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4 **WCFC Meeting**
5 **February 9, 2011**
6 **Natural Resources Building, Room 172**
7 **Olympia, Washington**
8

9 **Members Present:** Jeff Beckwith, Brian Cramer, Ara Erickson, Terry Flatley, Jim Flott, Sarah
10 Foster, Jim Freed, Mark Kahley, David Nelson, Sandy Salisbury, Joe Scorcio, Scott Thomas
11

12 **Members Absent:** Barbara Hollenbeck, Barry Johnson, Kelly Punteney, Kathy Wolf
13

14 **Guests:** Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark, State Forester Aaron Everett, Nicki
15 Eisfeldt, Linden Mead, Ian Scott
16

17 Meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m.
18

19 **Introductions and Welcome – Chair and Secretary**

20 Sarah welcomed the council to the NRB; housekeeping items were discussed.

21 Sarah discussed some of the recent changes at DNR; Joe Shramek and Randy Acker were going
22 to do the welcome but were unable to attend due to a need to testify before the Legislature. They
23 will stop in later in the meeting if schedules allow.

24 **Agenda and Review of November Minutes - Chair**

25 The agenda was reviewed and accepted. Meeting minutes from November were discussed. Mark
26 moved to accept, Brian seconded. Motion carried.
27

28 **Council Business**

29 Council elections - at the November meeting, nominations for 2011 were Joe Scorcio for Chair,
30 Jeff Beckwith as vice Chair. Scott moved, Sandy seconded to approve the slate. Motion carried;
31 Joe abstained from the vote. Congratulations to Jeff and Joe.

32 **DNR Program Update – Sarah and Linden**

33 Linden thanked Council members for participating in the Council Communiqué section of the
34 Tree Link. Upcoming editions will feature: Jim Freed (March), and Terry Flatley (May).

35 Tree City USA – Washington has a total of 80 Tree City USA Communities. Four new
36 communities have enrolled in the program - Cheney, Ritzville, Yarrow Point, and Snoqualmie.
37 McChord AFB did not recertify due to changes at the base, however, the Program is optimistic
38 that Joint Base Lewis McChord will join in 2011. All nine Tree Line USA utilities recertified;
39 there were no new. Two new colleges/universities have enrolled in the Tree Campus USA

1 program (Clark College and Pacific Lutheran University); two have recertified (Columbia Basin
2 and University of Washington,).

3 Arbor Day – requests for presentations are slowly coming in to Program staff. Please let Linden
4 know if you are available to present Tree City USA awards on behalf of the Council.

5 Linden will attend the Municipal Foresters Institute in Nebraska later in February.

6 An Interagency Agreement (IAA) with the Spokane Conservation District is in the works. The
7 IAA will provide technical assistance to communities in Spokane, Pend Oreille, Stevens,
8 Lincoln, Adams and Whitman counties.

9 The Anti-Tree Topping campaign is moving forward. Design work is just about complete and
10 artwork will be going to the printer this month; the materials will be ready for distribution prior
11 to Arbor Day. Joe recommended working with APA to help distribute. WRPA conference is
12 another option to get materials distributed. BOMA – business owner’s management associations
13 are another option. Discussion continued about ideas for outreach.

14 **DNR Communications Section Update – Bryan Flint and Janet Pearce**

15 The Council did self-introductions to Bryan and welcomed him to the meeting. Bryan shared his
16 background. He’s been with DNR for a little over a month. He came to DNR from Tahoma
17 Audubon and knows a lot about urban forestry issues; he looks forward to working more with the
18 UCF program. Bryan discussed bills that DNR has active this year:

- 19 1. Biomass to jet fuel; project to test turning forest byproducts to liquid jet fuel. It would be
20 a renewable source for liquid fuel.
- 21 2. Community Forest Trust; adds another tool to trust land transfer program. Would keep
22 working forests working in areas close to communities. Focus is habitat and recreation
23 more than harvest.
- 24 3. Derelict vessel legislation is active as well.

25 Discussion about ‘government 2.0’ and using the tools DNR has to communicate good messages
26 (Facebook, Twitter, blogs, etc). Bryan is open to working with Council to continue to expand
27 messaging.

28 Janet discussed the ideas DNR have for the 20th anniversary of the UCF program and the
29 Council. Council asked about tools for website including sample twitter posts, blog templates,
30 news releases, etc. A how to guide for getting the information out would be nice for the website
31 as well.

32 Legislative committee asked about the Evergreen Communities Act to extend the dates to keep it
33 from sun setting. Bryan will need to talk to Heath.

34

35 **Sub-Committee Breakouts:**

36 **Legislative:** Ian gave an update on the Puget Sound Partnership action agenda. He found a
37 number of places that urban forestry language could be included/added. He will send his
38 comments to Sarah to forward to the Council. Comments may be due prior to our May meeting;

1 Joe proposed re-affirming that the Legislative committee has the ability to comment on the
2 Council's behalf.

3 Jeff moved to the legislative committee have the ability to comment on the Puget Sound
4 Partnership action agenda and other matters before the Legislature. Scott seconded. Discussion:
5 none. Motion carried. Legislative committee is also continuing to work to extend deadlines for
6 the ECA in this legislative session.
7

8 **Awards/Outreach:** Outreach Committee is working on processes to make sure they have
9 everything in order and will then work on larger outreach efforts. Ara presented the new Council
10 meeting logistics checklist that the local host/lead will work from. She's hoping to put it out as a
11 Google doc to see if that works. Comments on the document go to Ara and it will continue to be
12 refined.
13

14 **Stewardship Award Presentation – Update**

15 Cass Turnbull of Plant Amnesty was selected as the recipient of the Urban Forest Stewardship
16 Award. She was unable to attend the meeting; however, Joe Scorcio and Sarah Foster were able
17 to attend the Plant Amnesty 'meeting of like minds' and present the award to Cass in front of her
18 organization. She was very touched and sent her thanks to the Council.
19

20 **Council Roundtable:**

21 Jim Freed: Workshops for small forest landowners; three to be held Spokane, Goldendale, and
22 Gig Harbor.

23 Ara: two CLC employees have passed the certification exam and are now certified arborists.

24 Jeff: PSE is hosting a utility arborist training session on March 23-24th in Bellevue. Ian is co-
25 chairing. www.uaa.com has more information. Ian will send information to Linden for Tree
26 Link and distribution.

27 David: he is working with a core group working on the Arid Lands Initiative. He'll share
28 information with the Council as it evolves.

29 Jim Flott: PNW Chapter conference at the Coeur d'Alene Resort; Keynote speaker is Steven
30 Solomon.

31 **Recognition program work session - Ara**

32 The Outreach Committee would like to refine the recognition program; how can the project grow
33 and where to go next? This is to be a brainstorm session with 3 components: how to get more
34 people involved, 2. How to make it more 'special' for the recipient, and 3. How to include this
35 more in Council meetings (presentation, media, tour, etc.).

36 1. How to get more involved:

37 a. Solicit applications from the groups represented and then plan the meetings
38 accordingly

39 b. Advertise in the Tree Link (also keep in Council Communiqué)

- c. Call for nominations for 2012 awards. Committee can solicit them prior September; review and select winners. Meeting locations can be set for the locations of the winners as well.
- d. Send nominations forms to City Council's
- e. Different award categories? Business, city employee, volunteers, etc.
- f. Outreach through Council members organizations.

2. Recognition materials- how to make it cooler

- a. Tree (properly planted in May/October as educational event ceremony)
- b. Personal touch (go to them make it special)
- c. Present at other organizations meetings
- d. What makes the award? Paper in a frame? Tree? Forest product 'art'? Something made in Washington.
- e. Letter of congratulations and picture of the tree planted in their honor
- f. Press involvement
- g. No plaque, maybe a gift certificate to a garden center instead? Support local businesses and promote arboriculture.
- h. Recognition certificate, tree, or gift certificate? Or all three?

3. Including more with Council meetings

Sarah will send information already written about the awards to Ara; the committee will adjust/add/edit if needed and create a call for nominations to be sent out.

Other ideas: tiered process? Recognition of all nominees?

Great ideas, now who does it? Outreach committee to lead and revise materials. All council members will send call for nominations out. All members will think about award materials, and get budget information to Ara. Outreach committee will look into soliciting donations. Sarah will talk with Arbor Day partner on potentially managing the finances for the awards.

Sarah will send David the Council logo.

Visit with Commissioner of Public Lands - Peter Goldmark

Council members introduced themselves and the organization they represent. Commissioner Goldmark thanked the Council for their service. This group has a task of tying forestry and communities together. DNR has a responsibility in the area of forestry. He went to a number of Arbor Day celebrations last year, and thanked those communities making a difference. He went to Vancouver where 200+ people, classrooms of children, host of dignitaries, and celebrated trees and their importance. He also went to Omak for their celebration; the event was held at a rest home and created a small park for the residents. He will continue to support Arbor Day and the value of trees.

1 The UCF program is just part of what DNR does for forests. Two million acres are managed by
2 DNR for schools (trusts) and other areas are managed for conservation or recreation. Over the
3 last 12 months, DNR has had considerable interactions with the Department of General
4 Administration (GA). The issue with the trees under the overhang of the Natural Resources
5 Building sparked the discussion and we now have an interagency-agreement with GA to provide
6 arborist services for the trees on the Capitol Campus.

7 He also discussed other programs that help encourage forestry and forest cover in Washington.
8 Trust land transfer program is a mechanism that can be used to keep non-harvest lands or those
9 of high ecosystem values to a conservancy status (Natural Area Preserves or Natural Resource
10 Conservation Areas). The replacement account takes 20% of the value of a harvest can be used
11 to protect lands at risk of conversion. An example is the Raging River Forest in eastern King
12 County. 8000 acres were purchased with Cascade Land Conservancy, Mountains To Sound
13 Greenway Trust, King County, and other partners to set this aside as working forest (it was at
14 risk for conversion). Puget Sound Action Agenda is a plan to clean up and recover Puget Sound;
15 it acknowledges keeping working forests in the Puget Sound basin. Working forests are the best
16 way to clean up and recover the Sound. It will help prevent the spread of pavement. Transfer of
17 development rights is another way to shift development value and protect lands at risk. Federal
18 programs: section 6 dollars from Fish and Wildlife (in partnership with land trusts) allows for
19 purchase of development rights for lands at risk. Forest Legacy does the same thing specifically
20 to keep working forests working. Areas around Mt. Saint Helens are now focus of the Legacy
21 program. Land Bank Funds are used for forest lands for a long term purpose of purchasing
22 forested properties; forested lands are the best investment for state lands.

23

24 DNR is serious and involved in keeping working forests. Fiber and building materials, clean
25 water/air/habitat, and recreation are important 'forest products'. He's optimistic that the state
26 and other landowners will be able to get compensation for ecosystem services. Carbon was the
27 buzz before, but hasn't materialized. Other services (mainly water quality); watersheds are
28 instrumental in playing a role in delivering clean, cold water to municipalities. Landowners
29 should be compensated for that 'service'.

30 Commissioner Goldmark thanked the Council for their service; the Council is instrumental in
31 ensuring that federal funds for this important program keep coming.

32

33 Community Forest Trust: a bill that is currently in the legislature to help protect blocks of land
34 that are at risk of conversion in partnership with municipalities. For example, if a municipality
35 wanted to protect a block of land in their area, they could enter into a management strategy in the
36 long term plan for the forest. The municipality would purchase the development rights for the
37 property, and roll this into the management plan. The goal is to slow conversion of forest lands
38 adjacent to cities and enable the DNR to purchase the lands...this is a tool that will assist.

1

2 Q&A:

- 3 1. Merger/consolidation of natural resource agencies; what is the impact to DNR and
4 potential impact to urban forestry. Realignment would move DNR enforcement officers
5 to fish and wildlife/new agency. There are concerns with this due to trust
6 responsibilities; DNR is keeping watch and working on solutions with the Governor.
7 Natural Heritage is proposed to be moved to WDFW; Historical Preservation would
8 move do DNR. Some parts make sense, others don't make a lot of sense. There are
9 concerns. He feels reform is important, but needs to be done for the right reasons. The
10 partnership with DFWF will continue to grow. Still a work in progress in the
11 legislature. Some of the reforms make sense at a very high level, but may not be as
12 beneficial in the details.
- 13 2. Urban trees are beneficial to clean air/water; is there any discussion about urban forestry
14 in other aspects of how working forests are defined. Forestry for DNR is all done for
15 trust beneficiaries; maximization of benefits is the main goal. Revenues can't be used for
16 other purposes. Outside revenue would be needed to do any work outside the Trusts.
17 DNR has had a 25% reduction...another 20-25% reduction is possible in the next
18 biennium. Federal partners are key to keep the UCF program going forward.
- 19 3. Community forest trust: would the local municipality be able to transfer the development
20 rights? Maybe, and use of TDR could fund the purchase of forest lands. Bonds are
21 another option for purchase funds and could augment development rights. TDR is just
22 getting going in Washington and only a couple counties are able to use them.

23

24 **Visit with Aaron Everett – State Forester**

25 Aaron followed up on Commissioner Goldmark's comments about TDR that there are
26 discussions about community forestry bonds at the federal level. Hasn't happened yet, but he's
27 hopeful that federal bonding authority would work with TDR and other mechanisms.

28 Federal budget overview – fiscal year 2011 we're OK. House is recommending Forest Service is
29 about the same (small reduction); however, fiscal 2012 is not as strong. There are advocates in
30 the House that are friendly. That said, it's important to keep reminding elected officials of the
31 importance of this program. He encourages keeping elected officials informed. Arbor Day is a
32 good opportunity to get the message out; meet with/invite officials when they are in their home
33 district.

34 Statewide assessment and strategy- Aaron thanked the Council for their involvement and
35 assistance on the SFRA&S. The program has continued to grow and evolve the UCF program.
36 The assessment gives a basis for projects and can help push urban forestry on the radar.
37 Connecting the uplands and the cities is important. Competitive grant funding is one of the ways
38 we can connect the two and keep funding. He encouraged the Council to think about projects
39 that DNR and partners can engage in by the May meeting; work with Sarah on ideas.

1 Rule making for new program – Forest Service published a proposed rule making for
2 Community Forest and Open Space Conservation. It was in the 2008 Farm Bill but wasn't
3 funded. He has concerns about how it is written, and will send notes to Sarah for distribution to
4 the Council. How it works is unclear now.

5 Q&A:

6 1. Competitive grant question – federal funds matched with local/state match. Goals can be
7 found in the assessment? Yes, in a broad way. We haven't done a big urban forestry
8 project. We have received a few smaller projects. Aaron discussed 'redesign' at the
9 national level. Funds are held back at 15% that is then available for competitive funding.
10 \$300,000 is the award ceiling. An idea: could we do an urban forest cover analysis for
11 large chunk? Maybe. If tied to new technology, other uses (management, pest and
12 disease, other?). Match would be an issue.

13

14 Aaron will send information about UCF projects that have been funded with competitive
15 funding. Partnerships are encouraged. Job creation is important as well. Recovery Act
16 grants have a job creation formula that really doesn't work very well.

17

18 Urban Forests and stormwater is a big tie; urban forests don't always have a harvest
19 benefit, but do have huge ecological services benefits. Urban natural areas are important
20 to keeping slope stability, clean water, PS cleanup, etc. Redefining 'working forest' is
21 key...not just forest products but other benefits.

22

23 Terry discussed Wisconsin's statewide inventory and assessment tying in ecological
24 services based on iTree (sample plots). Urban FIA may be covered by this.

25

26 Aaron asked for more information about what we are thinking and what the needs are.
27 What do we need and to what intensity...build upon what we have and what do we need
28 in addition. Could be used as competitive project or potentially other funding.

29

30 Can small organizations get support from Aaron or other DNR officials (other than just
31 Sarah all the time). Work through Sarah on support for broader UF projects. Tie to
32 statewide assessment.

33

34 May meeting agenda items: Jim is in charge of logistics. Sarah to send message about flights
35 soon for the May meeting. Awards discussion. Discussion of vacancies.

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37 Meeting adjourned at 3:25PM

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