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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **May 13, 2015**

4 **Yakima Area Arboretum, 1401 Arboretum Dr., Yakima, WA 98901**

5 **Members Attending:** Sheila Gray, Chair; Brian Cramer, Garth Davis, Paula Dinius, Terry Flatley (arrived at
6 9:22 a.m.), Juli Hartwig, Jheri Ketcham, Linden Lampman, Daniel Layton, Kirsten Lints, David Miller
7 (arrived at 9:16 a.m.), Joe Scorcio, Kathy Wolf.

8 **Members Absent:** Lisa Ciecko, Cindy Deffe, David Erickson, Kathy Sheehan

9 **Guests:** Ben Thompson, Elizabeth Housley, David Haws

10 **Meeting Convened:** 9:00 a.m.

11 **Welcome:** Chair Sheila Gray called the meeting to order and welcomed council members and guests.
12 Council members introduced themselves around the table.

13 Jheri Ketcham welcomed the council to the arboretum. She told us the arboretum was established in
14 1967 by the Yakima Garden Club. The site consists of 32 acres of cultivated ground, and 14 acres of
15 natural area. There are approximately 1000 labeled trees. The education program is driven by the
16 arboretum's master plan.

17 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve minutes from the February 11, meeting: Joe Scorcio; second:
18 David Miller. Ketcham noted a misspelling of her name. With that correction, the motion passed
19 unanimously.

20 **Agenda Approved:** No additions or corrections were made to the agenda.

21 **DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report:** Lampman told the council that the Urban Forestry
22 Program is housed in the Resource Protection Division of the agency; Washington Department of
23 Natural Resources. Recently the name "Resource Protection Division" was changed to "Wildfire
24 Division." The new name will be phased in over time. Lampman also reported on recent program
25 activities: DNR grant agreements = 10 inventories this year, 6 CFA grants, 4 tree planting grants.
26 Community Forestry Consultants Inc. was selected as the contractor for tree inventory data collection
27 this year. Kathy commented on data analytics and suggested having a conversation about data analysis
28 protocols. Paula and Linden discussed creating a fillable form for tree planting maintenance plans.

29 Tree planting and community forestry assistance grant agreements have been sent to communities..
30 Memorandum of Understanding agreements are being sent to those communities participating in the
31 inventory grant program. The urban wood use program is in full swing. The carpentry shop is crafting
32 products from the dried wood. Linden has asked the AG's office for guidance on the donation,
33 acceptance, and distribution of wood and wood products. Linden also attended a Sustainability in

1 Prisons project meeting to see if other opportunities may exist for training inmates in arboriculture or
2 other related skills.

3 The Master Gardener Online Training Module project continues to be fleshed out with an agreement
4 anticipated in the near future. Lampman recently attended a working group meeting in Nebraska at the
5 invitation of the Arbor Day Foundation. The group discussed revisions to the current Growth Award
6 program. Ideas centered on enhanced recognition for communities with programs that consistently
7 engage in projects and design management systems that develop program sustainability. The program
8 is considering sending aggregated inventory data from the last three years to a consultant for analysis.
9 Kathy Wolf provided suggestions to guide the analysis and offered that this type of project would be
10 appropriate for a master's student.

11 Lampman asked that the council consider an assignment, due at the next meeting. She would like the
12 council to consider what issues are most important to the organizations and groups that they represent,
13 citing that WCFC meetings can be a back and forth transfer of information. The Council discussed how
14 AWC in particular might interface with the UCF program in a reciprocal type of relationship. Council
15 members discussed the assignment. Wolf suggested a specific framework captured below :

- 16 • How do you intersect with the group/organization you represent on the council?
 - 17 ○ What are the hot button issues in the organization?
 - 18 ○ How does your organization's mission statement intersect with urban forestry?
 - 19 ○ What form of communication conduits are found within the organization?
 - 20 ○ What is the 'sticky communication' in your organization? That is, what messages
21 resonate with the membership?
- 22 • All members will report at the September meeting, regardless of attendance. (Written reports
23 are acceptable if a council member is unable to attend the September meeting.)
24

25 Ben Thompson reported that his proposal to speak at the Association of Washington Cities annual
26 conference has been accepted. The date is Wednesday, June 24th in Wenatchee. The original proposal
27 pitched using natural resource management to build community resiliency in the face of climate change,
28 however Ben worked with AWC to revise the proposal. The presentation will be 30 minutes about how
29 cities can weave natural resource management into their comprehensive plans to build successful
30 communities. The program intends to distribute relevant information about U&CF program services and
31 Tree City USA at a table in the conference exhibit hall on the 24th.

32
33 Thompson recognized and thanked the council for their help during Arbor Day this year: Sheila Gray, Joe
34 Scorcio, Juli Hartwig, Cindy Deffe, Terry Flatley, Garth Davis, Jheri Ketcham, Daniel Layton, Brian Cramer,
35 and Kathy Sheehan.

36 **Guest Speaker:** David Haws from Yakima Public Services, talked about stormwater infrastructure in the
37 Yakima Area including stormwater basics, stormwater project permitting and low Impact development
38 (LID) regulations. Yakima County has created its own LID manual; a comprehensive guidance document
39 that addresses uniquely local conditions. The manual is available on the Yakima County Stormwater web
40 site. Council members asked some clarifying questions. Gray thanked Mr. Haws for providing
41 information for the council.

42 **Presentation: Stormwater, Green Infrastructure and Health in King County.** Kathy Wolf gave a
43 presentation about emerging discussions around stormwater infrastructure in King County and other

1 urban areas; green infrastructure has multiple benefits to the urban ecosystem. Moving toward a new
2 definition of “metro nature” to classify urban vegetation and ecosystems in context of their benefits.

3 The idea of introducing social as well as environmental benefits into green installations built for
4 stormwater mitigation is gaining traction. Health and UCF connection is related to general human
5 wellness. Green infrastructure can be viewed as having many layers of benefits, both from a stormwater
6 and an urban forestry perspective. An example is a trail system running through a stormwater capture
7 site designed as a wetland. With easy access to and through the green space, residents have the
8 opportunity to experience nature nearby. Limited space in cities may lead to ‘multi-tasking’ nature.

9 “Nearby nature” has restorative effects on urban residents and ‘Restorative nature’ within (rather than
10 beyond) city limits provides benefits to a greater number of urban dwellers. Wolf anticipates publishing
11 an article about the multiple benefits of green infrastructure for the Stormwater, a trade journal for civil
12 engineers. Wolf encourages council members to visit and promote the Green Cities: Good health
13 website, a clearinghouse of over 3000 peer reviewed articles about health effects of urban vegetation.

14 **Roundtable Reports:**

15 Jheri Ketchum (representing non-profit groups): Yakima Area Arboretum (YAA) recently hosted an
16 estimated 2000 people at the annual Arbor Fest. 700 trees were distributed to attendees. YAA is leading
17 the effort to create an urban forestry advocacy group in Yakima. Ketchum attended the Kennewick
18 Arbor Day event and presented their Tree City USA award.

19 Sheila Gray (representing Washington State Association of Counties) Attended Arbor Day events in
20 Centralia, Yelm and Tumwater. The Envirothon, emphasizing urban forestry this year, is coming up in a
21 few weeks. It will be held in Yacolt.

22 Kirsten Lints (representing Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association - WSNLA) - In
23 partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation’s Community Tree Recovery Program and the Okanogan
24 County Conservation District WSNLA distributed 8000 trees and shrubs this spring in Pateros and Twisp
25 to property owners that lost homes, trees and landscaping during the Carlton Complex fire of 2014.
26 Governor Inslee contacted WSNLA for assistance in distributing drought information to Washington
27 residents. Lints is working closely with the City of Duvall toward Tree City USA designation.

28 Joe Scorcio (representing Private or Public Land Developers).The City of SeaTac recently hosted a display
29 by the historical society; the Trees of Waskowicz. The display recognizes a program where middle school
30 students (now adults) planted trees in SeaTac and the impact those trees had on the city and on the
31 individuals who planted them. SeaTac recently presented a special award to retiring city forester, Roger
32 Chouinard for his work and commitment to urban forestry in SeaTac. Mr. Chouinard championed the
33 Tree City USA designation for the city; Scorcio attended Arbor Day in Puyallup and SeaTac, where Terry
34 Flatley presented the award to the city; Scorcio recently negotiated a fee in lieu of replanting trees at a
35 redeveloped Park and Fly lot in the city.

36 David Miller: Ellensburg celebrated Arbor Day by partnering with Eastern Washington University (EWU)
37 students to plant trees. The city will maintain and water the trees. The EWU is working on a Tree
38 Campus designation.

1 **Presentation: Guest Speaker, Elizabeth Housley and Kathy Wolf.** Housley and Wolf presented a report
2 on research looking at who conservation work affects personal effectiveness and stress recovery in
3 participants in conservation jobs; Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) members and Veterans within
4 the WCC. Research focused on social interactions, individual traits and characteristics related to stress
5 recovery.

6 Pre and post surveys were given to 275 crew members, with questions related to job skills and
7 employment enhancement, and the physical benefits of conservation work.

8 Survey results showed that members were in good physical and emotional health at the onset of the
9 job. Through the experience they developed greater confidence, experienced personal growth, enjoyed
10 learning, and the crew teamwork. Crew members said that good communication enhanced their
11 positive experiences, while body pain and weather conditions were mentioned as challenges.

12 Overall, results of the survey show this to be a healthy group of individuals from the beginning, crew
13 members perceived their stress as lowered, sore muscles did not interfere with their social life or
14 perceived overall well-being, and returning employees appear healthier than their new peers.

15 Council comments: Paula Dinius a program at Washington State University titled Operation Military Kids.
16 It is a program for teenage youth from military families, identified as high risk. The program is through 4-
17 H.

18 **Break and tour of the arboretum:** Council members were invited on a guided walk through the
19 arboretum with a visiting leadership group from Yakima.

20

21 **Council Work Plan 2015:** At the last meeting, council voted to focus on stormwater, but now is unsure
22 about how to fit the concept into a plan of work. Council discussed Tree City outreach and the ability to
23 tie the stormwater issue into information materials during contact with communities that are
24 introduced to the TCUSA program. Requested that Ben Thompson re-send TCUSA material to members.
25 Lampman asked if members were comfortable with the materials developed by the program for their
26 use. Most members were not familiar with the materials. Thompson projected the presentation and
27 council members commented and suggested revisions to the slides. Ketchum projected a slide show that
28 she uses to promote the YAA. Council agreed that a photo-heavy presentation that 'grabs the heart' of
29 viewers is more effective than technical content. Staff will work to revise the presentation; requested
30 council members to send good photos of urban forests.

31 Council set a goal to independently secure one additional community into the TCUSA program. UCF staff
32 are available for support, and will send a revised list of those communities ready to become a TCUSA.

33 Scorcio asked that members be apprised of term expiration dates before the November meeting.
34 Lampman will send an updated roster; the roster is also accessible on the council web page.

35 **Motion to adjourn:** Garth Davis, Scorcio 2nd. Meeting adjourned 3:30 p.m.

36 **Next meeting: September 9, 2015; North Bend, Seattle City Light Environmental Center; Terry Flatley**
37 **organizational lead.**