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**WCFC Meeting**  
**November 18, 2009**  
**Pierce County Environmental Services Building**  
**University Place, WA**

**Members present:** Jim Freed, Mark Kahley, Joe Scorcio, Sarah Foster, Jim Flott, Terry Flatley, Jeff Beckwith, Sandy Salisbury, Barry Johnston, Dave Nelson, Scott Thomas, and Ara Erickson,

**Members absent:** Kathy Wolf, Rich Baker, Kelly Puntaney, Barbara Hollenbeck, and Brian Cramer

**Guests:** Ian Scott, Micki McNaughton, Linden Mead, Brian Ruda, Bob Vogel, and Vicki Lee

**Action Items:**

- **Chair will compose a letter to the State Forester and USFS regarding Director of Urban Forestry Position**
- **Linden will e-mail the Evergreen Communities Act Report to the Council when completed**
- **Confirm 2010 meeting locations**
- **Council Members send ideas about tree topping to Linden**
- **Vicki to e-mail electronic travel forms with the new per diem rate chart to Council Members**
- **Council Members please bring 8 ½ by 11 picture frames to February meeting**
- **Outreach Committee bring list of possible messages to February meeting**
- **Jeff will send e-mail to award committee regarding a conference call in early January**
- **Prior to February meeting Linden will forward Strategic Plan to Council members**
- 

Meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m.

**Welcome and Introductions – Vice-Chair**

Vice-Chair Terry Flatley convened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table.

**Agenda and May Minutes Review – Vice-Chair/All**

The agenda was reviewed, and approved. Minutes from May were approved as presented.

**Urban & Community Forestry Program Update – Sarah**

- **Staff Update:** Micki will be leaving, her last day is December 31. Sarah thanked her for all she has accomplished while she was with us.
- **Conference Update:** The Community Tree Management Institute for 2009 is complete. Sarah, Linden and Jim attended the Pacific Northwest International Society of Arboriculture Annual Training Conference in Kelowna, British Columbia. It will be held in Tacoma next year. Sarah, Micki and Linden attended the NW Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Portland; it was a very successful conference with over 350 attendees. The Program received scholarships for two of the three registrations from the Arbor Day Foundation. Sarah also attended the Washington/Oregon American Planning Association Conference in Vancouver. As part of a grant from the USDA Forest Service with the Oregon Department of Forestry, Jim Clark and Nelda Matheny were brought in to teach a half-day preconference workshop and speak during the conference. They were discussing

1 best management practices to help reduce forest fragmentation and preserve trees during  
2 development.  
3

- 4 • **Other Program Update:** Sarah has been working with Barbara on Annual Report for the FS. A  
5 modification to an existing grant is underway; if approved the Program will grant an estimated  
6 \$300,000 in 2010. DNR has proposed to award three Urban Initiative Grants, which are big grants for  
7 big cities (\$30,000 grants for cities over 50,000 populations). The rest of the funds will go on  
8 Community Forestry Assistance Grants, which will be awarded sometime in May 2010. Funds are  
9 from the 2007 federal grant; in addition DNR plans to hire a two-year project person to help  
10 administer the grants and create an “Anti-Topping Campaign”.  
11

12 DNR has heard good news of a four state cooperative competitive grant for technology transfer;  
13 Oregon will be the lead. Staff from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska will partner together on  
14 an number of educational items including small video clips on a number of urban forestry topics.  
15

16 If you follow DNR on Facebook or Twitter, there are a lot of “tweets” about urban forestry. Linden  
17 gave a short explanation of Twitter and how it works. There currently are 4,000 followers of Twitter  
18 for the DNR. Linden attended a session on social media and the use of it at the Partners in  
19 Community Forestry Conference. She will be working on a media plan and what can be done with  
20 social media. The Council should consider tapping into one of these media’s through the DNR. There  
21 was some discussion on the many uses of Twitter and Facebook. Also mentioned were the DNR blog  
22 “ear to the ground”, YouTube, MySpace, and flickr.com. Links to the sites are at [dnr.wa.gov](http://dnr.wa.gov).  
23

24 Jeff suggested the Outreach Committee discuss the topic during committee meetings.  
25

- 26 • **Federal Budget Update:** Congress passed a continuing resolution very early. Urban Forestry funding  
27 looks very good. There are some projects including Cascade Land Conservancy that are receiving  
28 earmarks this year.  
29

30 Ara mentioned they had put in for a four million dollar earmark and it was reduced to one million  
31 dollars for four cities (Seattle, Tacoma, Kirkland, and Redmond).  
32

33 Sarah met with her colleagues from across the Country in Portland; federal partners and  
34 representatives from nineteen states attended. The Coordinators discussed on policy and direction.  
35 The US Forest Service is the process of hiring a new Director of Urban Forestry. This could have a  
36 great impact on how things are run, since they would have the power to make national policy  
37 decisions.  
38

39 Sandy asked if the Council could be supplied with an e-mail address so they could send a letter to the  
40 State Forester. Chuck Turley’s email address is [chuck.turley@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:chuck.turley@dnr.wa.gov).  
41

42 Once the Forest Service advertizes the position, Sarah will pass the information to Joe. At that point a  
43 letter could be written to the State Forester.  
44

45 Joe made a motion authorizing the Chair to send a letter to the State Forester and the USFS hiring  
46 authority expressing concerns and hope for the appointment of the new Director of Urban Forestry.  
47

48 **Sandi moved, Mark seconded, motion passed.**  
49  
50

51 **CTED/Evergreen Communities Act Update: Sarah, Linden and Micki** (handouts passed around)  
52 Evergreen Community Partnership Task Force (ECPTF) completed the Guidance Document for Interim  
53 Guidance. This provides guidance for development of management plans, ordinances, urban forestry  
54 principles, and also outlines their vision of what the recognition and award program could or should look  
55 like. The report to Legislature has been finalized; it was reworked by our Legislative Liaison, Marie

1 Sullivan. With that went a letter of transmittal from Joe as Chair of the ECPTF. We updated the ECA fact  
2 sheet that goes in the notebooks to every single legislator. Copies of all the handouts were e-mailed to all  
3 the Council Members.  
4

5 Joe emphasized that this Council will keep the ECA alive. He thanked Micki for all her hard work  
6

7 The Legislative Committee needs to take a look at some of the recommendations that are in the report; at  
8 some point we will need to extend the deadline. We don't have to do this, this year, but do need to do this  
9 in the next 2011 session; or we do hit the sunset clause.  
10

11 The staff was commended, and Micki will take that back to the Task Force.  
12

13 Linden has been pushing forward the reports that were generated from her Task Force, the Technical  
14 Advisory Committee (TAC). She is also putting together a summary, and a reader's digest, which is a 16  
15 page report for the Legislature; this is in the final draft stages. Linden will e-mail to Council Members  
16 when finished. We are hoping to keep the process alive through the grant program which will encourage  
17 inventory and associated management plans, to accompany the inventory to develop programs within the  
18 communities. There has been a lot of interest in the awards program.  
19

20 There was a discussion on tree inventory, and the different processes. A few tools mentioned were I Tree,  
21 GIS, Google Earth, and aerial photos.  
22

23 Joe and Sarah received an e-mail from Aaron Everett, a DNR staffer on the policy side. Aaron has been  
24 tasked with a Committee to assess the Farm Bill, because Urban and Community Forestry is one of the  
25 elements under the Farm Bill; he is asking for a representative from the Council to work with the  
26 Committee. He is also asking for an alternate. Joe passed around the two page introduction from Aaron.  
27 Kathy Wolf (not present) has expressed interest, Jim Freed volunteered, and Terry said he would be the  
28 alternate. Joe asked that they report information back to the Council.  
29

### 30 **Meeting Dates and Locations for 2010 – Chair**

31 Proposed dates and locations:

- 32 • February 10, 2010 Olympia
- 33 • May 12, 2010 Tri-Cities (Brian make local arrangements)
- 34 • August 11, 2010 Spokane (Jim make local arrangements)
- 35 • November 17, 2010 Kirkland/Renton  
36

37 There was further discussion on travel, weather, and possible conference calls if the Council does not  
38 have quorum. The final decision was to have May and August meetings in eastern Washington, and  
39 February and November meetings in western Washington.  
40

41 Jeff made a motion to have November's meeting location be an agenda item on February's meeting  
42 agenda. Terry seconded the motion, motion passed. We will also confirm the August location at the  
43 February meeting.  
44  
45

### 46 **Lunch and Roundtable - All**

47 **Mark** – Mark gave a brief history of the Chamber's Creek Foundation and their partnership with Pierce  
48 County, the City of University Place and volunteers to develop a playground on the North Meadow by the  
49 Sound. The Foundation is working to raise \$150,000 to \$200,000; the construction is scheduled for the  
50 last week of September and first week of October of 2010.  
51

52 **Terry** – announced that the Renton's Urban Forestry Strategic Plan has been completed and has been  
53 adopted by the City Council, and is ready to be implemented. The Parks Department and Parks Division  
54 is now part of the new Parks Planning and Natural Resources Division.  
55

1 **Jim Flott** – the PNW-ISA Chapter is continuing to expand their education program. He talked about  
2 Anti-Tree Topping Campaign that will work to outreach in the smaller cities and rural areas. At the Fall  
3 Leaf Festival the Council’s third quarter Urban Forest Stewardship Award was presented to the Joey  
4 Rosman; Joey is an Eagle Scout who organized a project to removed hazard trees damaged in a wind  
5 storm and raised money to replant new trees.  
6

7 **Micki** – attended and presented at the infrastructure planning oriented conferences. She received great  
8 comments and feedback from the people who attended.  
9

10 **Sandy** – talked about the budget difficulties at the Department of Transportation. She performed a plant  
11 inspection for a project in the Tri-Cities, and ended up rejecting every tree; then they planted them  
12 anyway.  
13

14 **Ara** – the City of Kent joined the Green Cities Partnership in September; there are now five Puget Sound  
15 communities involved. Cascade Land Conservancy is also working with the City of Tukwila. On the  
16 federal level a new appropriation has been made for the current four cities. Kathy Wolf and Dale Blana,  
17 with the Forest Service Research Station have received stimulus funding for a project in King County.  
18 They will be partnering with non-profits in the area and the UW.  
19

20 **Scott** – The City of Covington is working on the Strategic Parks and Recreation Plan. No cuts this year.  
21

22 **Jeff** – PSE is economically stable, no lay-offs, and the vegetation budget is still stable. His other job with  
23 the City of Enumclaw, Jeff was hoping to bring forward a proposal for training for city crews; but the  
24 proposed budget includes eight lay-offs, so will have to wait at least a year.  
25

26 **Barry** – City of Fife has pushed forward to get the pharmaceuticals out of their ground water. The Tree  
27 Board is working on becoming the 76<sup>th</sup> Tree City before the end of the year.  
28

29 **Joe** – Pierce County is having budget heartaches. They do have money in the budget for starting their  
30 Strategic Management Plan for the Chamber’s Creek property. He talked about a major bond, where the  
31 first phase they would get \$57 million, and another \$80,000 in six years. Joe described the property, what  
32 they have done with it, and what they plan to do.  
33

#### 34 **Walking Tour of Chamber’s Creek Properties– All**

35

#### 36 **2010 WCFC Course of Action - Chair**

37 Outreach will be the major Council focus in 2010. Joe advised the Awards/Outreach Committee and the  
38 Legislative committees to take a look at the Evergreen Communities Act reports that were distributed  
39 earlier in the meeting and look for connections the Council wants to pursue in 2010.  
40

#### 41 **Tree Topping – Linden**

42 UCF staff has been in discussions with the Communications Section on launching an anti-tree topping  
43 campaign. One of the concerns is that the Anti-Topping Campaign is negative; work will need to be done  
44 to go forward with a more positive strategy. Linden asked the Council to brainstorm to come up with  
45 some ideas. She discussed an article in City Forester magazine about Chico, California; they conducted an  
46 art/poster contest, and the winning message was “Love Your Tree’s, Trim Them Don’t Top Them”.  
47

48 Linden spoke with the project manager and they will share the artwork, and DNR/Council can put our  
49 own logo on it. Discussion/ brainstorming ensured and Linden encouraged the Council Members to send  
50 ideas by e-mail to her. We will put Tree Topping back on the February Agenda, and discuss those ideas at  
51 that time.  
52

#### 53 **Nomination for 2010 Officers**

54 Sarah reviewed the bylaws; candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair shall be nominated at the last Council  
55 meeting of the year, and voting shall take place at the first meeting of the year.

1 Joe was nominated as Chair, and Terry was nominated as Vice-Chair. It was decided that the Legislative  
2 Chair, and the Outreach Chair will keep their positions until February, which at that time there will be  
3 new people appointed.  
4

#### 5 **Sub-Committee Reports – Sub-committee chairs**

6 The sub-committees met briefly to discuss what they need to do for 2010.  
7

8 **Legislative Committee Report:** 1) they will draft letter for the Chair to send to Commissioner regarding  
9 budgets, and to keep ECA in mind for the 2011-2013 budgets. Also, have Tree Cities draft letters to keep  
10 EAC alive, 2) Look at developing some legislation for statewide ban against tree topping, that wouldn't  
11 require funding, 3) Sandy will continue to monitor climate change legislation, and 4) Utility Bill (Micki  
12 will watch.)  
13

14 DNR is forming a Committee or Task Force to work on the cleanup of Puget Sound; the Commissioner is  
15 asking for volunteers. The Council should have representation at that table. The Urban Forestry staff  
16 will take the seat internally; but that will be something that will be on the potential radar of the Council.  
17 Sarah will keep a monitor of that, and bring back reports.  
18

19 **Outreach Committee Report:** Outreach wants to do more than an award ceremony. 1) Want to work on  
20 getting our message out to whoever needs it, and 2) Help DNR get their message out.  
21

22 The Council should look at their Strategic Goals and decide what two or three key messages to focus on.  
23 The Council could decide on those messages for the Outreach Committee to work on getting out. It was  
24 decided that the Committee should come with a list of possible messages to the February meeting.  
25

26 Sarah suggested that the Communication's Director be invited to the February meeting or the Outreach  
27 Committee meet separately with someone from Communications in January.  
28

29 Jeff will send e-mail to Committee Members to schedule a conference call in early January. **Sandy asked**  
30 **that members bring 8 ½ by 11 picture frames to the February Meeting to put award certificates in.**  
31  
32

#### 33 **February Agenda Topics:**

- 34 • Confirm August meeting location
- 35 • Tree Topping - Linden
- 36 • Revisit Strategic Plan  
37

38 Linden announced tomorrow there is a recognition at the UW for them attaining the status of "Tree  
39 Campus USA"; the Arbor Day Foundation will be there.  
40

41 Ara's invited Council member's the Cascade Land Conservancy's open house in December. She will send  
42 out an e-mail to the Council Members about the open house.  
43

44 February 10, 2010, meeting will be in Olympia, Council will be notified when location has been  
45 determined. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.