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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **February 28, 2018**
4 **Olympia, WA**
5

6 **Members Attending:** Angel Spell, Cindy Deffe (by phone a.m.), Dave Bayard, David Miller, John
7 Bornsworth, Juli Hartwig, Kirsten Lints, Linden Lampman, Lisa Ciecko, Kathleen Wolf, Kathy Sheehan

8 **Members Absent:** Paula Dinius, Semra Riddle

9 **Guests:** Ben Thompson, Tom Bugert

10 **Meeting Convened:** 9:13 a.m.

11 **Agenda Approved:** Motion to approve agenda Kirsten Lints, second Lisa Ciecko . Motion carried.

12 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve minutes from November 14, 2018 conference call, Kirsten Lints.
13 Dave Bayard, second. Motion carried.

14 **Council Elections:** Call for nominations for chair and vice-chair for 2019. Motion by Kathleen Wolf to
15 approve slate of candidates - Angel Spell, Chair, Lisa Ciecko, Vice-Chair; second by Juli Hartwig. Motion
16 carried. One abstention.

17 Council inquired about vacant council positions and discussed potential candidates to fill seats Forterra,
18 TNC, TPL or the Tacoma Tree Foundation (TTF) were suggested for non-profit. Juli suggested a former
19 co-worker for Landscape Architect position. Linden plans to reach out to organizations. Potential
20 interest in Municipal forester from Walla Walla.

21 **DNR updates – attached**

- 22 • Discussed current grant programs and refinements to consider for the next Environmental Justice
23 Grant Request for Proposals

24 **Tom Bugert, DNR Senior Strategic Advisor**

25 [Council introduces themselves to Tom in a round-robin format at his request]

26 On behalf of Commissioner Franz, Mr. Bugert thanked the council for their advocacy for urban forestry
27 in Washington and reported on legislation activity as it relates to urban forestry. Thanks to stormwater
28 and salmon recovery efforts, there is increasing interest in UCF. However, we need to do better at telling
29 the story of the contribution **trees** make to stormwater mitigation, clean water, and quality of life in WA
30 communities.

1 Tom is planning to testify on behalf of the agency in regard to the HEAL Act. There are existing tools that
2 agencies and programs can use to guide environmental justice investments. He will highlight the
3 relevancy of UCF in that context.

4 Discussion points:

- 5 • Regarding the environmental resiliency (ER) budget request: Budget writing is now starting in
6 earnest with a mid-March completion date. The Governor’s budget did not include UCF investments,
7 but DNE is advocating for the full ER budget request, which does include urban forestry.
- 8 • Interest in UCF is being generated in context of stormwater mitigation investments.
- 9 • Regarding the council work plan that includes environmental justice, advocacy, and
10 communication/marketing: The biggest gap as far as advocacy is representation by stakeholders.
11 Stakeholder voices don’t necessarily have to address technical issues. Suggestion to invite
12 stakeholders to Council meetings as guest speakers to raise awareness on both sides, and to engage
13 with stakeholders directly to establish strong relationships.
- 14 • Council can request the Commissioner’s assistance to tap specific stakeholders (Foundations, Non-
15 profits) since she has broad connections.
- 16 • Arbor Day events provide opportunities to raise awareness of UCF across the state. Executive
17 management is invited to participate.
- 18 • Regarding advocacy: Advocacy needs to be vertical, as well as lateral. Council requested assistance
19 from the Commissioner and DNR Leadership. Council needs a voice in governance since key
20 thoughts and political activity is initiated at this level. Leadership to leadership is important
21 especially in the context of finance/budget. Representative Jayapal is interested in partnering the
22 DNR, and UCF is at the top of the list.
23 Research notes and documents expressing the value of UCF in cities are especially helpful, (e.g.
24 [Cascading Benefits](#) from the Nature Conservancy). The council is available to answer technical
25 questions.
- 26 • Regarding Wildfire and Uplands: Connections between rural/urban communities is a priority for the
27 Commissioner. Urban spaces may hold solutions for broader problems; there is a lot of opportunity
28 across the entire scope of natural resources.
- 29 • Regarding work force: Forestry in general has experienced a decline in workforce. We need to
30 invest in education from K-12 through college and elevate the visibility of natural resources as a
31 viable career option. Council might consider a “deep dive” into this topic.
- 32 • Suggestion to ask for more specific information about how council can assist and advise
33 Commissioner. Recommendation to follow meeting with a summary letter to the CPL.
- 34 • DNR is looking at what the biggest scientific questions are that relate to DNR programs and services

35 **Working lunch, updates and networking:** Open discussion time. Topics submitted for discussion are
36 attached.

37 **Work Session** – Plan of work – a focus on actionable items to be addressed during 2019.

- 38 • **Equity:**
 - 39 ○ Continue investments and work in this area. UCF can be in a leadership position within the
40 agency.
 - 41 ○ Consider exploring connections between local climate effects and localized equity impacts

- 1 • **Communication:**
- 2 ○ Important to communicate about investments and successes.
- 3 ○ Integrate equity into the business of UCF; invite new council members with diversity in mind.
- 4 ○ Highlight EJ-focused groups in Tree Link; “Faces of Urban Forestry” a good platform.
- 5 ○ Suggest EJ training for Council members.
- 6 ○ Suggest engaging services of professional videographer, or intern for FB Live and other social
- 7 media events.
- 8 • **Advocacy:**
- 9 ○ Follow-up letter to Commission Franz with meeting summary and offer of assistance.
- 10 ○ Use council/program momentum to advocate for a part-time position that supports urban
- 11 forestry
- 12 **Strategic Planning for UCF Program:** Staff request to update strategic plan in preparation for Forest
- 13 Action Plan update. Linden will begin this soon, and will keep Council informed of progress.
- 14 **Motion to adjourn meeting,** Lisa; second David Miller
- 15 **Meeting Adjourned: 3:15 p.m.**
- 16 **Next meeting:** May 14, Spokane. Location to be determined.