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4 **WCFC Meeting**
5 **February 7, 2007**
6 **Natural Resources Building, Room 172**
7 **1111 Washington Street SE**
8 **Olympia, WA**
9

10
11 **Members present:** Neil Burkhardt, Sandy Salisbury, Kathy Wolf, Joe Scorcio, Sarah Griffith, Barbara
12 Hollenbeck, Terry Flatley, Rich Baker, Steve Dubiel, and Marilyn Hyde
13

14 **Members not present:** Linda Vane, Jeff Beckwith, Jim Flott, Marianne Ophardt, Kelly Puntaney, and
15 Bill Sanborn
16

17 **Guests:** Ben Thompson, Mark Gray, State Forester Vicki Christiansen, Commissioner Sutherland, and
18 Henry Hollweger
19

20 **Action Items:**

- 21 • Sarah will report later on how Audubon Washington is assisting in getting UCF back into the
22 Governor's budget.
23 • Sarah will invite DNR legislative affairs people to the May meeting.
24 • Sarah will follow up with Miguel Perez-Gibson on getting the environmental issues that
25 Conservation Coalition is focused on.
26 • Sarah will check on getting a UCF representative on the Conservation Coalition.
27 • Sarah will contact Neil Beaver from Lisa Brown's staff to inform them of the budget situation.
28 • Joe will keep the Council informed of any updates on the new American Planning Association
29 manual for urban planners to use in urban development.
30

31 **Welcome and Introductions - Chair**

32 Meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM by Chair Joe Scorcio. Welcome was given, and
33 introductions made.
34

35 **Agenda and August 9, 2006, Meeting Minutes – Chair**

36 Minutes and agenda were reviewed. Agenda was adjusted a bit due to schedules of Doug and
37 Vicki. November 8th meeting minutes were reviewed; Sandy moved to approve, Barbara
38 seconded. Approved. Action items were reviewed and discussed.
39

40 **U&CF Program Update – Sarah Griffith**

- 41 • There are 67 Tree City USA's; five new ones: Medina, Tonasket, Wenatchee, Winthrop,
42 Woodway
43 • Grant program to be announced to help get more Tree City's into the fold. \$80,000 will be
44 available.

- 1 • Volunteers needed to be on review committee. (Kathy, Marilyn, and Steve volunteered)
- 2 • Calling on members for assistance with Arbor Day. We aren't doing a luncheon this year.
- 3 We'll do it in even years.
- 4 • Poster contest entries are due March 16; "Trees are Terrific and Forests are too".
- 5 • Trees, People and the Law will be held in Seattle, May 1-2
- 6 • Ben's conducting regional workshops and conducting technical assistance.
- 7 • Ben's a participant in the Municipal Foresters Institute
- 8 • CTMI is starting in March, third time with ODF and DNR

9

10 **DNR Budget Update – Mark Gray**

11 UCF budget request didn't make it into the Governor's budget. Sarah will report later on how
12 Audubon Washington is assisting in getting it back in. Mark discussed how the Resource
13 Protection Division is funded, and where the budget is (UCF is in Resource Protection). The
14 Division is trying to change a main funding mechanism (forest protection assessments). We are
15 still very early in the session, and we are hopeful that the UCF piece will be added in.

16

17 Sarah discussed the relationship with Audubon Washington and gave an update that they are
18 supportive of the UCF Program. Miguel Perez-Gibson stated in a phone call to Sarah that put our
19 initial request (\$100,000) in the Conservation Caucus letter to the Governor and testified to
20 Appropriations Committee. The letter was presented at the testimony. They are hopeful and
21 pushing for the funding. It's very early in the process; they will continue to with DNR to keep
22 the process moving.

23

24 **Federal Budget Update – Barbara Hollenbeck**

25 USFS budget is a mess. Fiscal year 07 started on October 1, and there is no budget yet. They
26 have been operating on continuing resolutions to this point. There is an idea that they will pass
27 one big continuing resolution that will keep everything going for the entire year (September). It
28 would keep budget amounts at the 06 levels, with no earmarks. Tacoma had an earmark in the
29 budget that they will not receive. FY 08 will start on October 1, and the numbers for UCF are
30 down quite a bit. The president's budget takes UCF from \$28 million to \$17 million
31 (nationally). Ouch! It's not a pretty picture. The most power position to affect the budget is the
32 House Appropriations sub committee for Interior Chair, Norm Dicks. He's been supportive in
33 the past of Urban Forestry. Congress passed in 2000 the Secure Rural Schools and Community
34 Self-Determination Act. This ran out at the end of 2006 and was not reauthorized. Part of this
35 law affects urban forestry. This has a very big impact on King County's programs. UCF
36 programs changed a few years back from tree planting programs to tree management programs.
37 Now they are talking about working with critical landscapes. Congress doesn't hear from their
38 constituents. Everyone is encouraged to let their representatives (both state and federal) know
39 that urban forestry is important to Washington communities.

40

41 **Officer Elections for 2007 - All**

42 Officer Elections were held. Chair for 2007 will be Joe Scorcio, and Vice Chair will be Sandy
43 Salisbury. Congratulations!

44

45 **Legislative Strategy Discussion for 2007 - All**

1 Mark Gray kicked off the discussion about where to start the UCF discussion with the
2 Legislature. Sarah has been reviewing all bills that impact growth management, energy, and fire
3 risk to communities. This will help to find places where UCF ties in. It's also a good time to look
4 at the RCW that enables the Urban Forestry Program to exist. If it needs to be modified that
5 would be a good way to get attention for the program. That could be a double edged sword.
6 Sarah will invite DNR legislative affairs people to the May meeting. Puget Sound Initiative
7 would be a natural tie for UCF issues. Urban habitat and urban corridors would be the tie with
8 urban forestry. This is at least a foot in the door to the larger solution.

9
10 Kathy was in Washington DC for a Transportation Research Conference. The Sustainable Urban
11 Forestry Coalition was in DC at the same time and Kathy was able to join them in meetings on
12 The Hill. She met with different organizations, and with Congressional Representatives. She
13 was with a team including ISA American Forests and Alliance for Community Trees. They met
14 with a staff person for Rep. Norm Dicks. She was able to take information on Washington's
15 UCF Program specifically. They picked up on the Tree City USA Program. The messages that
16 came back; everyone is in defensive mode due to the budget situation. They want to know the
17 messages not just that urban forestry exists. They want to be shown what they get for the money
18 at the national level. What are the benefits; many of the benefits are difficult to demonstrate.
19 How do we show it on a map? The Forest Service is re-defining itself; perhaps this will be
20 defined as urban natural resource management (not urban forestry). Climate change, water
21 quality, and other issues are big issues. What do we do and how do we demonstrate that?

22
23 Would a strategy be to tell the state legislature that Arbor Day is in jeopardy? They want to know
24 how this impacts their constituents. Maps are important. How do we best package our
25 messages?

26
27 Forest Service staff got together and came up with a new slogan..."urban forestry is America's
28 front line defense against global climate change".

29
30 **Strategies:** Conservation coalition by intent is focused on environmental issues and we need to
31 meet with them and get the main messages. Sarah will follow up with Miguel and get those
32 issues. Second, who would be most receptive to our issues? How do we streamline this to be
33 most effective and efficient? Associations are also a way to take our message to a broader
34 audience. There are a number that can help carry our message. There are a number of new task
35 force/panels being formed that it would be helpful to get WCFC involved. Also, we should offer
36 to have a UCF representative on the conservation coalition. They would be available to show the
37 ties with UCF. How do we get an invitation? Sarah will check.

38
39 It is time to contact Neal Beaver; he is staffer for Senator Lisa Brown in Spokane. Sarah will
40 follow up to inform them of the budget situation.

41
42 We need to form a coalition of all the other groups that tie in our issues. It could be at two
43 different levels, legislative and coalitions. It would build our educational capacity. Visibility is
44 the key that we have been missing. How do we get from discussion to action? Kelly is good at
45 this and is a big benefit. His retirement party was a benefit for a trail through a green space.

1 **Meeting with Vicki Christiansen**

2 Vicki stated that she is here for us to talk to her and discuss how she can help us. Joe recapped
3 our discussion for legislative action. Step one, how do we get the funding request put in the
4 Governor's budget. Step two, how do we increase our visibility and form/join coalitions more
5 effectively.
6

7 Vicki suggested we look at opportunities for 2008 (starting now) and where the best opportunity
8 may exist. 2008 is the supplemental budget, and the story would have to be very compelling to
9 be considered. Given that we were asking for such a small amount, we need to keep that in
10 mind.
11

12 One concern we have is how to get our messages across: How do we best portray urban and
13 community forestry? Three big themes relating to natural resources right now are 1) Working
14 farms and forest (fragmentation issues), Future of Washington's Forest Report (UW) and how
15 things connect; 2) Forest Health has momentum as well right now (especially how it relates to
16 fire); and 3) Alternative energy, climate change discussions.
17

18 Urban forestry connects too many of these issues and how we tie into the bigger political arena.
19

20 We need a strategic plan to show what we need 20 years out, and what will the key messages be?
21 What are the givens in 20 years, and what is the desired outcome? What are key goals and tasks?
22

23 Start with bigger goals (working landscapes) and then show how they relate to our issues.
24

25 How do we get the funding to show the case for the funding? Vicki said you just have to keep
26 working and find the champions. Legislative champions: What's on their mind?
27

28 Senator Jacobsen is the key in the funding for the Future of Washington's forests. He is
29 receptive and may listen to our messages. Critical staff is important as well; field days are
30 important. Invite DNR's Michael Grayum to the May meeting (Sarah).
31

32 What's the message, how does it fit to big picture, who are the key people to ask, and what are
33 we going to do to fix it?
34

35 Kathy asked how we get invited to the table to be a part of the discussion. It took the DNR over
36 five years to start talking about forest health. The Council has great resources that can help us to
37 get there.
38

39 Long term approach – we need to hook on to other issues that are out there and try to find our
40 champions. Coalition building, how do we get involved with study groups and task forces?
41 Should this be part of our strategic plan? Vicki thinks it depends on the best use of our energy.
42 Or is coalition building the best use of time and energy. It takes a long time to get where you are
43 going.
44

45 Vicki shared that the WCFC has far more voice than the agency does. There is strength there to
46 affect decision makers.

1
2 Barbara asked about corporate partners...What are the opportunities? Vicki said in general yes,
3 of course; however we are competing with many other good causes out there. What's the hook
4 for the corporation, and what's the best benefit. Timber companies may be a good partner; they
5 want to show they support livable communities.
6

7 Joe thanked Vicki for her time and that we have a lot of ideas to kick around this afternoon. We
8 appreciate her commitment to the program. She requested we keep her involved and informed.
9 Have we met with the Cascade Land Conservancy? Not as a Council, but many members have.
10 It would be a good opportunity to meet with them.
11

12 **Meeting with Doug Sutherland**

13 Doug mentioned the meeting with Victor Moore, Director of OFM. It was a positive meeting;
14 however the request didn't make the governor's budget. DNR as a whole faired well in the
15 budget. We continue to work with the House and Senate on the budget. Budget is always a little
16 awkward. Most of the other agencies have general fund to run the agency. DNR is a little
17 different; we have to get the money appropriated, but 72 percent of the budget is earned through
18 State Trust Land activities (forestry, commercial properties, agricultural uses, land leasing, etc).
19 DNR is the 33rd largest business in the state if compared to the private sector. The asset value of
20 DNR holdings is around \$8-10 billion (that would make us the 8th largest business.)
21

22 General fund money is used for fire suppression, 470,000 acres burned in the summer of 2006;
23 this is the third largest acreage ever. Fire preparedness is general fund; fire suppression is
24 usually done in a supplemental budget. A request for \$43 million was requested; largest request
25 since Doug has been involved.
26

27 The Governor has introduced a series of initiatives; the main one being the Puget Sound
28 Partnership. DNR manages aquatic lands, uplands, and community forests. It's going to be a
29 very interesting bill.
30

31 Internally, DNR has been working with UW on the future of forests in Washington. This has
32 involved many stakeholder groups; and has looked at growth of our state and what comes.
33 Forecast says 1.5 million people by 2020 in Puget Sound metro. Growth is happening at edges
34 of urban growth areas (Cle Elum, outside Spokane). Former rural land is being fragmented into
35 smaller lots and changing the activities.
36

37 DNR is looking for ways to protect trust lands, acquire new properties (including buffers), and
38 how we can change our business. Lots of analysis and research is happening. Forest
39 management is changing as well, especially in high visibility areas.
40

41 DNR has about a million acres of agricultural lands that are leased. Many areas are now being
42 leased for vineyards. The Tri-cities area is where one primary investment is being developed.
43 Red Mountain between Benton City and West Richland was a land exchange that is perfect for
44 growing grapes. DNR is in the process of developing Red Mountain for wineries. Twenty-five
45 percent of Washington grapes come from DNR wines...he suggested we all buy Washington

1 wines...because proceeds go to build new schools. In many places, grapes grow better than
2 apples, and with 30 percent less water.

3
4 WCFC has been doing an outstanding job, and he encourages us to keep at it!

5
6 Joe asked Doug if there is any chance for the agency to get the UCF dollars reinserted into the
7 budget. Doug said it's not an either/or situation. Keep trying to find the champion and he'll
8 continue to support our cause. The funding was recommended by the agency, and we have a
9 very valid voice in the discussion. He recommends we be there during the discussions. Joe
10 asked if it's OK for us to be involved, and Doug said of course. As an advisory board, it's
11 important we know our boundaries. He encouraged us to find a champion and go forth.

12
13 Doug reiterated the importance of the Puget Sound Partnership and climate change. Puget Sound
14 Partnership needs a structure on how they develop the process. Twelve counties are involved;
15 numerous municipalities and many NGO's are involved. Doug has recommended the
16 development of marine resource centers in each county.

17 18 **Urban Forest Stewardship Award - Chair**

19 The award was presented to Henry Holloway. He's an extremely active community volunteer
20 spending countless hours pulling English Ivy and Scotch Broom.

21 22 **Roundtable - All**

23 **Joe** – American Planning Association has been working with American Forests and ISA on a
24 new manual for urban planners to use in urban development. Joe shared the webpage of
25 information. It can be found at www.planning.org/forestry/index. He'll keep us updated.
26 Chamber's Bay golf course opens in June 23rd. May 5th will be a community event celebrating
27 the opening of the Sound View Trail. Both www.pierecountywa.org/ccp and
28 www.chambersbaygolf.com have more information about the upcoming events.

29
30 **Rich** – Garth Davis is the new urban forester for Spokane County Conservation District. The
31 Inland Northwest Tree Turf and Landscape conference is starting tomorrow in Coeur d'Alene.
32 He'll be conducting a pruning workshop this spring for a number of groups.

33
34 **Sandy** – At the Tree Turf and Landscape show the WCFC will be presenting a second award to
35 Tonie Fitzgerald. WSDOT has been creating a tree policy; it allows them to prosecute people
36 that cut trees on the rights of way.

37
38 **Neil** – Spring is coming and it's going to be busy. They anticipate a lot of replacement tree
39 planting this year due to all the storms. WSNLA had a convention in Poulsbo that was quite well
40 attended. WSU professor gave an update on Sudden Oak Death (*P. ramorun*). The industry is
41 very impacted due to all the inspections that are impacted by any plants coming in from out of
42 state.

43
44 **Kathy** – She was in DC recently to present her research on trees and transportation. Close to
45 11,000 attendees were at the conference. She had a paper printed in the Transportation Research
46 Record; a very important publication in the transportation world. A very exciting feat for urban

1 forestry! Complete streets are a new way of looking at road corridors; including vehicle
2 transportation, pedestrian areas, trees, etc. If we can budge transportation at the national level,
3 there would be significant ripple effects! She also shared “Practice/Tree Preservation” in
4 Zoning Practice (July 2006). Joe indicated he can make copies available to WCFC members
5 through his membership in APA. Kathy and Linda Vane attended Kelly’s retirement
6 celebration; it was a remarkable celebration of a career! There were 400 people at the Hilton
7 Ballroom! The program was amazing and really showcased his remarkable career, and has
8 contributed so much to the community!
9

10 **Marilyn** – Mid-Columbia Community Forestry Council will have a booth and will be sharing
11 information with the public. They are partnering with the Master Gardeners. There will also be
12 a seminar on pruning.
13

14 **Ben** – Tree City USA applications are still coming in and keeping him busy. We’ll be
15 celebrating Arbor Day in Wenatchee and Vancouver. It’s a busy time of year!
16

17 **Terry** – Progress has been very slow for the Urban Forestry Program in Renton. They have a
18 grant from DNR/USFS to create an ordinance, and it’s been very slow, but it’s moving forward.
19 They’ll be doing RFP’s for the ordinance and for a strategic plan.
20

21 **Barbara** – Vancouver’s Mayor wants to increase the tree canopy cover in the City! It was in the
22 paper and blew her away!
23

24 **Steve** – EarthCorps has been very busy removing ivy, this year they removed 37,000 to 39,000
25 “survivor rings” around trees! WOW. One hundred and seventy people applied for five
26 positions they have, so the demand is high. 2007 is the Year of the Volunteer. They did a kick
27 off on MLK Day, and had 200 people show up...in the SNOW! The big challenge they face is
28 the potential loss of the secure rural schools money.
29

30 **Committee Meetings were Held**

31 **Awards Committee:** They want to recap all the grant awards for the last decade +. This would
32 enable people to show their representatives where grants have been awarded. Need to line up an
33 award recipient for the May meeting in Yakima!
34

35 **Legislative Committee:** Time is the largest constraint in getting our message out. Conservation
36 Coalition/Audubon is the best opportunity to get our messages to the Legislature. They
37 recommend we use our February Olympia meeting for a ½ day business meeting and ½ day to
38 meet with select representatives. The other three meetings, we should invite local
39 representatives to attend for a briefing. It’s important to make sure we have a consistent
40 message, and listen to other groups’ messages.
41

42 Barbara, Kathy and Sarah will talk about a strategy for legislative outreach.
43

44 **August meeting date was changed to August 15th due to scheduling issues.** The meeting will
45 be in Wenatchee at the Rocky Reach Dam. Kathy moved, Sandy seconded; motion carried.
46

47 Next meeting will be May 9, in Yakima, Yakima Area Arboretum. The meeting adjourned at
48 3:13 PM.