



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

**WCFC Meeting
May 20, 2009
Wild Horse Wind Farm
Ellensburg, WA**

Members present: Jim Freed, Mark Kahley, Rich Baker, Joe Scorcio, Sarah Griffith, Jim Flott, Terry Flatley, Jeff Beckwith, Barbara Hollenbeck, Sandy Salisbury, Barry Johnston, Dave Nelson, and Scott Thomas

Members absent: Kathy Wolf, Kelly Punteney, and Neil Burkhardt

Guests: Ian Scott, Jennifer Diaz, Micki McNaughton, Leonard Bauer, and Brian Lenz

Action Items:

- Sarah will get minutes out quickly, so work can begin on list of items.
- Sarah will send travel reimbursement forms ASAP.
- See page three of minutes for sub-committee assignments.
- If conference calls need to be set up for a Committee, please contact Sarah
- Sarah will send updated roster to Council.
- Jim Freed can e-mail the RTI Survey to those who contact him.
- On June 9th Joe will to invite the TAC and the EGCPF to the August Council Meeting in Spokane.
- Joe and Sarah will arrange for Executive Committee to meet with Commissioner Goldmark and State Forester Chuck Turley before the August Meeting.
- Legislative Committee will work with CTED on transition to Department of Commerce and make sure urban forestry stays at the table.

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions – Chair

Joe welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table. We were welcomed to the Wild Horse Wind Farm by Brian Lenz from Puget Sound Energy (PSE). Brian discussed the wind farm and the Renewable Energy Center (REC). There are over 210 wind turbines statewide, most are here at Wild Horse. We will have a tour later and discuss the restoration efforts that have been done. 60,000 homes can be powered by the energy created at this facility. The REC was built to help educate people about wind power and how it works. It is also an opportunity to talk about the benefits; economic benefits occur as well. Much of the land here is leased by PSE from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Fish and Wildlife. Brian encouraged the Council to enjoy the beautiful setting and to have a great meeting.

Agenda and November Minutes Review – Chair/All

The agenda was reviewed and approved as amended (no award will be presented). Minutes from February were approved as presented.

Urban & Community Forestry Program Update – Sarah

Sarah gave an update of the U&CF program, budget information, Arbor Day, and more.

1 Staff update: Linden Mead will be transitioning from Inventory Specialist to Urban Forestry
2 Specialist (duties similar to Community Assistance Forester) on July 1. Micki McNaughton has been ½
3 time with Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development Department and ½ with DNR
4 since March 1; she will be full time DNR starting on July 1 until the end of the calendar year. All state
5 funding for the Evergreen Communities Act has been cut for the next biennium; the changes at DNR
6 reflect that cut and work will continue on our federal grant deliverables and slow on the ECA project.
7

8 Arbor Day Update: Washington now has 74 Tree City USA Communities, including 4 new ones
9 in 2008 (Hoquiam, Centralia, Oroville, and Renton). There are no new Tree Line USA organizations, but
10 all 9 recertified. Staff and WCFC members attended as many events as possible, but not as many as in
11 the past due to commitments/timeline of the ECA project.
12

13 Arbor Day Poster Contest: Seventeen posters were submitted from across the state for the 2009
14 Poster Contest. The contest was sponsored by Puget Sound Energy. The winner is from Everett; the state
15 winning poster is at www.arborday.org. Contact Sarah if you would like to see the top three from
16 Washington. Next year's theme will be "Trees are Terrific...and energy wise!"
17

18 Other updates: the Community Tree Management Institute has eighteen students from
19 Washington and Oregon. Session two is coming up at the end of May. ODF, DNR and the USFS
20 partnered on a Green Infrastructure Workshop in early May. Thanks to Sandy Salisbury for presenting on
21 transportation issues. The class was well attended by Oregon and Alaska residents, but pretty low on
22 Washington due to travel restrictions.
23

24 Evergreen Communities Act: Sarah gave an update for Linden (who was on jury duty) regarding
25 progress on DNR's portion of the ECA. The Technical Advisory Committee is wrapping up their work
26 and Linden is compiling a final report for the first phase of the project. While funding restrictions will
27 slow the progress, DNR hopes to keep moving forward on some of the inventory elements and
28 recommendations made by the TAC.
29

30 AgForestry: Sarah graduated from the AgForestry Leadership Program on May 7, 2009. The
31 Program involved fourteen seminars over eighteen months (including a week in Washington DC and two
32 weeks in China). Thank you for your support!
33

34 Contact information: contact information for Sarah will change in mid-July to Sarah Foster.
35 Email will be sarah.foster@dnr.wa.gov or sfos490@dnr.wa.gov and phone/ mailing address will remain
36 the same.
37
38

39 **USFA Update – Barbara**

40 Barbara gave an update on how the budget process works and where we are for the 2009 budget. She is
41 hopeful that environmental issues will do better, and anticipates that it will hold the same for
42 Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) just like last year. The year 2010 will be the bigger budget year.
43 Climate change, energy, public health and others will be the big issues. We tie into all the big issues;
44 hopefully urban trees will continue to be important. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
45 aka stimulus funding; urban forestry wasn't very successful in the Northwest (all three states put in
46 requests and none were funded). There were other places that did have successful urban forestry projects
47 that received ARRA funds. A recap of the projects submitted was discussed. On another front, USFS
48 research is working on urban forestry projects in the Puget Sound Area (Pierce, King, Snohomish, and
49 Kitsap). Kathy Wolf will be involved in these projects.
50

51 **CTED/Evergreen Communities Act Update**

52 Joe gave a quick recap of the Evergreen Communities Partnership Task Force (ECPTF); there are five
53 members of the Washington Community Forestry Council (WCFC) on the Task Force (Kathy Wolf is our

1 official representative). The ECPTF is a very dynamic group and sped up the time line and tried to pull
2 together needed information before June 30.
3

4 Leonard Bauer joined the Council and gave an update. Leonard is the manager of the growth management
5 services section. They were assigned to be primary staff to the Task Force. Micki was hired in August to
6 steer the effort. Community Trade and Economic Development's (CTED) task is to create model tree
7 ordinances, model management plans, and the Evergreen Communities Recognition Program (builds
8 upon Tree City USA). Funding for the Evergreen Communities Act (ECA) was zeroed out for the next
9 biennium. The ECPTF jumped in and worked ambitiously to get work done before June 30; they sped up
10 the process from quarterly meetings to monthly, formed sub-committees, which took on much of the
11 report writing to assist Micki. The information that comes out will hopefully be best management
12 practices for communities that want to get started in the process. The project will be done by June 30, and
13 will be utilized by DNR's U&CF program during the next two years of continued outreach. He's hopeful
14 that the report will aid in future funding of this project.
15

16 The tools created by the ECPTF will be on the CTED website and the DNR site. Micki will remain a
17 CTED employee, but will be under contract to DNR for the rest of the 2009 calendar year. This will
18 ensure that the project will keep moving forward, and the partnership between the two agencies.
19

20 The Evergreen Communities Recognition program was not focused on other than a recommendation
21 included in the report. This will be tabled until funding is restored. Leonard and Joe worked on the 'next
22 steps' and recommendations. They are co-authoring the transmittal letter with the theme that the WCFC
23 will carry the ongoing U&CF message while the ECA project is dormant. It's critical to keep the message
24 moving forward that we hope to accomplish the tasks set forth in the Act.
25

26 Micki discussed the report itself. This will be presented to the Council at the August meeting. Two sub-
27 committees were created: policy and planning were the two topics the sub-committees addressed. She is
28 now working to make a cohesive document that will assist communities that want to work on their urban
29 forestry programs. It's a strong base that will sit dormant until we are able to pick this back up, hopefully
30 within two years.
31

32 Leonard added that Micki was able to review tree ordinances from across the state; 137 were reviewed
33 and started a database that will have all the information communities need to draft new ordinances.
34

35 He also talked about the utility vegetation management proposal introduced in the legislature in 2009.
36 Representative Van De Wege started the discussion and will convene a work group to start discussing
37 potential legislation.
38

39 CTED will become the Department of Commerce on July 1; this will also mean re-alignment at the
40 Department. He's not sure how that will affect the ECA. The recommendation will be presented in
41 October to the legislature. The process is just beginning. If you have comments, let CTED know.
42

43 ECA may be 'in play' on at least two fronts in the 2010 legislative session; the changes at CTED and the
44 changes to the deadlines will probably both be addressed.
45

46 **WCFC 2009/2010 Work Plan**

47 Discussion ensued on how the Council wants to move forward in the next year. The Council discussed
48 where they want to go. The Statewide assessment was discussed as well; how can the council work with
49 DNR to get U&CF included in the assessment. The focus will be on critical landscapes and big picture
50 ideas.
51

52 The plan was to create ideas on how to best get the needed information to the State Forester. Joe was
53 encouraged to set up time with the Commissioner and State Forester to share information.
54

55 Two big opportunities to get U&CF included: 1) statewide assessment, and 2) Heath Packard as DNR's
56 legislative director. He has huge ownership of the ECA and can keep it on the Commissioner's agenda.

1 The year 2010 won't be good time to ask for funding restoration, but it's important to have the discussion
2 continue.

3
4 Climate change and salmon issues are critical; making sure the tie to U&CF is very important to
5 continuing the discussion.

6
7 Joe brought up the two sub-committees: Awards and Outreach Committee (Chair Jeff), and the
8 Legislative Committee (Chair Sandy). This is where the bulk of the 'work' of the Council gets done.
9 Tasks were assigned to the committees as follows:

- 10
11 • Revising deadlines for ECA (Legislative)
12 • Revising of CTED organization and potential impacts to U&CF (Legislative)
13 • Restoring state funding for ECA and U&CF (Legislative)
14 • What else?
15 • Statewide assessment/critical landscapes identification (work with state forester) (both)
16 • Update and revise WCFC messages (Outreach)
17 o Climate change
18 o Water and watersheds
19 o Green infrastructure
20 o Salmon/ESA issues
21 o Public health
22 o Critical habitat
23 o Energy
24 o Others?
25 • Meetings with (Executive)
26 o Commissioner Public Lands
27 o State Forester
28 o Heath Packard
29 o Puget Sound Partnership (Michael Grayum)
30 • Analyze ECPTF final report and identify pieces that WCFC should pick up and continue to work on
31 (Outreach)
32 o Including how U&CF can tie into other parts of the WAC and make it a funding priority
33 • Analyze Strategic Plan (adopted in February) revisit, edit, move forward with (Outreach)
34 Jim Freed was designated vice-chair of the Outreach Subcommittee; as Jeff will be unable to attend the
35 August meeting.

36
37
38 **Roundtable - All**

39 **Joe** – passed around APA's *Planning the Urban Forest* and encouraged all municipalities to have a copy
40 or more.

41
42 **Jeff** – Enumclaw's urban forestry board continues to do great work (small but dedicated group). For
43 smaller towns, that's how to get Tree City USA status. Enumclaw will get 50 percent bigger over the next
44 10 years and we are trying to figure out how to keep urban forestry at the forefront. They don't want to be
45 a regulatory board, so they are working with the city government to hire a contract arborist to review
46 plans and make an official decision. The Urban Forestry Board would just be there to help with Arbor
47 Day and other tree planting events. PSE side – he's glad we're here. They have worked really hard to
48 restore and protect the ecosystem.

49
50 **Ian** - showed the tree benefits calculator at www.treebenefits.com/calculator using the I-Tree tools. The
51 I-Tree suite is being made more user friendly and has new tools (including I-Tree hydro).

52
53 **Terry** – Renton is annexing the Benson Hill area and they have funds to do a tree inventory for the
54 annexation area. They were able to continue despite budget issues because the trees in the area haven't

1 been managed and could cause a safety issue. Chuck Turley came to Renton for their first Tree City USA
2 award presentation; the flag is flying and signs are up! The Urban Forestry Development plan is
3 continuing to move forward, and he hopes the first draft will be approved in August. An article about
4 Seattle's Urban Forestry Program and a recent audit was published in the Seattle Times. The Renton Task
5 Force is looking at that and working to resolve inter-departmental issues.
6

7 **Jim Freed** – WSU is going through budget cuts like everyone else. WSU's Natural Resources
8 Department has five positions that are being lost. Extension agents won't be affected (vacancy in King
9 County won't be filled). Rural Technology Initiative (RTI) survey has been completed; information can
10 be pulled up for any property over two acres and we can look at tree canopy in the areas surrounding the
11 communities. University of Washington RTI is where the information is. Jim can e-mail it as well. He just
12 got back from four weeks in Africa with US AID. He went to five countries and worked with mostly
13 women that received microloans. He has lots of slides and video of anyone would like to see them. Jim
14 has been working with master gardeners to add a day of training to discuss backyard urban forestry.
15

16 **Mark** – presented McChord's Tree City USA award. It was a successful event!
17

18 **Rich** – Arbor Day in Spokane was great. Yesterday he had a meeting at Spokane Community College,
19 and they discussed campus urban forestry issues. They are trying to close the gap between the instructors
20 and the grounds staff.
21

22 **Barry** – He was recently in Washington DC and went to a green building display at a museum. Fife is
23 working on becoming a Tree City USA. They recently received a Vision 20/40 Award. He's trying to get
24 Friends of the Wapato started, similar to Friends of the Hylebos. Fife was first in Western Washington to
25 start a P2D2 program to aid in pharmaceuticals disposal to protect water quality.
26

27 **Scott** – Covington is working on a comprehensive parks, recreation and open space plan. He's going to
28 include urban forestry as a component, including a recommendation for an inventory. In the near future,
29 he'll be doing some park development and doing some planting and restoration work in the urban forest.
30 The WRPA conference had a presentation on ECA (by Jim Flott) with a small attendance, it was good.
31 Covington received their first growth award this year!
32

33 **Sandy** – Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is also receiving budget cuts;
34 everyone is driving less and they are funded by gas tax funds. Hasn't impacted the roadside restoration
35 projects, but could down the road.
36

37 **Jim Flott** – PNW-ISA had a board retreat last weekend. Education and public outreach are very
38 important for the Board. The focus is to allied professions and affiliated groups – nontraditional partners
39 are the focus. Jim went to a Fairchild AFB and Ritzville's Arbor Day events. Ritzville will hopefully be a
40 tree city next year.
41

42 **David** – still learning about the WCFC and how he fits in. He read the Last Child in the Woods recently.
43 Grant County is working on their codes and hopes to have trees tied in more.
44

45 **Micki** – Olympia won a National Arbor Day Award for their 1,000 trees in one day project.
46

47 **Wild Horse Wind Farm Tour – Jennifer Diaz, Environmental and Communications Manager**
48 Jennifer gave an overview of the facility and how the project was developed. PSE owns two wind
49 projects; the other is near Dayton in Columbia County. About five percent of resources come from wind
50 power. Initiative 937 mandates that 15 percent of resources come from renewable resources (wind,
51 biomass, etc) by 2020. She went over how the wind turbines work (we'll get to peek inside the turbine
52 during our tour). Turbines are from Denmark. Each turbine is approximately 351 feet tall. Each turbine
53 can power more than 433 homes for a year.
54

1 The facility generates power about a third of the time, but they are online and ready to accept wind about
2 98 percent of the time. Wind is seasonal. Facility has been online since December 2006. Construction is
3 under way on 22 additional turbines now.
4

5 Jennifer talked about the bird and wildlife implications of turbines and all the studies that have been done.
6 They worked with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) to start a hunting program so
7 that elk herds won't use the wind farm exclusively and keep migrating.
8

9 DNR leases generated \$306,000 in 2007 and \$437,000 in 2008.
10

11 The largest solar facility in the northwest is at the Farm as well; 2,804 solar panels are there. Solar is
12 really expensive still and land intensive, but this is a good trial project.
13

14 The Council took a tour of the facility, visited the solar operation and went into a turbine.
15

16 **Sub-Committee Meetings**

17 The three sub-committees met briefly to discuss their projects and make a plan of attack. If conference
18 calls are to be held, please contact Sarah with date and time (and duration) of the call and DNR will set up
19 the line. Support staff time is limited right now, so please be patient.
20

21 Jim Freed moved that the Council recognize both the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the
22 ECPTF for extraordinary work during the initial phase of the ECA. Terry seconded. Discussion ensued.
23 Commendation will be worded to thank each member for their work to help us achieve our goals to
24 promote U&CF in Washington. Joe would like to go to the meeting on June 9th and invite them to the
25 August meeting in Spokane. Motion passed.
26

27 Executive Committee: will schedule a meeting with Chuck Turley prior to the August meeting and meet
28 with the others selected above after that.
29

30 Outreach Committee: there are some questions that need to be answered before they move forward.
31 Message updates also need some background work done (including format).
32

33 Legislative Committee: they will have a conference call prior to August meeting to begin work on next
34 steps for ECA (deadlines, language to use). Report distribution will be discussed as well. Work with
35 CTED on transition to Department of Commerce and make sure urban forestry stays at the table. Funding
36 issues were discussed; and issue needs to continue to be raised regarding funding. Critical landscape issue
37 was discussed and how we can educate and inform the State Forester on this issue.
38

39 Joe thanked the Council for continued hard work and that we are looking forward to our meeting in
40 Spokane. Please remember that DNR is experiencing changes, be patient and keep Sarah informed with
41 what the sub-committees are working on. Lastly, U&CF has been proposed on the agenda at the
42 Washington Chapter American Planning Association (APA) November meeting in Vancouver.
43
44

45 **August Agenda Topics:**

- 46 • updates on ECA process
 - 47 • work on list generated today
 - 48 • final report from task force and inventory project
 - 49 • tour of Manito Park
- 50

51 Action Item: send updated roster to council, get minutes out quickly so work can begin on list of items,
52 Sarah will send travel reimbursement forms ASAP.
53

54 August 19th meeting will be in Spokane at Manito Park. Meeting adjourned at 3:29.