

# WISCONSIN URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

June 21, 2013

Clock Shadow Building – Milwaukee, WI

**In Attendance:** Bruce Allison, Christopher Deegan, Thomas Dunbar, John DuPlissis, Marla Eddy, Mark Freberg, John Gall, Leif Hubbard, Shirley Brabender-Mattox, Don Merkes, Art Ode, Ken Ottman, Jordan Skiff, David Sivyver, Jeff Treu, Kelli Tuttle, Les Werner,

**Ex Officio members in attendance:** Olivia Witthun, Laura Wyatt, Jeff Roe and Dick Rideout, Kim Sebastian

**Members Absent:** Todd Chwala, Patti Dreier, Dan Green, Greg Kessler, Tom Landgraf, Dan Siewert, Blake Theisen, Kevin Westphal, Jeff Wolters.

**Public guests in attendance:** August Hoppe, Tony Nowak, Anna Healy (DATCP), Ian Brown, BobWesp, Dwayne Sperber,

## Call to Order and Introductions

Kelli Tuttle

Kelli Tuttle called the meeting to order at 10:04am after a tour of the Clock Shadow building. Council members were asked to introduce themselves. After calling for and noting corrections to the minutes, Leif Hubbard moved to approve the 3/6/12 meeting minutes; seconded by Tom Dunbar. Motion passed.

## Council on Forestry Report

Bruce Allison

Council on Forestry (CoF) was created in 2002 and is appointed by the Governor and serves as an advisory council to the Governor, DNR, legislators and agencies. Bruce represents the urban forestry perspective. Bruce met with the Executive committee in May to discuss how Bruce and the UF Council can work together to present UF issues and interests to the CoF.

Managed Forest Law has been a priority issue for the CoF with several significant changes expected to be recommended to the DNR which could be picked-up and acted upon by the legislature. A proposed recommendation to increase the minimum number of acres needed to enroll in MFL from the current 10 acres to 25 acres has been discussed. Bruce commented in favor of the smaller minimum based on the value of the ecological services provided by community forests which traditionally tend to be smaller in parcel size.

Ken Ottman emphasized the importance of keeping urban forestry “in front” of the CoF. There has been a large turn-over in membership and many members are not aware of the value of this natural resource. A joint meeting between CoF and UFCouncil has been suggested.

**ACTION:** Bruce will seek to have the 2013 UFCouncil Advisory Report placed on a future agenda. Bruce will speak to the CoF chair regarding the possibility of a joint meeting. John DuPlissis offered to assist organizing a legislative tour sponsored by CoF and UFCouncil with a focus on urban forest management and forest products (urban wood) for next spring or summer. UF Council members are encouraged to attend CoF meetings, which are public meetings. Check CoF Website (sent with agenda) for dates. Let Bruce know if you will be attending a meeting as an observer.

## Nominations Committee

Marla Eddy

Nominations committee (Eddy, Hubbard, Theisen) met twice and presented the slate which was shared with the meeting agenda. Summaries of new nominees were also distributed with meeting materials. Terry Sime (new in 2012) has been unable to attend any meetings and has offered his resignation. Returning UF Council members include: Patty Drier, Marla Eddy, Mark Freberg, Don Merkes, Art Ode, and Kelli Tuttle. UF Council members not renewing are Ken Ottman and John Gall. John Gall represents the Wisconsin Arborist Association and August Hoppe will be filling that capacity. Tony Nowak is representing Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association and replacing Byran Spencer. Brea Grace a planner with the City of Onalaska and Katie Simonsen,

assistant director of the North Lakeland Discovery Center are filling gaps in planning and non-profit representation. Marla Eddy is nominated as UF Council chair and David Sivyver as vice-chair. Tom Dunbar moved to approve the entire slate; seconded by Leif Hubbard. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Kelli thanked Ken Ottman and John Gall for their service and presented both with recognition of service award. Both expressed their appreciation and Ken asked members to consider donating to the Bob Skiera Memorial Fund.

In an effort to support relationship building, Jerri LaHaie, Executive Director of the Society of Municipal Arborists, is offering a “free” SMA membership to a member of each state Urban Forestry Council. If you are interested, please forward your name to Marla Eddy. View information on this organization at <http://www.urban-forestry.com/>.

**ACTION:** Information on the Bob Skiera fund will be distributed to UFCouncil members. If you are interested in SMA membership, please contact **Marla Eddy**.

**URBAN WOOD UTILIZATION:**

**John Gall**

As we listen and learn from the presentations, consider how best can the Urban Forestry Council help move this issue along? Consider the questions shared with the agenda package. What is the role of the UFCouncil. . .the DNR. . .other agencies. . .private industry, municipalities. . .??? What can the Council do to support these folks?

DNR forest product services will be hiring four staff members to work with the wood products industry. John DuPlissis offered to work with Kelli on composing a letter to Paul DeLong supporting the allocation of one of these positions to urban wood utilization (in whole or part).

**Utilization to Urban Wood Resource**

**John DuPlissis**

Refer to handout of John’s PowerPoint slides. Thoughts and comments: How to defer urban wood to higher value use; need to create better markets and identify and take advantage of opportunities. This is not a big money maker, but could impact associated costs such as reduction of garbage tipping fees and use to meet sustainability goals. Is it possible to get urban wood into the traditional wood system?? Need to consider the life cycle values of the urban tree resource. Two primary certification organizations: Forest Stewardship Council (FSC- environmental focused group) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (industry based group). Don Peterson was not able to attend the meeting but is interested in working with FSC to establish a certification process for urban wood. Legislation in British Columbia directs that 80% of wood in building projects must come from local B.C. sources. Legislation (WI) could be introduced requiring a specific % of local wood be utilized in public building projects. Key is to get architects to spec local wood in their designs. Also include in national home builders guidelines. Art Ode shared success with portable sawmills coming to communities to process wood. Tom Dunbar shared experience with the Madison Badger Rock Middle School project which is on track for being the highest LEED certified building. This is supported by the fact that no wood has left the site. Trees on site have been milled to yield 4000 board feet which has been used in interior construction. Tom encouraged consideration of decentralizing the process since transportation will continue to be an issue. John Gall suggested ISA could introduce an urban wood utilization component into the Certified Arborist training/testing process.

**ACTION:**

Council on Forestry is organizing a Forestry Economic Summit. Urban wood utilization should be one of the topics. Kelli will suggest to Bruce and John D. will suggest to Steve Hubbard.

**Lunch & OPEN MIC:**

Jordan Skiff – Legislative change in budget; municipalities **will not** be able to require developers to meet stormwater quality standards which are any more stringent than state requirements.

Jeff Treu – Remember to look for and encourage folks to nominate great UF programs/projects for consideration of an UFC award. Visit webpage at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/UrbanForests/awards.html> for more information.

Olivia Witthun (DNR) – shared a flyer promoting Urban Forest Fest in Madison on June 22 which will feature urban wood utilization (this is part of an UF grant funded project); distributed UF team quarterly report, note change in format to aligned with strategic direction intent statements also tied to the UF Council business plan. Send feedback to Olivia and Jeff.

Mark Freberg - 3 years ago he couldn't get any interest from wood processors in urban wood; this year he received 4 calls in response to his contacts.

Jeff Roe – Division of Forestry initiating a customer service survey to provide customer feedback to DNR.

Les Werner – finishing updates for new edition of Bob Miller's Urban Forestry textbook classic.

Ken Ottman – consider making a donation to the Bob Skiera Fund. Look for additional information.

John Duplissis – Local-Use Dimension Lumber Grading Short-Course will be offered at UWSP in August

August Hoppe – WAA summer conference on July 12 with climbing competition on July 13. Visit the WAA website at <http://www.waa-isa.org/> for additional information.

Christopher Deegan – DATCP is tracking walnut twig beetle which is associated with thousands canker on walnut. Thousand cankers kills trees from the cumulative effects of numerous coalescing cankers that develop around individual entry wounds made by walnut twig beetles. Infestation in Ohio.

## **URBAN WOOD UTILIZATION:**

**John Gall**

### **Milwaukee Urban Wood Utilization Model**

**David Sivyer, Ian Brown, Bob Wesp**

David has been following the urban wood issue for several years, especially through the work of Jessica Simon, specialist, with the Southeast Michigan Resource Conservation and Development Council, which leads the Urban Wood Project <http://urbanwood.org/>. They have organized a coalition of sawmills which process urban wood, making it available through their reuse centers. Possible model to duplicate here in WI? Jessica may be a candidate for one of WI's new positions OR maybe one of the positions could be a "Great Lakes" position and service a regional, multi-state area?

Milwaukee is fortunate to have Kettle Moraine Hardwoods (KMH), a standing mill which is able to process urban wood and has a passion for the resource. Also, Dwayne Sperber, an extraordinary furniture maker, with an equal passion, is reaching out to architects and engineers to generate a market for the resource.

Ian Brown provided an overview of the Milwaukee forestry program. The urban wood utilization effort is more of a cost saving issue and not considered a revenue generator. Milwaukee has from 2 to 3,000 tree removals each year. All wood residue is transported to KMH. Milwaukee cost to dispose is 47\$/ton compared to \$21/ton to transport to KMH. There is a 30 to 40% loss due to metal in wood. 30% is milled and the remaining is processed into mulch. Milwaukee is able to order wood cut to specific dimensions. EAB is a trigger to use as a launching point for increasing urban wood utilization programs.

Bob Wesp (KMH) shared that drying and planning adds value to the wood resource. Green lumber does not sell. People prefer to select their boards in person. KMH employees 12 people and operates a "store front" in Milwaukee. Requests for urban wood are increasing. The price is 2x non-urban sources. With increased marketing and use, maybe the price will come down? Regarding ash; wood quality is reduced once bark begins to slough-off. Challenge is getting wood to the processor as cheaply as possible (transportation).

Dwayne Sperber shared photos of projects completed with urban wood and announced Urban(wood) Encounter 2013 , a juried show featuring furniture made from urban wood, August 3 – Sept 30 at the Delafield Arts Center. Dwayne has been partnering with Town & Country Resource Conservation & Development, Inc and KMH to promote/assist in facilitating the greater use of urban wood. As only one person, he feels his progress is slow due to the fact he is able to work with one job at a time. Dwayne is interested in increasing awareness and acceptance of urban wood utilization. He is proposing an urban wood design competition for architects where the winner receives some amount of urban wood specified in the project. He is targeting respected and well-known architects who will specify urban wood. Cost is always an issue and there is often a need to justify price. Selling intangibles is difficult.

**ACTION:** John Gall presented a motion to have the **UFCouncil send a letter to Paul DeLong** recommending that one of the soon-to-be-hired forest product services staff have a primary assignment with urban wood utilization. Seconded by Tom Dunbar. Motion passed unanimously. John DuPlissis will work with Kelli on composing a letter. **Council members will contact stakeholders** (such as Dwayne Sperber, Don Peterson, Bob Wesp and others) and invite them to contact Paul regarding their perspective.

An urban wood utilization issue group has been formed. John Gall and Kelli Tuttle will co-chair. Members are be: David Sivyer, Marla Eddy, John DuPlissis, and Todd Chwala. Additional Council members who are interested in participating with this issue should contact Kelli and John. The issue group will complete an issue group action template which will be shared with the UF Council at the September meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

**Next meeting date: September 13 in Stevens Point**