Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting
November 4, 2015
Teleconference

Members Attending: Sheila Gray, Chair; Lisa Ciecko, Brian Cramer, Paula Dinius, Juli Hartwig, Jheri Ketchum, Linden Lampman, Daniel Layton, Kirsten Lints, David Miller, Joe Scorcio, Kathy Sheehan; Cindy Deffe', David Erickson

Members Absent: Garth Davis, Terry Flatley, Kathy Wolf

Guests: Ben Thompson; Micki McNaughton (first ½ hour); Ken Elliot, (Minutes)

Meeting Convened: 9:05 a.m.

Welcome: Gray welcomed council members and asked for a verbal roll call.

Minutes Approved: Motion to approve minutes from the September 9, 2015 meeting: Joe Scorcio; second: David Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Approved: Motion to approve agenda with no additions, Cindy Deffe; second, Joe Scorcio.

DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report: Reports by Linden Lampman, Micki McNaughton and Ben Thompson, in order.

Report by Lampman:

Puget Sound Partnership is updating its Action Agenda for the new biennium. UCF proposed two Near Term Actions (NTA), one to inventory and assess urban areas within the region to identify areas where there is potential to increase canopy (plant trees), and provide technical assistance to communities to manage planting project. The second proposed to work with Puget Sound Conservation Districts to facilitate development of best management plans and level of service documentation for residents.

UCF is working Plan-It Geo, LLC to analyze tree inventory data collected over the last several years through our tree inventory grants. The project will aggregate inventory data to a geodatabase into which additional data can be merged, and will begin to describe the structure, function and value of trees in Washington communities.

The urban wood utilization project is crafting items from donated/milled/dried wood. The program has donated several items to non-profit and charitable organizations. The project which has been popular with cities, will continue into the new year however, grant funding (through the US Forest Service) will run out for the demonstration project by the end of the first quarter. Staff is
investigating partnerships that may potentially extend and sustain the program. A “task book” that documents the skills acquired by program participants has been created. Inmates can use the book, when seeking employment once released. Several items have been donated to non-profits; Boys and Girls Club of Thurston County; Department of Social and Health Services for the Combined Fund Drive, Little Rock School. Council members who know of charitable non-profit organizations that may benefit through donations of crafted wood products should contact Linden.

A question was raised about whether the carpentry project task book will have a completion certificate associated with it. There is a certificate, at the back of the book if all tasks are completed, but it is designed so that each task can be completed and documented individually. Participants do not need to complete the entire book to demonstrate that they have learned a significant number of skills. Lampman will forward a copy to Council members, for their review.

The application for funding through Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) National Disaster Resiliency Grant has been submitted; announcement of successful applications is anticipated in January. In preparation for the grant, UCF is working to prepare a roster of consulting arborists who are qualified to prepare urban forestry management plans.

The Community Tree Management Institute will be held in fall 2016. Lampman asked the Council to help market the program to allied professions and municipalities. A marketing brochure is being developed for that purpose. At council’s request, staff will prepare an introductory statement to embed in email with the brochure as an attachment. Council members are encouraged to edit the statement to match the interests of the target audience.

The team attended the PNW ATC conference in Bend OR. There Lampman informally polled commercial arborists about hiring former inmates, this in preparation for a cooperative training program at Cedar Creek Corrections facility through the Sustainability in Prisons program. The training would be designed to prepared individuals for work in the arboriculture field, once released from the prison system.

October was Urban and Community Forestry Month. Several communities held Arbor Day events including Seattle, Kirkland, and Kent. Scorcio attended Kent’s Arbor Day and reported that the event was successful and enjoyable. Gray mentioned that she attended Centralia and Yelm’s Arbor Days this spring. She agreed with Scorcio that the events are great fun.

The Community Accomplishment Reporting System (CARS) was completed and sent to the US Forest Service. The program increased technical assistance this year. Lampman recognized Ben Thompson and Micki McNaughton’s efforts, to assist communities through the Urban Forestry Restoration Program and Urban Forestry Seminar Series.

Lampman met with King County Conservation District about a potential collaboration to assist municipalities in King County to develop sustainable UCF programs.

The Tree Inventory Grant data collection is just about wrapped up. Reports are being prepared for communities.

**Report by McNaughton:**

This year’s Urban Forestry Restoration Project. Puget Sound Corps crews were funded by the legislature through the next biennium. McNaughton’s position is funded through a US Forest Service Western Competitive Grant.
Question arose about from where the crews are recruited.

**Report by Thompson:**

Grants: Lampman recognized Ken Elliot for creating the fillable forms that can be completed and sent electronically. The first year UCF has tried this.

Questions arose about the Tree City USA application process.

**Report by Kathy Sheehan:**

A 2-year federal budget bill was passed by Congress and signed by the President. This budget sets the overall amounts for FY16 and FY17. The next step is to approve spending bills for individual agencies at which time funding will be announced for UCF programs. The President’s initial FY16 budget proposal included $20 million for UCF (= a ~30% cut from previous year), which is roughly the amount allocated during the UCF's 1st year (1995).

The USFS’s current Director of State & Private Forestry (Teresa Raaf) is retiring in mid-December. It is hoped that the new Director will be selected before that time.

The monthly Urban Forest Connections webinars combine presentations on science and policy or applications for a wide range of urban and community forestry topics. These are generally presented on the 2nd Wed of each month, although November will be skipped since many will be attending the Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Denver. For more info and to listen to podcasts of previous webinars, go to this website: [www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/](http://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/)

**Council Business:**

**Council Leadership Nominations:** Gray asked for nominations for leadership roles on the council for 2016.

- Chair – Sheila was nominated by Juli Hartwig to continue as chair. 2nd ??
- Co-Chair – Terry Flatley was nominated by Sheila to continue as co-chair. 2nd ??

**Meeting Schedules for 2016:** After discussion, it was decided to have 3 meetings instead of 4. Motion to approve the following schedule for 2016, Joe Scorcio; second, David Erickson.

- February 17th, in Olympia
- June 8th, in Wenatchee
- October 19th, in Spokane

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn, Cindy Deffe; second, Kirsten Lints.