



1
2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **June 8, 2016**
4 **North Central Regional Library, Wenatchee, WA**
5

6 **Members Attending:** Sheila Gray, Chair; Ken Armstrong, Haley Galbraith, Peter Dervin, Paula Dinius, Juli
7 Hartwig, Linden Lampman, Kirsten Lints, Lisa Ciecko, Angel Spell, David Miller.

8 **Members Absent:** Terry Flatley, Jheri Ketchum, Daniel Layton, Kathy Sheehan, Cindy Deffe, Joe Scorcio,
9 Kathy Wolf.

10 **Guests:** Ben Thompson

11 **Meeting Convened:** 9:14 a.m.

12 **Welcome:** Chair, Sheila Gray welcomed members. Members introduced themselves around the table
13 and welcomed new member, Peter Dervin who represents Washington Association of Landscape
14 Professionals.

15 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve minutes from the February 17, 2016 meeting, Kirsten Lints;
16 second, David Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

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

18 **DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report:** Linden Lampman updated council members on
19 program activities. She is working with King

20 District (KCD) on their application for the US Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration grant, due in
21 September. The project proposes to apply Washington state metrics to the i-Tree Hydro tool to make it
22 applicable to this region, create a technical advisory committee to oversee the project, test the tool in
23 three communities, and hold a stormwater summit to introduce the changes to urban forestry and
24 stormwater managers. Council asked whether the project deliverables will be applicable to the east side
25 of the cascades, as the proposal would be strengthened with this element. Linden will discuss the idea
26 with KCD. An offer was made to the council to review proposal as it moves forward.

27 In preparation of the 2017 legislative session, DNR executive policy liaisons met with Linden about
28 potential urban forestry topics that might help to address stormwater concerns. Linden is working with
29 DNR Aquatics on a letter of interest to the Department of Ecology for an effectiveness study centering
30 on urban trees and stormwater mitigation in urban areas. A letter of intent is due in July. Karen Ripley
31 suggested using urban DNR-held lands for a demonstration project.

1 There have been about 15 Arbor Day tree planting grants approved this season. Planning for the
2 Community Tree Management Institute continues. There are currently 23 individuals enrolled.
3 Registration is open through the end of June. Linden encouraged council members to broadcast
4 information about registration. The inventory grant project for 2016 is underway, with six communities
5 receiving grants. Linden helped to organize a resiliency workshop for communities and UF practitioners
6 in collaboration with Oregon Department of Lands. The workshop was held in Hood River. Funding is
7 through a US Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration grant, and is part of a larger grant project
8 which is assisting communities and landowners to react to increased insect and disease pressure on
9 native trees in the Columbia Gorge. DNRs wildlife biologist, Ken Bevis, has offered to provide ‘Hazard to
10 Habitat’ training to communities throughout the state; contact Linden, if interested. The Washington
11 Association of District Employees conference for Conservation Districts is next week in Leavenworth.
12 Linden will do two presentations on UCF programs and grants.

13 Ben Thompson thanked all the council members for their support during Arbor Day. With help from
14 council members, 34 cities were recognized publicly as Tree City USAs. Ben travelled to Spokane in
15 March for a presentation at the Spokane Tree School, and to Wenatchee in April for to assist Paula
16 Dinius with a pruning workshop. Tree Link has been published monthly. Both Ben and Linden have been
17 reviewing modules for the Master Gardener Online Forest Stewardship project. Paula and Sheila
18 explained and updated the council on the project which is through WSU Master Gardener program.
19 Once modules are completed, they must go through a review process for comment before being
20 finalized. Several council members are also helping to review modules. The project is planned for
21 completion by year’s end. Ben is working with the City of Everett to organize a walking tour as part of
22 the Association of Washington Cities conference in Everett on June 22. The program will also host a
23 booth at the conference. Ben will be the key note speaker at the Master Gardener annual conference in
24 October.

25 Special Projects Coordinator Micki McNaughton was on annual leave, but sent a written report about
26 the Urban Forest Restoration Project. As part of the crew-sharing schedule with DNR Aquatics, only one
27 crew is working in May and June. Micki will be working with Aquatics to supervise some project activities
28 during the summer, and will be scheduling work for the next season. Partner applications for the 2016-
29 2017 crew year are now being accepted and are due on June 30. Micki invited council members to
30 volunteer to assist with proposal reviews. Kirsten Lints volunteered.

31 **USDA Forest Service Report:** Kathy Sheehan was unable to travel, due to budget restrictions, but sent
32 the following written report:

33 FY17 Budget Outlook

34 President Obama’s budget again requests a steep reduction (~\$4.3 million -- a ~15% reduction) for
35 the Forest Service’s Urban & Community Forestry program. In recent years, Congress has restored
36 most or all of those funds – but of course that is not guaranteed for FY17. The new administration
37 may propose changes to the proposed UCF budget. If Congress passes a Continuing Resolution (CR)
38 for all (or part) of FY17, that might be good news for UCF because often that “freezes” the budget
39 at the previous year’s level for the duration of the CR. Washington’s UCF program is primarily
40 supported with FS funding.

1 Webinar Suggestions?

2 [Urban Forest Connections](#) is a monthly webinar series featuring urban forestry scientists and
3 practitioners who discuss the latest science, practices, and policies. Held on the second Wednesday
4 of each month at 10am Pacific Time, these Forest Service webinars are free and usually offer an ISA
5 CEU credit. Past webinars are available online at www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/ .

6 Have any suggestions for topics and/or speakers? Please send your suggestions to me (Kathy
7 Sheehan, ksheehan@fs.fed.us) or submit them online via our [comments and suggestions](#) webpage.

8 Every Kid in a Park

9 “Every Kid in a Park” started in October, 2015 to encourage 4th-graders and their families to
10 discover our federal lands – dazzling landscapes where they can play and learn, and discover
11 wildlife, resources, and history. Fourth-graders were chosen because that’s a critical time for
12 engaging children in the wonders of nature. Every 4th-grader who participates in this program
13 receives a pass that allows the student and her/his family to explore any federal lands – national
14 parks, wildlife refuges, etc. – for free for the rest of the school year and following summer.

15 The Forest Service’s participation in this program was delayed, but we have recently partnered with
16 the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition to reach 4th-graders at Concorde International School (a
17 public elementary school with 86% minority enrollment and 78% of students eligible for reduced
18 price or free lunches) in the South Park area of Seattle. Depending on future funding, we hope to
19 continue and expand this program in WA and OR.

20 **Arbor Day Review:** Sheila invited council members who had attended Arbor Day events to share their
21 experience. The following council members attended events: Sheila, Capitol Campus; Haley, Everett; Ken
22 – Ellensburg, Yakima, Walla Walla; Angel, Fairchild Air Force Base; Cindy, Spokane; David, Pateros;
23 Kirsten, Clyde Hill, Duvall; Juli, Sumner, Fife. Of particular note, the Arbor Day Foundation Community
24 Tree Recovery program, with support from the Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association,
25 the Okanogan Conservation District, and the Methow Conservancy donated 8500 trees to several
26 communities in North Central Washington which were recently impacted by fire including Twisp,
27 Okanogan, Pateros and Tonasket.

28 **Break:** Meeting host, Paula, shared about the ‘center piece’ on the break table. It is a special cultivar of
29 ginkgo recently acquired through the American Conifer Society, of which she is a member.

30 **Council Priorities Document:** The origination of the Council Priorities document was a question
31 generated by Mary Verner, the Executive Deputy Supervisor of the Wildfire Division. The last half of the
32 February meeting was a facilitated discussion listing council member priorities. Haley and Lisa led the
33 synthesis and draft of the document which was reviewed by Joe and Kathy W. Linden met with Aaron
34 before the meeting. While he believes the council is on the right track, he suggested that the council
35 consider creating a ‘leave behind’ document that can be used during legislative session to communicate
36 urban forestry issues. Council members reviewed and discussed the document. General consensus was
37 that a leave-behind document is a good idea, but is a next step separate from the priority list developed
38 for Mary and Aaron. Regarding the leave-behind document, a suggestion was made to include the

1 Washington Community Forestry logo as well as those from all organizations represented on the council.
2 This, in order to show the broad interests represented by the council.

3 Next steps suggested: Promote, partner, engage - hone in on tasks with specific recommendations and
4 time frames so actions can be measured. To this end, a suggestion was made to create a Google doc
5 where council members can share ideas. These ideas can be translated into a recommended list of
6 bulleted tasks for executive staff. Craft a leave-behind document generated from the original
7 prioritization document, but as an infographic design. Organize a meeting between council members
8 and executive staff.

9 **Roundtable Reports:** During lunch, council members reported on urban forestry activities in their
10 jurisdictions.

- 11 • Lisa: Seattle is beginning 110 new acres of forest restoration work, and are planning to increase
12 acreage by at least that much annually. 1200 acres are currently in active restoration. Seattle's
13 stormwater code was recently updated and recognizes the value of trees to mitigate
14 stormwater.
- 15 • Juli: Recently gave a presentation at the Oregon Community Trees conference titled
16 'Maintaining Magnificence' about WA Department of Transportation roadside preservation
17 policy in resource conservation areas. The presentation was well-received. Juli reported that it
18 was an excellent conference.
- 19 • Haley: Updates on PNW Chapter of the ISA. Lynwood was selected as the location for the 2017
20 Annual Training Conference. This year's conference is in Boise. The Chapter recently updated
21 the website and it is now 'mobile friendly.'
- 22 • Kirsten: Worked with Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association this spring to
23 support the ongoing recovery effort in Central Washington following two years of severe
24 wildfire impacts. She organized a member of WSNLA to work with Ben on providing information
25 for the Tree Link feature 'A Tree to Try.' Kirsten recently gave a Fire Wise presentations to
26 Bellevue Master Gardeners. The recent WSNLA board meeting was held in Yakima.
- 27 • Paula: Working on the Urban Tree Stewardship online curriculum, as part of her education
28 agreement with Chelan PUD Paula recently presented a Fire Wise planning program to Master
29 Gardeners and inventory at Rocky Reach Park.
- 30 • Ken: Pacific Power is concerned with preventing fire from trees and vegetation contacting
31 overhead utility lines. He reminded council members to plan to plant appropriate trees (under
32 25' in height) in areas with overhead utilities.
- 33 • Peter: Washington Association of Landscape Professionals will hold a field day on July 14 in
34 Redmond. There will be demonstrations of equipment and supplies.
- 35 • David: Awareness of stormwater in relation to green space development is building in
36 Ellensburg.

37 **Tree City USA 40th Anniversary recognition event:** Arbor Day Foundation is celebrating the 40th
38 anniversary of the Tree City USA program (TCUSA), and encouraging states to take advantage of the
39 milestone to outreach about TCUSA and state urban forestry programs. Council members discussed
40 how to engage Washington communities. Spokane suffered a severe windstorm this past winter. The
41 council decided that providing funding to the City of Spokane to re-establish some of the trees lost as an

1 arboretum would be a good project to highlight. Angel agreed to organize the project, with the option of
2 council member participation in advance of the meeting in Spokane on October 19th.

3 **Break and Tour of Riverfront Park Xeriscape Garden:** Paula led council members on a walk to the
4 garden where WSU Master Gardener Terry Anderson gave a tour explaining the history and interesting
5 facts about the xeriscape garden.

6 **2017 Grant Cycle:** Background - Traditionally small grants have been offered to communities each year
7 in the fall; community forestry assistance, TCUSA tree planting, and tree inventory grants have been the
8 most recent grant themes. Perhaps due to the size of the grants (\$7500 - \$15,000), with the exception of
9 the inventory grant, UCF has received fewer proposals every year, and most from non-profit
10 organizations. The inventory grant, though popular, collects data on a very limited number of trees
11 within a community. While local projects are important to individual communities, with the declining
12 interest, UCF is considering using funding to complete larger scale projects that will more broadly assist
13 Washington communities, similar in nature to the Master Gardener Online Tree Stewardship Series.
14 Questions posed to the council, 'Is the program adequately supporting our municipal targets? Should
15 there be a new focus for grants?'

16 Council discussion ensued, resulting in the following suggestions: support research to promote the
17 positive economic and social benefits of urban forestry, offer grants for maintenance that will support
18 low income households, or support incentives for ongoing maintenance, ensure greater community
19 investment by communities by requiring outreach and education as a condition of a grant awards in
20 order to expand program recognition, consider extending funding over multiple years to assure
21 establishment of trees and projects, support student projects and research at the university level, offer
22 scholarships for projects and research, establish demonstration pruning projects.

23 **Meeting wrap-up:** Sheila reminded council members that the next meeting will be in Spokane. Since this
24 will be the last meeting before the annual meeting next year, nominations will be taken for next year's
25 leadership; chair and co-chair. Sheila called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

26 **Meeting Adjourned:** motion Angel, second Lisa. 3:30 p.m.

27 **Next meeting:** Spokane Finch Arboretum, October 19.