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2 **Washington Community Forestry Council Meeting**
3 **September 12, 2018**
4 **Hal Holmes Community Center, Ellensburg, WA**
5

6 **Members Attending:** Angel Spell, Cindy Deffe, Dave Bayard, David Miller, Juli Hartwig, Ken Armstrong,
7 Kirsten Lints, Linden Lampman, Lisa Ciecko, Paula Dinius, Semra Riddle,

8 **Members Absent:** John Bornsworth, Terry Flatley, Kathleen Wolf, Kathy Sheehan, Peter Dervin

9 **Guests:** Ben Thompson, George Geissler, Nancy Lillquist (Ellensburg Mayor Pro-tem)

10 **Meeting Convened:** 9:05 a.m.

11 **Welcome:** Angel Spell welcomed members. Members introduced themselves around the table. Mayor
12 Pro Tem, Nancy Lillquist welcomed the Council to Ellensburg. Celebrating 35 years, the community is the
13 oldest Tree City USA in the state. Over the years, the city has planted 683 trees in celebration of Arbor
14 Day. George Geisler, State Forester was introduced; he briefed the council on his background.

15 **Agenda Approved:** Lisa Ciecko moved to approve; second David Miller. Discussion about walking lunch
16 as part of round-table networking. Motion carried.

17 **Minutes Approved:** Motion to approve minutes from May 16, 2018. Correction seminar date changed
18 from 2018 to 2019; page 2, line 6. Motion to approve minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

19 **George Geissler, DNR State Forester, Deputy Supervisor Wildfire and Forest Health:**

20 Discussion about urban and community forestry program in Washington state and nationally.

- 21 • Federal funding for UCF is trending down
- 22 • Commissioner of Public Lands is supportive
- 23 • Suggestion to devise mechanisms to market benefits of community trees and forest health to
24 state legislators
- 25 • There is a nexus between wildfire preparedness and UCF - safe, resilient landscapes; fire
26 adapted communities (FAC)
- 27 • Forest Health Strategy can tie into urban areas
- 28 • George can help identify target audiences, then council can help identify messaging platforms
29 and messages
- 30 • Currently forest health and wildfire advisory committees do not have urban representation; FAC
31 network has some urban representation. Opportunity for council expertise to inform other
32 communities
- 33 • DNR is beginning to discuss cross jurisdictional standards; this may need to be a legislative fix

- 1 • Topical issues of concern in WA: drought and climate issues including big-leaf maple decline,
2 understory decline in natural areas, loss of cedar, pressure on other conifer species; fire danger
3 and forest health issues are appearing on both sides of the state, not just the west side.
- 4 • UCF stewardship training through Master Gardener online program is an opportunity to raise
5 visibility of stewardship, management
- 6 • Need strategies to engage youth in natural resources; there is a decline in students graduating
7 with forestry degrees

8 **DNR Urban & Community Forestry Program Report:**

9 Ben Thompson, UCF Specialist:

- 10 • Working on Landscape Scale Restoration Grant proposal with a focus on equity, in partnership
11 with Forterra;
- 12 • Seminar Series Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities is ongoing;
- 13 • Plans for a presentation at the IACC conference as co-presenter with Gus Lim from DuPont;
- 14 • Three Urban and Community Forestry Month activities in October, request Council participation
15 for award presentations.
- 16 • UCF Month on Capitol Campus will highlight National Champion English Oak
- 17 • TCUSA portal is open for applications
- 18 • Municipal Forestry Institute will be held in Oregon this year; encourage program managers to
19 attend training
- 20 • New article in development for Tree Link, “Faces of Urban Forestry” request for council
21 feedback
- 22 • American Grove is being re-developed; an attempt to use the site as a listserv

23 Linden Lampman, UCF Program Manager:

- 24 • Three LSR proposal submitted this year
- 25 • Gearing up to assist Invasive Species Council with a pest preparedness strategy
- 26 • The Effectiveness Study agreement with ECY is final, once partner agreements are in place the
27 project will launch
- 28 • Great interest in UCF for stormwater mitigation as it relates to Salmon Recovery; working to
29 provide information and budget request to Aquatics Division
- 30 • Investigating marketing strategies, but are waiting for the new Forest Health Communications
31 Specialist to arrive
- 32 • Two grant programs will be offered this fall – Small Community Forestry Assistance grants
33 (under 10,000 in population) and Community Forestry Assistance grants with a focus on Social
34 Justice projects
- 35 • Working on end of year reports for US Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters

36 **November conference call:** Call is scheduled for November 14 from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Agenda to
37 include executive leadership nominations; planning for Olympia meeting in February; planning outreach
38 strategies.

39 **Roundtable Reports:** Refer to attached reports

1 **DNR UCF equity work update:**

- 2 • Reviewed background and goals of the group; work is ongoing
- 3 • 2019 LSR grant submitted; committee provided invaluable feedback during proposal
- 4 development
- 5 • 2019 Community Forestry Assistance grant being developed with feedback from CA ReLeaf
- 6 Social Equity grant program
- 7 • The non-profit Front and Centered is on track for launching an interactive web-based
- 8 environmental justice mapping tool for the state this coming October/November;
- 9 • September 18 webinar by Front and Centered environmental justice mapping tool; Ben to send
- 10 webinar link to council.

11 **DNR Fire Adapted Communities Program:**

- 12 • Overview of FAC program
- 13 • New program lead, and enhanced grant program
- 14 • Community support to develop wildfire mitigation and preparation plans through Firewise and
- 15 FAC

16 **Seminar Program themes for 2019:**

- 17 • Ben proposes the following themes and will be asking the council for feedback on their
- 18 favorites:
 - 19 ○ Climate and Carbon
 - 20 ○ Public Health
 - 21 ○ Canopy Loss/Canopy Enhancement
 - 22 ○ Urbanization/Trees and Development
 - 23 ○ Advocacy in UCF
 - 24 ○ Ordinances and Policies
- 25 •

26 **Meeting Adjourned:** Motion to adjourn meeting Semra Riddle.

27 **Next meeting:** November 14 conference call 9:00 – 11:00.