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**WCFC Meeting
May 9, 2007
Yakima Area Arboretum
Jewett Center
1401 Arboretum Drive
Yakima, WA**

12 **Members present:** Sandy Salisbury, Rich Baker, Kathy Wolf, Jim Flott, Linda Vane, Steve Dubiel,
13 Marianne Ophardt, Terry Flatley, Bill Sanborn, Marilyn Hyde, Sarah Griffith, Alan McGuire-Dale, and
14 Joe Scorcio

15
16 **Members not present:** Jeff Beckwith, Neil Burkhardt, and Barbara Hollenbeck

17
18 **Guests:** Ben Thompson, Mark Kahley, Mark Gray, Duward Massey, Colleen Adams-Schuppe, Jheri
19 Ketcham, and Janet Pacific

20
21 **Action Items:**

- 22 • Sarah will make new name tags for Council. Alan and Janice need them, others need replacements.
23 • Sarah will check on hotel rooms for August meeting and work on a location with Bill.
24 • The Outreach Committee will look into creating invitation/postcard/other information that could
25 further expand our outreach.
26 • Sandy will talk to Mark Maurer to see if he would be willing to facilitate a “vision” and strategic plan
27 discussion at our August meeting on what the program and level of service would be if money wasn’t
28 an issue.
29 • Legislative Committee to look at the specifics of hiring a consultant.
30 • Kathy willing to draft letters to help move along the UW getting an urban forestry accreditation.
31 • Linda will e-mail information on the activities of the National Urban and Community Forestry
32 Advisory Council.
33 • Sarah will e-mail Joe and Sandy about meeting to discuss Council vacancies.
34 • Marianne will work on a template for Arbor Day and award announcements for the website.
35 • Ben will check with the communications department to see if there is a way to access the local access
36 TV stations.
37 • All members contact your representatives, and let Sarah know if you made contact.
38 • Jim will get visioning and strategic planning consultant RFP from Vancouver. Mark and Alan will
39 look at the funding mechanism to see if there is a potential to extend the 03 grant funding to cover
40 this effort.
41 • Sarah and Ben will work with RFP to get it to match our needs.
42 • All members can contact other states and see what they did right in federal applications and strategic
43 plans.
44

45 **Welcome and Introductions - Chair**

1 Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by the Chair, Joe Scorcio. Welcome was given, and
2 introductions made. Alan McGuire-Dale is filling in for Barbara Hollenbeck. Janice Pacific is the new
3 liaison from the DNR Fire Prevention Program
4 Joe discussed the **August meeting date**; it was decided it will be held **Tuesday, August 21 in**
5 **Wenatchee**. Wednesday will be the backup date
6

7 **Agenda and February 7, 2007, Meeting Minutes – Chair**

8 Minutes were reviewed and approved by vote. Agenda was rearranged.
9

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

11 Sarah recapped the Urban and Community Forestry Program (UC&F) events, including CTMI, Arbor
12 Day activities and grant programs. There are 22 students from Washington and Oregon enrolled in the
13 2007 Community Tree Management Institute. The first session was held in March, and session two will
14 be the last week in May. It's a great opportunity to educate communities on proper tree management.
15 Ben will give a full Arbor Day re-cap later, but it was a great success, and he did a great job as always.
16

17 **FEMA Grant Proposal – Sarah Griffith**

18 Sarah discussed the FEMA grant that she is pursuing. The grant would be to assist communities affected
19 by the December 14th Wind Storm. Projects would include inventories, planning, tree removal and
20 replacement. A pre-proposal has been submitted and accepted by Washington Department of Emergency
21 Management. The proposal is due in July. More to come.
22

23 **USFS Program and Funding – Alan McGuire-Dale**

24 Alan updated the Council on the Federal Budget situation. There is a proposed 38 percent cut for UC&F
25 in the President's budget for 2008. The reduction wasn't as bad as first thought for 2007, but 2008 isn't
26 looking good.
27

28 Sarah mentioned that Vicki Christiansen took UC&F information back to DC for her testimony and
29 meetings.
30

31 Kathy thanked Ben and Sarah for the detailed information that was provided in packets for her to take
32 back to DC as well.
33

34 Congressman Dicks is the chair of the Natural Resources Appropriations sub-committee. Joe mentioned
35 that Congressman Dicks will be home in July (congressional break), and that may be a good opportunity
36 to plan a tour/event/education.
37

38 **2007 Legislative Recap – Mark Kahley and Mark Gray**

39 Mark Gray gave a recap of the 2008 legislative session. The Forest Health Bill passed, as well as
40 resources for firefighting training. Unfortunately the urban forestry proposal did not get funded. One
41 piece of feedback was that funding was needed because federal funding was declining. Office of
42 Financial Management (OFM) didn't believe that replacing federal funding was how they wanted to
43 spend general fund dollars. We will need a new strategy for the next session; urban forestry needs to
44 stand alone, not to discuss the replacement.
45

46 Mark Kahley discussed the forest health legislation. There will be pilot projects on many different types
47 of non-federal ownership; many of these issues are urban as well. Forest health funding will make a big
48 impact in the future health of Washington's forests. This bill also includes the opportunity for penalties
49 against landowners that don't address their forest health issues. It's not a strong penalty, but it's a start.
50 There is a regulatory component; it's a very high bar, but it is a way to get the forest healthy issues
51 addressed. Federal lands have not been managed well due to litigation over the past 10 + years, but the

1 Healthy Forest Restoration Act has started to address those concerns. Forest health problems aren't going
2 away and that increases the fire danger in our forests.

3
4 Mark Kahley was very surprised that the tiny amount for urban forestry was not included in the
5 governor's budget. Mark is optimistic that the 38 percent cut may not materialize. There is a lot of
6 reshuffling at the federal level in state and private forestry. Funds will most likely be more competitive.
7 Kathy mentioned that there will be more landscape level urban forestry projects.

8
9 Mark answered questions about forest health program activities. There was a lot of discussion about how
10 urban forestry ties into forest health. Within the culture of the Forest Service, urban forestry isn't a big
11 part of their vocabulary.

12 **Arbor Day Re-Cap, Municipal Foresters Institute – Ben Thompson**

13 Ben discussed his attendance at the Municipal Foresters Institute (MFI) in February. It was a week long,
14 very intensive class with foresters from around the country. It was held in Lake Arrowhead, California.
15 The classes went from early morning, late into the evening and included homework. It was both
16 overwhelming and very challenging. He is even now still doing work from MFI. He was able to network
17 with people from across the county and gather more information. It was a great opportunity.

18
19
20 Arbor Day was crazy, as always, but very successful. There are 66 Tree City USA communities in
21 Washington. Fifty events were attended by UC&F staff, WCFC council members, and people from our
22 DNR region offices. Thanks to all the Council Members that assisted: Joe, Marianne, Linda, Bill, and
23 Jim. Kathy suggested creating invitation/postcard/other information that could be used to further expand
24 our outreach. The Outreach Committee will address this. Ben also recapped the poster contest; first place
25 was in Richland, second in Bainbridge Island, and third in Garfield.

26 **2008 Legislative Action...What comes next? – Chair to lead**

27 There is a supplemental opportunity in the off years of the legislature; not a big option, but DNR does
28 often put in a supplemental budget request for fire programs. It is a good opportunity to get resolutions or
29 legislation or placeholders for the following year's budget discussion. Public safety is one of the few
30 issues they will deal with on an off year; but it's a good time to continue to contact the legislature and
31 push the program. Non budget year is a great time to educate.

32
33
34 DNR's legislative affairs manager and Audubon Washington will hopefully be able to attend our August
35 meeting to continue discussions.

36
37 Mark Kahley encourages direct contact with the Governor's office. That's where it was shot down this
38 year. **Suggestion:** Invite the Governor to Arbor Day next year with a brief but pointed discussion about
39 the importance of UC&F. There are climate change task forces. **Suggestion:** Possibly a very splashy
40 event in Ellensburg next year. There will also be a luncheon that may be in Ellensburg as they will have
41 been a Tree City USA for 25 years. Next year also happens to be an election year.

42
43 Sarah mentioned doing legislative outreach on the Capitol Campus next year to show the values of trees.
44 Kathy mentioned a poster for Native Plant Awareness Week; is that something DNR can do for Arbor
45 Day/Month/etc. Bill mentioned that the utilities are sending a bill to reduce green house gasses next
46 session. There are a lot of opportunities to tie in UC&F. Kathy has been speaking a lot in response to the
47 federal programs; she would like to see her efforts going to the federal level as well.

48
49 Sandy would like to have a vision session to discuss what the program would look like if we weren't
50 always talking about funding. Really show what the level of service would be if money wasn't an issue.
51 Show what you offer now and what you would need in a monetary and staffing sense to deliver the end

1 product. Sandy said she will talk to Mark Maurer to see if he would be willing to facilitate this discussion
2 at our August meeting. The discussion will focus on zero based funding. A lot came out of the
3 legislature this year that is brand new that we need to look at (CTED, Puget Sound Partnership, etc.) This
4 is also a way to start the discussions and position UC&F for when/if funding becomes competitive.
5 August is going to be a very busy meeting!

6
7 Legislative committee tasked with looking at the specifics. Pieces of this will go to the committees for
8 development.

9 **Roundtable and Lunch – All**

10 The Council welcomed Colleen, Jheri and Duward to the meeting. Colleen and Jheri gave a quick
11 introduction and welcome to the Arboretum.

12
13 **Joe** – passed around great information on the Chamber’s Bay Golf Course. Featured articles were in the
14 Alaska Airlines magazine, the Olympian, the Tacoma News Tribune, and others. They have had many
15 events and celebrations leading up to the June 23rd opening. The Soundview Trail was opened last
16 weekend.

17
18 **Jim** – started a new project working with the Washington State Parks Department. There are two
19 arborists, and one manager for 121 State Parks.

20
21 **Sandy** – discussed a project they worked on just outside of the Yakima Area Arboretum, at the highway
22 interchange. They wanted to plant a lot more than the city wanted, but they were able to get the project
23 going. Department of Transportation (DOT) wanted to tie in the theme the arboretum already had going,
24 “to enhance beauty.” She was in Walla Walla recently to discuss a roundabout. They want to be known
25 for their trees, so the design in the roundabouts will feature large trees. They will also be featuring the
26 Blue Mountains, water and trees on the retaining walls to showcase the natural beauty of the area.

27
28 **Mark Gray** – Last weekend was the Firewise Communities Across Washington event in Mount Vernon
29 to discuss the issues facing Washington’s communities and the risk of wildfire. It was well attended and
30 a good opportunity to share fire prevention and community forestry messages.

31
32 **Kathy** – The Society of American Foresters is the accreditation entity for forestry schools; they recently
33 launched an urban forestry accreditation. UW is pursuing accreditation; she’d like to see a letter written
34 by the Council to help move the process along. Kathy is willing to help draft the letters. Oregon State is
35 pursuing this as well.

36
37 **Linda** – brought an update from Bobbi Wallace on the activities of the National Urban and Community
38 Forestry Advisory Council. They are having a meeting/testimony in Biloxi, Mississippi. Linda passed
39 around information and she will send it out via email as well. King County has been working more with
40 the communities at risk in the wildland urban interface. Urban forest starts where the first road begins in
41 the rural areas...there is so much pressure on the rural areas. There is a great opportunity to discuss urban
42 forestry and wildfires with the communities in the more rural parts of King County. They had a fire in
43 Carnation a few years ago, and the County has been working with communities to help manage the green
44 spaces that are left after development. She’s working with the Trilogy Neighborhood Association to help
45 manage their greenbelts and open spaces. Her division has started a new TV show called Yard Talk on
46 their cable access station and will be having an urban forestry show very soon. She shared the poster that
47 they created a few years ago with a UC&F grant; they now have a Spanish/English version.

48
49 **Bill** – They had a big storm in early January that caused a lot of damage. He’s also involved in the
50 Wenatchee Area Arbor Day Celebration. They gave away 6,000 tree seedlings of various species. It was
51 very successful.

1
2 **Rich** – the Spokane County Conservation District has hired an urban forester, and Rich is very
3 encouraged to see the direction they are going. Garth Davis is the new urban forester, and he’s started a
4 Spokane County Urban Forestry Committee. They co-sponsored a hazard tree evaluation workshop and a
5 pruning workshop. Spokane celebrated Arbor Day and was awarded the Tree City USA for the 4th year.
6 Rich also noted that there is a horticulture instruction position open at Spokane Valley Community
7 College before the fall classes’ start.
8

9 **Janice** – is happy to be here and to see how the Fire Prevention Program and the UC&F Program can
10 work together more effectively.
11

12 **Terry** – Progress is occurring in the City of Renton’s Urban Forestry Program. Sarah spoke to an
13 Interdepartmental Leadership Committee and helped to kickoff the development of their Urban Forestry
14 Program. They are working on a tree inventory summary report, and are now working on an ordinance.
15 He talked about the time he spent with Vancouver’s Urban Forestry Program staff, and the work they
16 have done to develop their program. Most of their funding in Vancouver is from the surface water
17 management fees. Renton had Arbor Day celebrations on April 28th; the mayor was there and they had a
18 huge planting project. They planted over 2,700 plants. They got a grant from McClendon’s for a tree
19 planting trailer with lots of supplies to be used in future tree planting events.
20

21 **Marilyn** – The Mid-Columbia Group recently participated in a garden show. Olympia shared their
22 products from their anti-topping campaign and they were able to pass those out at the garden show.
23

24 **Duward** – He served on the WCFC in the past and is glad to be here today.
25

26 **Ben** – Now that Arbor Day is almost over, he’s focusing on how to get the “multiplier effect” and how we
27 can be more effective in our program delivery. Technical assistance is so sought after, and yet he still
28 needs to outreach to other communities.
29

30 **Marianne** – They have been very busy. The garden show was very successful. They had a lot of people
31 coming to their booth; in year’s past Mid-Columbia Council is shifting their focus; they are now working
32 more on other projects. WSU Extension is starting to work more on urban forestry issues. She is the
33 chair of the UC&F Team for Extension (she’s also the only member.) Tie in UC&F issues in the master
34 gardeners training and volunteers.
35

36 **Colleen** – She enjoyed hearing about what other people are doing with Arbor Day; they have one at the
37 arboretum talking about all the issues celebrating springtime. They celebrated the Incredible Edible Tree
38 this year featuring fruit bearing trees. They had 800 – 1,000 people attend their Arbor Day celebration.
39 It’s very interactive and focuses on family.
40

41 **Steve** – EarthCorps celebrates April as Earth Month; they had over 2,300 volunteers participating in
42 events. They are very busy; now they are focusing on youth programs during the summer. For Earth Day
43 they focused on what alumni are doing now around the world. They have been contracting with 50 to 100
44 community groups, organizations and municipalities, and are having issues with prevailing wage issues.
45 They are working for an exemption for non-profit organizations.
46

47 **Alan** – He’s working, in addition to urban forestry, on the special analysis project with the DNR
48 Stewardship Program.
49
50

1 **Committee Reports – Committee Chairs**

2 **Outreach Committee - Sandy**

3 Website needs work and they are willing to provide assistance as needed. Marianne will work on a
4 template for Arbor Day and awards announcements. She already has one and will “tweak” it for our
5 needs. They would like to invite the media to be present for the awards presentations. They’d like to get
6 the Ciscoe videos on local TV stations. They also would like to teach online/web based courses on urban
7 forestry that will be down the road and will be developed in the future. Some of this may be out there
8 already, so it could just be linking to our website. Other videos are available as well for public access TV
9 as well (Sacramento’s Green Print, and others). Ben will check with the communications department to
10 see if there is a way to access the local access TV stations.

11
12 **Legislative Affairs – Kathy**

13 Federal level is most urgent right now and needs attention ASAP. Please remember that you can say you
14 are on the Council but cannot speak on behalf of the Council. The Urban Forest Coalition is a number of
15 nonprofit groups working together to get the messages out about the UC&F situation.

16
17 **Vision** – We need an RFP to find out and flesh out the differences. Jim will get the RFP from Vancouver
18 and Mark and Alan will look at the funding mechanism to see if there is a potential to extend the 03 grant
19 funds. Sarah and Ben will work with RFP to get it to match our needs.

20
21 **State needs-** Outreach day with legislature (price tags on trees, etc.) needs to be on next meeting agenda.
22 Consider partners that have indicated interest, including Audubon and others. This could emerge from
23 the visioning sessions. Please call your representatives and let Sarah know if you have made contacts.
24 Vancouver RFP, and modify. We’d also need a scope of work. Not only what we want, but where we
25 want to go. Contact other states and see what they did right.

26
27 **Executive Committee – Joe**

28 Sarah and Joe discussed budget stuff. There are ways to make this work. Sandy moved that Joe be
29 authorized to sign documents to enable this to proceed. He will work with Sarah. Jim seconded.
30 Discussion ensued; motion carried. Sarah, Sandy and Joe will review vacancies and terms of members.
31 They will do this by the next meeting.

32
33 **Agenda Items for August Meeting - Chair**

- 34
35 1. Work session with facilitator/consultant to discuss visioning
36 2. Deal with specific action items (no round table, etc.)
37 3. Minimize standard agenda (award and tour will still be conducted).
38 4. Include Kathy’s research piece that didn’t get covered.
39 5. E-mail Sarah roundtable items two weeks prior to meeting for inclusion in the minutes.

40
41 Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 21, in Wenatchee. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.