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4 **WCFC Meeting**
5 **August 13, 2008**
6 **Kiwanis Building**
7 **6007 Columbia Park Trail**
8 **Kennewick, Washington**
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11 **Members present:** Joe Scorcio, Sarah Griffith, Jim Flott, Marilyn Hyde, Kelly Puntaney, Rich
12 Baker, Marianne Ophardt, Terry Flatley, Neil Burkhardt, and Jim Freed
13

14 **Members absent:** Barbara Hollenbeck, Jeff Beckwith, Linda Vane, Steve Dubiel, Kathy Wolf,
15 Sandy Salisbury, Scott Thomas, and Bill Sanborn
16

17 **Guests:** Janice Pacific, Mark Gray, Mark Kahley, and Gary Deardorff (Kennewick Parks
18 Manager)
19

20 **Action Items:**

- 21 • Joe will draft and send letter to Commissioner and Vicki Christiansen in the next week
22 • Sarah will get back to Council on location/date of November's meeting
23 • Joe and Kelly will work on draft agenda and logistics for November meeting
24 • Sarah will send proposed dates for 2009 meetings prior to November meeting
25

26 Meeting was called to order at 9:25 a.m.
27

28 **Welcome and Introductions - Chair**

29 Joe welcomed everyone; then introductions were made. Some members were unable to attend due
30 to travel restrictions. Sarah went over the logistics of the building.
31

32 **Agenda and May and June Minute Review – Chair/Secretary**

33 The agenda was reviewed, amended, and approved. Minutes were reviewed, Terry moved to
34 accept as corrected, Jim seconded; minutes approved.
35

36 **Program Update, DNR News, AG-Forestry Program, Budget and Hiring**

37 Sarah gave a program update; the UCF program has had a very busy summer. Sarah and Stacey
38 participated in two fire prevention team assignments (in North Carolina and Omak). Sarah will
39 soon begin year two of the AgForestry Program; they recently learned the international trip will
40 be to China in January. The program continues to provide technical assistance to communities
41 and is working with CTED on the Evergreen Communities Act. Mark will fill in more details on
42 where DNR is in the process.
43

44 Mark Gray gave an update on the budget. Urban forestry is on the short list for funding for next
45 biennium. We hope to get funded at the same level we received this year; while not enough to
46 completely finish the inventory, it's a start. There is a hiring freeze in effect now, and directly

1 affects the Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Program. We haven't hired our new folks to
2 help implement the Evergreen Communities Act (ECA) yet; we are asking for an exemption to
3 the freeze. We are working on a number of options for Vicki Christiansen. Sarah and Stacey are
4 fully committed already, so without new staff it will be difficult to move forward. We are trying
5 to figure out options. Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) have already hired
6 their new person. We need to continue to stay coordinated with them.

7
8 Joe asked about support for the Washington Community Forestry Council (WCFC) and it has
9 declined over the past due to shifts in staff. Realistically, he doesn't see how staff can give any
10 more and still get work done. Staff is tapped out, without additional staff, something has to give.

11
12 We need to show some progress with the (ECA), even without filling our staffing needs, it's
13 important right now.

14
15 Fire suppression costs for the federal government are extremely high this year (mostly due to
16 California); USFS regions are being tasked to make cuts across the board. Region 6 is being
17 asked to find \$24 million dollars. There may be additional cuts made to funds already 'sent' to the
18 States. Prior year funds should be unaffected.

19
20 Mark Kahley is going to push that we continue to push an ECA funding package; even if the
21 employees are frozen. We need the money in the budget in order to keep it in the carry-forward
22 for next biennium. This may be a pause instead of a cut to the budget. The freeze also affects our
23 Forest Health Program. Mark discussed the projects they are working on in Forest Health and
24 how the freeze impacts their program development and growth.

25
26 Other DNR News: Nine decision packages were submitted from Resource Protection. All were
27 moved forward at least in part. They were recommended by Executive Management for funding.

28
29 Mark hopes the economy will turn around before the Legislature convenes and starts making
30 decisions on the budget. We're planning for 'moderately bad case' budget wise.

31
32 Discussion ensued about the new positions and plans for implementing the ECA.

33
34 Joe summarized the situation: With the freeze no additional work can get done. The only way it
35 will happen if something else doesn't get done. We've been around the DNR and U&CF Program
36 long enough to know that the Program has been cut to the bone already. WCFC focused on ECA.
37 WCFC knows that something needs to give in order to continue operations.

38
39 The goal is to try to free up time for Sarah and Stacey to continue the implementation of the ECA.
40 What can be done to ensure that we are showing good faith effort?

41
42 Discussion ensued.

43
44 WCFC discussed what they can do to keep the process moving forward. A letter will be written to
45 Doug and Vicki to provide advice. Joe offered to draft and send letter within the next week.

46
47 Rich moved a letter be drafted and reviewed by Council to commissioner and state forester to
48 encourage moving the ECA implementation forward. Also authorizes letter to be sent upon
49 review. Kelly seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried.

50
51 **Award Presentation**

1 Award was presented to representatives of the Basin Bloomers Garden Club for their great work
2 in the mid-Columbia area.

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4
5 **Working Lunch**

6 Sarah walked members through the travel reimbursement forms. Please direct any questions
7 about travel reimbursements to Sarah.

8
9 Subcommittee meetings were postponed until November due to lack of attendance at this
10 meeting.

11
12 November 12th meeting will be in Camas or Vancouver. Joe and Kelly will work on draft agenda
13 and logistics. Sarah will send proposed dates for 2009 meetings prior to November meeting.

14
15 Joe discussed two upcoming conferences: American Planning Association in October – Stacey
16 will be presenting on ECA. Sarah will be speaking at the Partners in Community Forestry
17 conference in Atlanta in November.

18
19 **Strategic Plan**

20 We've been working on the plan, but in light of ECA, where do we go?

21
22 Discussion ensued.

23
24 **Page 3, Goal 2**

25 Secure sustainable funding sources to provide high quality public service from program staff and
26 the best information to our clients.

27
28 **New Goal:**

29 Goal Five (or one): Provide leadership

30 Provide leadership on urban forestry issues in Washington State.

31
32 Add ECA to five- year plan.

33
34 Joe kept master notes.

35
36 This was a long, hard meeting today; great job by all in attendance.

37
38 Meeting was adjourned early at 2:21p.m. The next meeting will be held in Camas or Vancouver,
39 on November 12.

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