

# **WISCONSIN URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL**

**September 9, 2011**

**University of Wisconsin Stevens Point**

**Members in attendance:** Bob Brush, Bob Dahl, Tom Dunbar, Marla Eddy, Mark Freberg, Leif Hubbard, Greg Kessler, Shirley Mattox, Don Merkes, Jordan Skiff, Kelli Tuttle

**Ex Officio members in attendance:** Jill Johnson, Dick Rideout, Jeff Roe and Laura Wyatt

**Members Absent:** Patti Dreier, John Gall, Tom Landgraf, Art Ode, Ken Ottman, Vijai Pandian, Bryan Spencer, Dan Traas, Jeff Treu, Kevin Westphal, Les Werner, Joe Wilson, Jeff Wolters

**DNR in attendance:** Cindy Casey, Mark Heyde,

## **1) Call to Order-Introductions**

**Kelli Tuttle**

a. Introductions – Special welcome to Jill Johnson, Coordinator - USFS Midwest Center for Urban and Community Forestry and Cindy Casey, West Central Regional Urban Forestry Coordinator. A thank you and appreciation card was circulated for former UFC member, Deena Murphy. A special welcome was extended to new Council members Greg Kessler and Jordan Skiff. Council members introduced themselves.

b. Minutes from 6/17/2011 meeting were not approved due to a lack of a quorum.

## **2) Legislative Outcomes**

**All**

Bob Brush had a good conversation with Rep. Louis Molepski, who expressed support for urban forestry.

## **3) Future Focused – Task Focused**

**Mark Heyde**

Laura provided a brief overview of the Forest Strategy and Strategic Direction process, the niche of the Council (as identified during the March and June meetings), and the charge for the Council to identify their role in moving the Forestry Strategy forward.

Mark led an informal discussion to review/clarify/add/delete to the 100 actions proposed by the council members. Council members utilized a dot exercise to identify the top actions/areas of importance. Members who were not present will be surveyed for their input.

The Ad hoc committee (appointed in January) will meet to review the top issues and will further develop concepts of understanding which will serve as a base of discussion for our Nov. meeting.

## **4) Lunch**

**All**

## **5) Future Focused – Task Focused . . . continued**

## **6) New Billboard Vegetation Bill**

**Leif Hubbard**

Leif shared information on proposed changes to the billboard vegetation bill. The bill primarily impacts rural, state trunk roads that DOT has responsibility for. The bill allows clearing within 500ft of a billboard. DOT is opposing the bill. It does not impact municipalities.

Shirley Mattox, serves on the board of Scenic Wisconsin, and presented information from the organization on the impact the bill will have and expressed opposition to the bill. Bill is in committee and moving along. Council discussion followed.

The Council could draft a letter asking the DNR Division of Forestry to oppose the bill similar to what DOT is submitting. Individuals can also submit comment. Jordan Skiff offered the following motion wording . . . whereas this proposed bill could have direct impact on trees along urban corridors, we ask the DNR to oppose this bill. Seconded by Bob Brush. Discussion occurred. Due to a lack of a quorum the motion died. The possibility of holding a vote electronically, by e-mail was discussed. Dick and/or Laura will explore the legality of an electronic vote with DNR legal staff. Kelli will investigate the bill timeline and distribute info.

Individual members and the organizations they represent can comment.

## **7) US Forest Service Report**

**Jill Johnson**

Jill has been focused on a variety of issues:

- Trees and stormwater: working with MN organizations to identify quantifiable stormwater benefits of trees which can be translated and applied as credits in mitigations efforts
- Urban tree canopy assessment and setting canopy goals
- Training certified arborists in storm response – urban forest strike team. Would like to offer training in the Midwest in partnership with a state forestry agency. The strategic planning enables communities to get started fairly quickly especially because information is collected and presented in a form which complies with FEMA.
- Serving as a walking newsletter, sharing work regarding strategic planning, CTMI, MN's MN first detectors program for invasives, thousand cankers and more.
- Grant administration – FS has established a competitive grant program composed of approximately 15% of allocation to states with is awarded on competitive bases. Proposals are rated on how well they address issues identified in Forest Strategy. Open to non-state partners. WDNR received a grant to redo the state-wide forest assessment completed in 2002. Last year WI was eligible for 1.5 million and it received nearly that.

Two years ago Joe Wilson proposed a program, FISH – Forestry Ideas Start Here as a way to get WI organizations together to identify collective issues which partners can collaborate on. These partnership projects would be potential grant proposals. Jill will distribute 2011 UF grant awards.

## **8) DNR Report and Open Mic**

**DATCP** -- Bob Dahl

Federal Ag appropriations have drastically reduced funding for EAB trapping. Trapping in WI will be very limited. DATCP will probably keep 2 regulatory and 1 outreach staff. A new EAB find in southern IL appears to be strongly attracted to white ash.

**DNR report** – Dick Rideout

Dana Dentice has been hired as our new UF Communication specialist, Laura's former position. Dana has a BS in Landscape Architecture and MS in urban/regional planning from UW-Madison. She has work experience with the cities of Madison and Fitchburg. Dana will be working with the "Grove" website which will provide us with a social networking potential. Page is live at <http://thegrove.americangrove.org/> Green recyclable bags promoting the Grove are available.

Mike Powers from DATCP Ag Development Division will be available to work in partnership with DNR's interest in developing a more diverse supply of nursery stock. Council could have a role with this project. From initial conversations we have learned that this type of market development is demand driven. . .we need to assist in creating demand.

**DNR Report -- Jeff Roe** shared a DNR Regional Activity Report. Proposals for the 2012 grant cycle are due October 3, 2011. South Central and Southeast municipal DNR networking groups held a joint meeting at Johnson Nursery. Good exchange of conversation between arborists and nursery industry. CTMI, (Community Tree Management Institute) is beginning their second series of in November. The program has been expanded to 6 days. Council will be hosting a dinner and gathering before graduation. Enrollment is struggling; registration is open. Jordan Skiff participated in the first series and shared that the program is especially valuable for part-time forestry staff from smaller communities.

**Cindy Casey** in West Central Region has been busy facilitating the UF Storm Grant process for damage which resulted from August 24 storms in NW WI. The Governor declaring a state of emergency triggered availability of the funds. The non-match grant funds come from the UF grant program and total a potential \$104,000 or no more than 20% of the grant allocation. The program was established in 2008. This is the third incident they have been available.

### **8) Open Mic**

**John Gall** is representing the UFC on the review of the BMPs for Urban Forestry Invasives.

**Jeff Edgar** (former UFC member and Council chair) has applied for a position on the NUCFAC (National Urban & Community Forestry Advisory Council). The Executive Council provided a letter of support on behalf of the UFC.

**Jeff Treu** is recruiting volunteers to assist with UFC Award selection. Please contact Jeff.

The UFC Award, Innovations in Forestry, will be presented to the Forest County Potawatomi Community in October. We need a UFC representative to present the award. See Kelli if you are interested.

New state budget year has started and codes have changed. If you apply for expense reimbursements see Laura for code update.

**Mark Freberg:** Great Packer game last night . . . a win! *First Downs for Trees* will continue for a second year. . . with a doubling of the number of trees planted. Last season 451 were planted throughout Brown County.

**Shirley Mattox:** Senate District 18 has a new Senator, Jessica King.

**Marla Eddy:** Society of Municipal Arborists will have their annual conference in Milwaukee at the end of the month.

WDNR Strategic Direction was distributed – Laura is sharing hard copies because it was difficult to locate on-line.

Support **Dick Rideout** and *Tour des Trees*. Dick is in second place for fundraising. Donate at <http://stihltourdestrees.org/>

**Bob Brush** would like EAB Update. We will ask DATCP to a future meeting.

Congratulations to **Jordan Skiff** for his new position as Director of Public Works for the fine City of Fond-du-Lac.

**Next meeting is November 4, 2011 in Madison.**

June is our rotating location meeting . . . co-meeting with Council on Forestry to build bridges.