Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting
November 14, 2018
Conference Call

Members Attending: Angel Spell, Cindy Deffe, Dave Bayard, John Bornsworth, Juli Hartwig, Kirsten Lints, Linden Lampman, Lisa Ciecko, Paula Dinius, Semra Riddle, Kathleen Wolf, Ken Armstrong, Kathy Sheehan

Members Absent: David Miller, Peter Dervin

Guests: Ben Thompson, Julie Sackett, Joanna Eide

Meeting Convened: 9:00 a.m.

Welcome: Chair welcomed members. Roll was taken.

DNR Legislative Director, Joanna Eide

• Discussed budget decision packets (budget request) submitted for the next biennium.
  o Wildfire/Forest Health (WF/FH)
  o Rural Communities
  o Environmental Resiliency (ER)
• These budget decision packages include far more operational dollars than has been requested in years past.
• UCF is specifically mentioned in the ER packet; FTEs in WF/FH budget include UCF position
• Governor’s budget will be determined by mid-December
• Letters of support should be sent now; good to address a couple vs. single issue
• Question whether as an advisory committee, the council needs approval from Commissioner to send a letter of support
  o Eide will check and provide follow-up information
• ER budget packet forwarded to Council; Linden to provide WF/FH

Minutes Approved: Motion to approve minutes from 9/12/18 Paula Dinius; second, Lisa Ciecko and SECONDED

Agenda Approved: Motion to approve agenda Juli Hartwig; second, Lisa Ciecko

Julie Sackett, Forest Health Division Manager on behalf of George Geisler:

• The agency has a lot of boards and commissions (B&C). There is interest in trying to coordinate their efforts but not without sacrificing B&C identities,
• FH is officially a new division at DNR. Julie is the Division Manager. UCF is housed in this new division
• Urban forestry is implicated in two budget decision packets: WF/FH and ER
• WF/FH budget decision packet includes 30 season wildland firefighters who will assist with community engagement/fire assessment as well as implementing prescribed fire actions; includes one full time employee to assist UCF program.
• ER budget decision packet includes funding for new UCF staff and funding to support green infrastructure work in cities.
• Would be good to include FH/WF request in a council letter of support

**Motion:** Council to write a letter to governor’s office in support of WF/FH and ER budget request: Semra; John second. Motion carried.

**Discussion:**

• Recommend to send by end of November
• Lisa to initiate draft, Ben to add technical language
• Julie S. to check with Joanna to make sure Commissioner supports advocacy

**Dates for 2019 council meetings:** Angel sent a poll to determine meetings. Lisa suggested an extended meeting in Olympia. The following dates were approved:

• February 27, Olympia (possibly a multi-day meeting, TBD)
• May 14, Spokane (Host: Angel)
• September 11, Seattle (Co-Hosts: Lisa and Dave B.)
• November 13, Conference Call

Linden will send Outlook calendar appointments for all meetings.

**Planning for 2019:**

• Discussion of council priorities, three topics of focus
  • Continue Equity work
  • Increase advocacy in support of budget requests for program growth
  • Increase communication and media marketing for UCF program
    • New “Faces of UCF” section in Tree Link is an opportunity to raise awareness of UCF and recognize individuals statewide; Council members encouraged to contribute or nominate a candidate.

**Nominations for Council Executive Positions:** Call for nominations for chair and vice-chair for 2019.

• Cindy nominated Angel; second, Juli
• Angel nominated Lisa; second, Juli

Motion carried.

**Other Items:**

• Topic for 2019 seminar series is “Trees and Development”
• Dave B. reported that the Partners in Community Forestry Conference was excellent. He highly recommends council members attendance next year in Ohio.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:00 a.m.

Next meeting: Olympia, location TBD