welcomed members and introduced 5-week old baby Ari. Members
12 introduced themselves around the table. Trevor Cameron, Evergreen Arboretum Staff, welcomed the
13 Council to the arboretum, and described plans for the future.

14 **Minutes Approved:** Kirsten Lints requested an addition to draft February 8, 2017 Council meeting
15 minutes. In her report, starting on page 4, line 25, add that the combined WSNLA and WALP meeting
16 was for "Legislative Day." Motion to approve as amended, Kirsten Lints; Second David Miller. Passed
17 unanimously.

18 **Agenda Approved:** No additions or corrections were made to the agenda.

19 **DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report:** Linden Lampman thanked the Council for
20 attending Tree City USA (TCUSA) events this spring, and encouraged members to report on the events
21 during the round table at lunch. With over 90 TCUSA communities expected next year, staff is
22 considering changing the model for representation at recognition events.

23 Thanks to Lisa for writing a letter of support from the Council to Hilary. Lisa asked that the letter be
24 made available to all members, and be included as an attachment to the meeting minutes for the
25 record.

26 The proposed national presidential budget has been released for Fiscal Year 2018. Several State and
27 Private Forestry programs are currently zeroed out, including Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) and
28 the Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program (LSR). The National Association of State Foresters
29 (NASF) UCF Committee is deeply concerned and is working advocacy strategies to reinstate program
30 budgets. The New York State Urban and Community Forestry Council has launched an advocacy
31 campaign. A letter written by that council was distributed.

32 The 2017 Consolidated Payment Grant has been received with funding for UCF at about the same level
33 as 2016. LSR funding has not yet been solidified.

1 The Department of Ecology recently notified that the UCF proposal for a Stormwater Effectiveness
2 Grants was selected for funding. The ~\$300,000 proposal requires convening a Technical Advisory
3 Committee to address some technical issues as proposed. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) UCF
4 and Aquatics Divisions will work University of Washington Urban Stormwater Center, Clemson
5 University, and the City of Tacoma to measure transpiration and interception of trees in urban areas.
6 DNR UCF will administer the grant. Research results are expected within three years.

7 2017 LSR grant proposals were initiated similar to last year starting with Letters of Interest by project
8 partners. Five final application are now in review, three of which are urban forestry projects. The review
9 committee will recommend to the State Forester three proposals for the Western competition. Grant
10 deadline mid-September.

11 Lampman outlined several meetings she attended in the last several months:

- 12 • Western Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator Network (WUCFC) – Linden is vice-chair
13 and incoming Chair. Next year’s annual meeting is scheduled for March 6 & 7, 2018, in Tacoma.
14 Potential theme: UF & health – Kathy Wolf has agreed to be the keynote speaker.
- 15 • National Association of State Foresters Urban and Community Forestry Committee – attended
16 as WUCFC liaison and organized a tour of the City of Vancouver.
- 17 • Washington Invasive Species Council – Presentation to introduce WA UCF and call attention to
18 vulnerability of urban trees to invasive insects, particularly Emerald Ash Borer. Director Justin
19 Bush will present to the Council later today. Investigating potential partnership to identify
20 vulnerable tree populations & locations.
- 21 • Presented at the Washington Association of District Employees annual training conference in
22 Leavenworth. Introduction to urban forestry and building resilience.
- 23 • Urban Forestry Symposium, Seattle. Social equity, human health, environmental justice.
- 24 • Oregon Community Trees similar topic. Keynote speaker was Bill Sullivan who called attention to
25 Department of Health policies on record since 2013 that link green spaces to increased public
26 health.
- 27 • Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI) Alumni event at the Oregon Woodland Zoo;
28 managing trees in specialized areas.

29 CTMI is on hold for 2018. Oregon and Washington staff are evaluating the program. UCF will continue to
30 offer scholarships to the Municipal Forestry Institute.

31 Grafted Douglas fir seedlings from the “Moon tree” on the Washington Capitol Campus were delivered
32 to Tacoma & DuPont. Scions from the tree were grafted to root stock at DNRs seed nursery and grown
33 out for the Capitol Campus.

34 Ben Thompson is on vacation. He was heavily involved in TCUSA Awards this year, presented at the
35 WSU Extension “Right Tree Right Place” workshop in Wenatchee, and developed this year’s Resilient
36 Communities seminar series. The series has started. Poulsbo is completed, Richland is scheduled for next
37 week and will be presented by Micki. Council members can refer to the Tree Link newsletter for dates
38 and locations of the remaining seminars. Ben is planning for the Association of Washington Cities
39 Conference next week where he will conduct a walking tree tour and an after dinner presentation to
40 Risk Management Services Agency.

41 Ben has been working with the Division GIS Specialist, Kirk Davis, on a data analysis project suggested by
42 Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz at the February Council meeting.

1 Ben continues to publish Tree Link monthly. He is always looking for content and Council members are
2 welcome and encouraged to write or share articles from their organizations.

3 Mick McNaughton reported that the Urban Forest Restoration Project (UFRP) is down to one crew for
4 June which is working in Pierce County Parks. Two of five crews will switch to the Aquatics Division for
5 Noxious Weed Control on July 1 for the summer months. Micki will coordinate those crews for three
6 months. Funding for UFRP crews & administration is uncertain at this time. We will have greater visibility
7 on budget at next meeting.

8 **USDA Forest Service Report, Kathy Sheehan:**

9 Kathy acknowledged Linden for coordinating the NASF UCF field trip in Vancouver.

10 Kathy attended Vancouver's Arbor Day celebrations and presented awards for Tree City USA and a
11 Growth Award to the City, Tree Campus USA to Clark College, and Tree Line USA to Clark PUD.

12 Kathy reported that in the current federal budget for 2018, UCF and LSR are not funded. Overall the US
13 Forest Service budget is proposed to be cut by 15%. Residual funding from existing grants will help most
14 state UCF programs continue for a short time, but most western state programs do not receive state
15 funding.

16 Kathy is planning to attend the October meeting in Yakima, contingent on funding. She thanked Council
17 members for volunteering their time and for the work do. An advisory council is required to receive
18 federal funding, but more importantly, the guidance and direction members provide adds value to the
19 program.

20 **Report:** Cindy Deffe reported on a new 2-year program recently approved for Spokane Community
21 College (SCC). The program is an option within the Landscape Management Program. She expects the
22 program will be offered this fall.

23 **Policy Planning Discussion – Dan Stonington, DNR Policy Director and Gerry Day, State Forester:** Lisa
24 introduced Dan Stonington, current policy advisor for DNR, and previously with the NW Natural
25 Resource Group and Forterra.

26 Dan thanked the Council and UCF Staff for the work they do. He understands the positive impact that
27 nature has on human health. While Hilary's focus is currently on the budget, Dan reported that she has
28 three priorities: rural economic development, forest health, and climate change adaptation and
29 mitigation, especially in the Puget Sound.

30 Rural economic development dovetails with UCF technical assistance. There is potential for UCF to be a
31 component within this program. Climate change may be another area where UCF can assist; increasing
32 resilience, accessing carbon markets for carbon mitigation, as outlined in the Evergreen Communities
33 Act (ECA), are areas that could connect with this priority. Dan recommended connecting with Josh
34 Wilund for rural economic development, and Dave Warren for policy development.

35 Regarding reinvigorating the ECA, Rep. Ruth Kagi wrote the bill. Dan recommended contacting her to
36 begin with then work with DNR's Legislative Director on opportunities in the 2018 and 2019 sessions.

1 State and Private Forestry state agencies are working together to coordinate messages about State and
2 Private Forestry budget reductions. It would be good for individuals to contact representatives at the
3 local level and relate stories about the value of the UCF program. The Council can communicate to the
4 Commissioner about the value of UCF to local communities; share success stories, identify how funds,
5 both state and federal, are leveraged locally.

6 Gerry Day told council members that while there is quite a bit of alarm about the current budget, this is
7 most certainly not the budget that will be passed. That being said, there is important work to be done.
8 While DNR will work with other agencies and partners, Council members can inform congressional
9 representatives about the positive contributions of the UCF program. Council can also make a case to
10 the Commissioner of Public Lands to advocate for the program. Communication should include success
11 stories and how funding is leveraged to get work done on the ground.

12 Gerry and Dan thanked the Council for all the work they do.

13 In summary: Determine how ECA fits into Commissioners priorities, Staff to work with Legislative
14 Director to contact Rep. Kagi and chart a course of action as appropriate, prepare stories that show
15 “triple-bottom line” successes (possibly with DNR Communications team or WSU Graduate Student),
16 connect with other agencies and partners who helped with the original ECA bill development, contact
17 members of congress and focus on stories from within their districts.

18 **Roundtable Reports:**

19 Terry Flatley - Renton’s Arbor Day events and presentations he made at SeaTac and Auburn. Renton is
20 engaged in a multiyear knotweed control project with Forterra. New ordinance passed – any tree over
21 6” DBH needs permit for removal on private and public land. In-lieu-of tree fund will support public tree
22 planting.

23 Jheri Ketcham – Yakima had a great Arbor Fest. Ken Armstrong assisted in passing out free trees
24 donated by PacifiCorp. 50 trees were planted in honor of the Arboretum’s 50th anniversary. City of
25 Yakima is forming a Tree Board and working on ordinance revisions.

26 Sheila Gray – Attended Arbor Day in Tumwater. The Master Gardener Tree Stewards online module
27 project continues, although the team has been severely reduced by retirements and members leaving
28 for other job opportunities. Washington State Association of Counties meets at the end of July, 25 – 27
29 in Spokane.

30 Kirsten Lints – Almost done building her new home, one of only three days off over the last year, was an
31 Arbor Day event in Duvall. She volunteered to be on a Duvall committee which will revise building code
32 to protect trees.

33 Ken Armstrong – Attended Arbor Day in Grandview and assisted planting 18 trees and Arbor Day in
34 Walla Walla where he gave away serviceberries. Assisted Jheri with Arbor Fest.

35 Lisa Ciecko – After five months of work in one month, she has a new baby. There are now 140 new acres
36 of restoration in Seattle; working to restore 2500 acres total by 2025. 300 acres of maintenance on
37 existing sites, many which required more herbicide work than expected. She will be back to work by the
38 end of September.

1 Juli – Linden read the following written report sent in by Juli in advance of the meeting:

2 I would like to report that the presentations for Sumner, Bonney Lake and Fife went smooth. It was
3 great to network and share the values of our urban forests with the communities/volunteers. Most
4 importantly, remind those in leadership positions (mayor, council members, board members) the
5 important benefits of trees and why they are (and should remain) a valued resource and asset to their
6 City. In Fife, I actually had a complete stranger in the audience cheering and rooting for me as I was
7 going through my talking points. At the end of my presentation, he gave me a high five and told me that
8 I “nailed it!” I can tell this young man was a tree fan 😊.

9 **Washington State Invasive Species Council (ISC) presentation, Justin Bush:**

10 Justin presented the work of the ISC with the Council; priority species, control efforts, reporting
11 mechanisms including a mobile app to report invasive species sightings. An overarching priority for the
12 ISC is to control pathways rather than individual invasive species. Website for more information,
13 including the economic impact of Invasive Species in Washington State, and to report suspected invasive
14 species: <http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/>

15 Discussion: Several EAB tools are available through the Society of Municipal Arborists, Colorado Forest
16 Service, and Oregon Department of Forestry. Important to collaborate across agencies.

17 **Upcoming projects:**

18 Staff is investigating cloud-based inventory tools that would provide a platform for aggregating
19 inventory data and quantify values and ecosystem services of trees. Reviewed were Open Tree Map,
20 Tree Plotter, Tree Keeper. Several western states have similar tools available for public view including
21 Colorado’s CO TreeView and Idaho’s Idaho TreePlotter.

22 At the February meeting the Commissioner of Public Lands challenged UCF to analyze data based on
23 socioeconomics and tree canopy to prioritize UCF program focus. The process has been initiated by
24 filtering communities that are stormwater permittees, with available census bureau data, and available
25 land canopy data. Initial results show that areas with low canopy are generally associated with low
26 income (per 200% national poverty level) and ethnically diverse (71% Caucasian) populations. Linden
27 shared a printed copy of graphed data that illustrates the exercise. Ben will report further on this project
28 at the next meeting.

29 Meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m. Council toured the Arboretum with Sandy, after the meeting.

30 Next meeting will be held on October 18 at the Yakima Area Arboretum.