



1
2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **November 2, 2022**
4 **Conference Call- Zoom**
5

6 **Members Attending:** Cindy, Deffe, Semra Riddle, Jess Stone, Ben Thompson, Juli Hartwig, Tim Kohlhauff,
7 Kirsten Lints, Stephen Baker, Kathy Wolfe, Ian Gray, Jessi Bloom, David Miller, Lynn Suksdorf, David
8 Bayard

9 **Members Absent:** Soileil Lewis, John Bornsworth, Janet St Claire, Margaret Brost

10 **Guests:** Andy Tate, Garth Davis, Jessica Lloyd, Daria Gosztyla, Julia Kast, Stefan Petrovic, Rebecca Brown,
11 Jen Watkins, Karen Ripley

12 **Meeting Convened:** 10:34 a.m.

13 **Welcome:** Call to order. Roll was taken. Chair welcomed members and guests and participants
14 introduced themselves. Review of agenda and previous meetings minutes. Council thanked David Miller,
15 Kirsten Lints and Cindy Deffe for their service and final meeting with the council.

16 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve agenda and meeting minutes from September 13, 2022. Lynn
17 Suksdorf moved and David Miller seconded motion. Unanimous approval.

18 **Introduction of DNR Policy Specialist, Stefan Petrovic and Evergreen Communities Coordinator, Julia**
19 **Kast**

20 Stefan started in August as the Boards and Commissions Manager from their previous role working with
21 Governor Inslee. Part of his role is to embed environmental justice principles into operations and
22 protocols for councils like the WA Community Forestry and throughout DNR. Stefan is also developing
23 processes to streamline appointments to boards. Julia started in her role yesterday and will start the
24 process of developing the Evergreen Community recognition program.

25 **Federal Legislative and Budget Update**

26 Stephen discussed the funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and Inflation Reduction Act. He
27 expects there to be some announcement in the upcoming months and opportunities soon for state level
28 programs to request additional funding for their programs. A big focus of the funding is on underserved
29 communities. Urban and Community Forestry was designated one of the Justice 40 program – an
30 initiative to direct 40% of funding to benefit underserved communities. Stephen expects additional
31 guidance on this soon. He emphasized the important to consider programs, not just projects, and to
32 think about increasing capacity and growing existing programs. Questions were discussed about how
33 best to get funds where need is greatest, to smaller and local organizations where capacity may be
34 limited and barriers exist to apply for grant funding. Stephen encouraged the council to start discussing

1 ideas. The council commented on the limits of tree planting on public lands. Stephen recognized the
2 needs and interest on private land for tree maintenance and other urban forestry activities. The council
3 asked about guidance on identifying underserved communities. Stephen mentioned some efforts to
4 provide guidance and principles on the national level for all agencies to follow and mentioned some of
5 the tools already available in WA.

6 **5 Minute Break for council**

7 **Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead—Land Development and Cover**

8 Rebecca is the Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead (HSIL) from the DNR Aquatics department. She discussed
9 the Puget Sound National Estuary Program which gets support from the National Estuary Program (NEP),
10 a non-regulatory program that improves habitat and water quality throughout the country. The HSIL
11 Habitat Strategic Initiative is led by DNR and WDFW funded through EPA Cooperative Agreements with
12 the goal to enable and accelerate habitat protection and restoration. Rebecca highlighted one of the
13 implementation strategies related to land development. One initiative is to reduce conversion of
14 ecologically important lands for development, another is a working lands strategy. She highlighted
15 different ways the initiatives are being implemented, particularly through funding opportunities.
16 Proposals from \$200,000-\$800,000 are available for projects from 2-4 years in length. Most state
17 agencies, tribes, local jurisdictions and non-profit organizations are eligible. Applications are due
18 December 6, 2022. Limited to the Puget Sound region or within the watershed.

19 **Emerald Ash Borer in the PNW**

20 Karen Ripley is a Forest Entomologist with the USFS who specializes in invasive species. She presented
21 on the recent outbreak of emerald ash borer in Forest Grove, OR. It was determined that the beetles
22 have probably been there for 3-5 years based on the findings from the infestation. Karen discussed the
23 history of EAB infestations in the US, the devastating impacts, and some mitigation and management
24 recommendations. She explained some of the methods for observing different stages for the signs and
25 symptoms of an EAB infestation, which included removal of upper branches to examine that bark as a
26 method to find an early infestation. WA only has one native ash tree (*Fraxinus latifolia*) and it plays an
27 important role in the ecosystem in riparian areas. It is expected that the impacts will lead to high costs in
28 urban forestry – estimated to be \$290/tree for removal and \$387/tree for replacement (costs estimated
29 for PDX). DNR has been aggregating tree inventory data to understand the % ash species and impacts
30 across cities in WA. Oregon has been conducting visual surveys on public and private property (with
31 landowner permissions). Karen shared the current detection map from Oregon and different methods

32 <http://oda.fyi/AshDash>

33 The council discussed recommendations for restoring and replacing native ash in riparian areas, which
34 species will serve the same ecological function and what is DNR doing to help this. The council also
35 discussed pest detector training and opportunities for partnerships with utilities that work directly with
36 private landowners.

37 **Break for council (lunch)**

1 **WA DNR UCF Strategic Plan**

2 Ben presented the WA DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program Strategy Discussion Document. The
3 document aggregates strategic initiatives related to UCF across different plans and initiatives within
4 DNR. Ben asked for feedback from the council. Some initial feedback was to include language and
5 clarifications for a broader audience – for things like canopy cover, tree equity score, and the
6 relationship between urban forestry and improving quality of life. The council also suggested to improve
7 the vision statement. The council discussed the metrics and to examine them closely to understand if
8 they are a metric of the goals the program aims to achieve. The council also discussed providing
9 definitions for certain terms throughout the document for “highly impacted communities” and
10 “underserved communities” and people with “high environmental health disparities”. The council
11 discussed the different components of the strategic plan and the timeline for the implementation. The
12 council mentioned the importance of including milestones to understand and celebrate progress of
13 implementation of the strategic plan. The council also highlighted the possibility of having two
14 documents – one for the strategic plan and another for an implementation plan. This document mends
15 the higher level vision with some more specific implementation elements. The council also suggested
16 integrating the Equity and Environmental Justice section throughout the other goals.

17 **DNR Legislative Decision Package for UCF**

18 Ben presented the legislative decision package “Urban and Community Forestry: Empowering
19 communities to equitable increase urban tree canopy”. The request is for \$8 million and included
20 increasing the Community Forestry Assistance Grants, Youth Conservation Corps crews, Tree Equity
21 mapping, support for cities in adopting and updating tree ordinances, and increases program capacity
22 and data management. Part of the funding for grants is intended to help support grant applicants
23 through the process and provide direct assistance for projects that are funded.

24 **Nominations for 2023 Council Leadership positions**

25 The council asked about open positions and the time limits for the positions. The council currently elects
26 the chair and vice-chair for leadership positions. The elected positions don’t have term limits but they
27 are elected each year.

28 **Nominations for Chair**

29 Semra Riddle, Margaret Brost, Jess Stone, John Bornsworth

30 **Nominations for Vice-Chair**

31 John Bornsworth, Jess Stone, Ian Gray, Margaret Brost, Kathleen Wolf

32 **2023 WCFC Meeting Dates**

33 The council historically meets the 1st or 2nd Tuesday of each month. It is required to have one annual
34 meeting, historically in February. In 2022 4 additional meetings were hosted. The council suggested
35 keeping the 5 meeting schedule and one in-person meeting. They also mentioned having the
36 Commissioner attend one of the meetings, likely in April after the legislative session. The council
37 decided to propose Wednesdays as a meeting date and established the following dates for the council
38 meetings in 2023:

39 February 8, 2023 – annual meeting

1 April 12, 2023 – also official WA Arbor Day

2 June 7, 2023 – possible in person meeting

3 September 13, 2023

4 November 1, 2023

5 **Adjourn: 1:57 PM**

6 **Next Meeting:** February 8, 2023 at 10:30-2:00pm (virtual meeting).

7 **Zoom meeting chat:**

8 10:33:23 From Juli Hartwig (WSDOT) to Everyone:

9 Good morning everyone. FYI - I will need to step away for 15 min at around 10:45 to drop my
10 mom off at her medical appt. Thanks for your understanding.

11 10:33:45 From Ben Thompson - DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:

12 No worries Juli!

13 10:43:30 From Jess Lloyd, WA DNR, she/her to Everyone:

14 Thanks David!

15 10:44:48 From Tim Kohlhauff to Everyone:

16 Thank you all!

17 10:54:45 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:

18 Stef, you described streamlining appointments to boards. Might you also (in time) streamline
19 the equity an environmental justice activities/procedures?

20 10:58:15 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:

21 Just a thought, it seems that our position replacements are dependent on informal networks
22 and internal organization outreach. I suggest that there could be a DNR infrastructure for outreach to
23 elevate the visibility and impact of board positions, thus perhaps expanding candidate pools (particularly
24 with regard to diversity).

25 11:03:54 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:

26 Is there guidance on underserved communities and which areas to target?

27 11:26:10 From Ian Gray - Municipal Forestry representative to Everyone:

28 Hi Jess, in Renton we leverage census block data to look at income levels by city planning area or
29 even neighborhood. That often (stands to reason...) correlates with areas that have typically been
30 'underserved'. Usually that means higher heat indices, lower canopy cover and plenty of vacant tree
31 planting spots - these are separates data sets or algorithms but they do often over lap and serve to build
32 a picture both of the equity or environmental justice piece and ultimately where we should concentrate
33 tree planting efforts for example.

34 11:26:13 From Stephen Baker (USFS R6/R10) to Everyone:

35 Currently, the Forest Service has an Equity Action Plan that aligns with Executive Order 13985
36 (Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government). I
37 imagine we'll see more specific guidance soon as part of formal direction related to the Inflation
38 Reduction Action. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/equity-action-plan>

39 11:34:49 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:

40 Any prize for finding the kitty in the slide?

41 11:40:41 From Semra Riddle to Everyone:

42 <https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/habitat-sil-rfp/>

43 11:41:29 From Ben Thompson - DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:

44 Thank you Rebecca for a wonderful presentation!

45 11:44:55 From Ben Thompson - DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:

1 Our program has been wrestling with this very difficult challenge for a few years now, so you
2 aren't alone rebecca!

3 11:45:51 From Tim Kohlhauff to Everyone:
4 Thank you Rebecca!

5 11:46:45 From Jess Lloyd, WA DNR, she/her to Everyone:
6 [https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/times-watchdog/snoqualmie-tribe-says-forterra-](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/times-watchdog/snoqualmie-tribe-says-forterra-misled-it-feds-in-20-million-grant-application/)
7 [misled-it-feds-in-20-million-grant-application/](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/times-watchdog/snoqualmie-tribe-says-forterra-misled-it-feds-in-20-million-grant-application/)

8 11:54:50 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
9 The range map, not seeing presence in the warmer south. Interesting as many invasives favor
10 warmer climates.

11 11:56:37 From Cindy Deffe to Everyone:
12 Karen would you share your slides?

13 11:57:29 From Daria Gosztyla to Everyone:
14 http://www.emeraldshorer.info/timeline/by_county/index.html

15 11:58:10 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
16 Toledo pic of tree loss - was also human health concern:
17 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0749379712008045>

18 12:00:48 From Daria Gosztyla to Everyone:
19 **Data has been updated with new counts from Seattle and Spokane in the past 2 weeks

20 12:00:58 From Ian Gray - Municipal Forestry representative to Everyone:
21 That count for ash in Renton is totally wrong - ~850 out of 117,000

22 12:06:03 From Jess Lloyd, WA DNR, she/her to Everyone:
23 http://www.emeraldshorer.info/documents/Multistate_EAB_Insecticide_Fact_Sheet.pdf

24 12:07:08 From Jess Lloyd, WA DNR, she/her to Everyone:
25 and thanks Ian - we can let Drew know to take a look at that and reach out to you

26 12:09:00 From Daria Gosztyla to Everyone:
27 It was a graph of total tree inventory counts instead of counts for ash population... to show the
28 variation of the size of inventories that we have access to. Most of the inventories are sample
29 inventories.

30 12:10:26 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
31 And are not most inventories of public property trees? Any way to estimate private property
32 populations?

33 12:10:50 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
34 Thank you, Karen. Very informative.

35 12:17:32 From Ian Gray - Municipal Forestry representative to Everyone:
36 I have been noticing that developers and planners have been slow to understand the EAB
37 problem and Fraxinus still appears on recommended street tree lists...

38 12:18:40 From Jess Lloyd, WA DNR, she/her to Everyone:
39 <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/ofpd>

40 12:26:43 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
41 My sincere apology for my rather incoherent comment earlier. I was unexpectedly distracted
42 just before it became my turn and I did not have my thoughts together as planned. I should have
43 lowered my hand.

44 12:36:03 From rebecca brown (DNR) to Everyone:
45 interesting presentation on the EAB. It was a big deal in Minneapolis and St. Paul in 2012 as we
46 were tracking it's advance towards and across the Mississippi River. I worked for NPS at the time and I
47 still have the informational pen I designed all about EAB.

48 12:36:52 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
49 Rebecca, info pen, what a cool public outreach strategy!

50 12:38:30 From David Bayard (he/him) to Everyone:
51 BRB

1 12:46:08 From Cindy Deffe to Everyone:
2 We need to increase focus on the maintenance of existing trees. Heat and drought (followed by
3 pests) have impacted existing large trees in communities across the state. We need to look at how we
4 can minimize canopy losses.
5 12:47:53 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:
6 Ben, can you please re-send this document?
7 12:47:58 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:
8 Thanks!
9 12:55:50 From David Bayard (he/him) to Everyone:
10 back
11 13:03:39 From Andy Tate to Everyone:
12 <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=19.405.020>
13 13:03:49 From Daria Gosztyla to Everyone:
14 From HB1216: "Highly impacted community" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
15 19.405.020 or an equivalent cumulative impacts analysis that identifies the environmental health
16 conditions of communities as a factor of both environmental health hazards and vulnerable populations
17 as defined in RCW 19.405.020.
18 13:04:46 From Ben Thompson - DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:
19 23) "Highly impacted community" means a community designated by the department of health
20 based on cumulative impact analyses in RCW 19.405.140 or a community located in census tracts that
21 are fully or partially on "Indian country" as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151.
22 13:05:18 From Ben Thompson - DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:
23 (40) "Vulnerable populations" means communities that experience a disproportionate
24 cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to:
25 13:08:14 From Tim Kohlhauff to Everyone:
26 Here is the rest of the "Vulnerable populations" definition at the end of (40) (a) Adverse
27 socioeconomic factors, including unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to
28 income, access to food and health care, and linguistic isolation; and
29 (b) Sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization.
30 13:14:14 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
31 Re: community climate plans: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/62807>
32 13:21:44 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:
33 Can that apply to county ordinances as well? or is it specific to Cities?
34 13:34:56 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:
35 nominate the current chair and vice-chair to continue on being awesome in their positions.
36 13:35:09 From Ben Thompson - DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:
37 John Bornsworth, Soleil Lewis, Janet St. Clair, and Margaret Brost are not here today
38 13:35:30 From Ben Thompson - DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:
39 Jessi Bloom was here earlier but is not here at the moment
40 13:35:46 From Ian Gray - Municipal Forestry representative to Everyone:
41 I nominate the current leadership to renew/ remain the same if they are willing 😊
42 13:35:49 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
43 John Bornsworth has been vice chair, yes? Willing to serve as chair?
44 13:35:53 From David Bayard (he/him) to Everyone:
45 I'll nominate Jess Stone for either role.
46 13:35:58 From Ben Thompson - DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:
47 I would like to nominate Margaret Brost as Chair and Jess Stone as vice Chair.
48 13:36:42 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
49 As a new member, I appreciate Semra's leadership and would nominate her for another term.
50 13:37:01 From Ben Thompson - DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:
51 I will nominate John Bornsworth as Chair

1 13:37:14 From Ben Thompson - DNR UCF Program Manager to Everyone:
2 And will nominate Ian Gray for Vice Chair
3 13:37:36 From Juli Hartwig (WSDOT) to Everyone:
4 I nominate Semra as Chair and Margaret as Vice Chair
5 13:37:55 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
6 I would nominate Kathleen Wolf as Vice Chair.
7 13:42:27 From Ian Gray - Municipal Forestry representative to Everyone:
8 I'm in favor of a 5 meeting schedule and an in-person summer meet up
9 13:42:59 From Juli Hartwig (WSDOT) to Everyone:
10 I agree with Ian's suggestion above
11 13:43:11 From Tim Kohlhauff to Everyone:
12 I also agree with Ian's suggestion
13 13:43:18 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:
14 I second Ian's comment
15 13:43:48 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
16 Or the meeting where we traditionally interact with the Commissioner - in person?
17 13:43:56 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
18 Five seems good, but six might be good, with the sixth being in person.
19 13:43:58 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:
20 In person on the condition that DNR provides doughnuts
21 13:44:17 From Andy Tate to Everyone:
22 We have a form for that!
23 13:44:22 From Ian Gray - Municipal Forestry representative to Everyone:
24 I often have city staff meetings Tuesday afternoons
25 13:45:54 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
26 Wednesdays are best for me as I have Sr. Leadership meetings on some Tuesdays.
27 13:46:10 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
28 April, yes! Invite the Commish to tee up any legislative/policy stuff for the autumn
29 13:46:27 From Tim Kohlhauff to Everyone:
30 8th is better for me
31 13:46:28 From David Bayard (he/him) to Everyone:
32 Weds are better for me too. I vote 2nd week Feb.
33 13:46:47 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
34 Feb. 8 works well
35 13:47:28 From Tim Kohlhauff to Everyone:
36 April 12 is good for me
37 13:47:32 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
38 Sounds good for the 12th
39 13:48:38 From David Bayard (he/him) to Everyone:
40 W/O April 10 is my kids' spring break, but don't let that stop you.
41 13:49:54 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
42 either date in April would be fine for me
43 13:50:06 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:
44 not this far out
45 13:50:14 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
46 Sorry, June.
47 13:50:26 From David Bayard (he/him) to Everyone:
48 7th is better for me - 14th is first day of summer break!
49 13:50:37 From Ian Gray - Municipal Forestry representative to Everyone:
50 early june, I think, have wedding to go to un UK...
51 13:50:57 From rebecca brown (DNR) to Everyone:

1 Thank you everyone for letting me join your meeting today. Please feel free to reach out with
2 questions or ideas for collaboration! Rebecca.brown@dnr.wa.gov.
3 13:51:12 From Ian Gray - Municipal Forestry representative to Everyone:
4 sept 13th
5 13:52:25 From Jess Stone - Pierce County Parks to Everyone:
6 both look good
7 13:52:27 From lynn.suksdorf to Everyone:
8 either is fine
9 13:52:37 From Juli Hartwig (WSDOT) to Everyone:
10 either is fine
11 13:52:41 From Kirsten to Everyone:
12 Adding this as a tree related extra. Plant Amnesty was featured in a King 5 Evening TV article and
13 hoping this link works:
14 [https://www.king5.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/evening/washingtons-weirdest-](https://www.king5.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/evening/washingtons-weirdest-and-most-wonderful-trees/281-7c935156-d344-4b9f-bb92-e3a08e5fad18)
15 [and-most-wonderful-trees/281-7c935156-d344-4b9f-bb92-e3a08e5fad18](https://www.king5.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/evening/washingtons-weirdest-and-most-wonderful-trees/281-7c935156-d344-4b9f-bb92-e3a08e5fad18)
16
17 Thank you all for a wonderful experience even thru Covid (!) and I've greatly enjoyed being a
18 liaison between and supporting both the Council and WSNLA. Best of wishes!
19 13:54:32 From Kathleen Wolf (she/her) to Everyone:
20 Also, think about places with good flight access and hotels.
21 13:56:48 From Cindy Deffe to Everyone:
22 Thanks from me as well. This has been an awesome experience. I loved working with all of you.
23 take care!
24 13:57:35 From Julia Kast (she/her) to Everyone:
25 It was nice to meet everyone! My email is Julia.Kast@dnr.wa.gov