

# WISCONSIN URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

November 30, 2012

## Forest Products Laboratory – Madison, WI

**In Attendance:** Bruce Allison, Todd Chwala, Christopher Deegan, Patti Drier, Tom Dunbar, John Gall, Dan Green, Leif Hubbard, Shirley Brabender-Mattox, Don Merkes, Art Ode, David Sivyer, Jordan Skiff, Bryan Spencer, Blake Theisen, Jeff Treu, Kelli Tuttle, Les Werner, Jeff Wolters.

***Ex Officio members in attendance:*** Olivia Witthun, Laura Wyatt and Dick Rideout

***Members Absent:*** John DuPlissis, Marla Eddy, Mark Freberg, Greg Kessler, Thomas Landgraf, Ken Ottman, Dan Siewert, Terry Sime, Kevin Westphal.

***DNR in attendance:*** Jim Warren

**Public guests in attendance:** Bob Dahl

### Call to Order and Introduction

**Kelli Tuttle**

Kelli Tuttle called the meeting to order at 9:35am and asked council members to introduce themselves. Leif Hubbard moved to approve the 9/7/12 meeting minutes; seconded by Jeff Treu. Motion passed.

**Agenda modified due to participant availability.**

### Council on Forestry Report

**Bruce Allison**

Bruce provided an overview of the business plan which was submitted to the Council on Forestry and shared recent Council on Forestry action.

### Urban Forestry Council Awards

**Jeff Treu**

Deadline for submitting nominations for the UF Council awards program is approaching; December 30. Everyone was encouraged to consider worthy projects/people to nominate and also encourage others to submit nominations. Council members are also needed to serve on the UFC awards committee. Please see Jeff for additional information and visit UFC awards webpage at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/UrbanForests/awards.html> for additional information.

### Annual Conference Networking Program

**Kelli Tuttle**

WAA/DNR asked the UFCouncil to organize a networking event at the Annual Conference for Sunday evening, January 27. The executive committee reviewed the request and Marla Eddy agreed to organize the event on behalf of the UFC. Ten topics of discussion will be featured at tables with informal conversation and networking taking place from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Topics include new tree introductions, WI DOT specifications, working with elected officials, championship climbing, and others to be determined. Topic discussion leaders are being recruited. UFC members who will be attending the conference are asked to assist. Contact Marla if you will be able to help. Several UFC members have been asked to lead discussions tables.

### UF Business Plan

**Dick Rideout and Jim Warren**

The strategic direction identified primary outcomes that forestry leadership wants to see; specially changes UF1 through UF5.

The business plan is an opportunity for the UFC to identify performance measures and provides a mechanism for reporting back to UFC and stakeholders. The UFC has provided considerable input in the development of both of these planning processes. Performance outcomes identified by the UFC have been combined with desired outcomes identified by leadership team.

Staff has been working on an implementation plan that will be used to guide work plan development of the team and individual members. The work plan is the map which identifies the path the UF team will take in striving to reach desired outcomes. There is opportunity for feedback and annual evaluation and adjustment.

Forestry leadership is in the process of reviewing the implementation plan and steps. This document should be ready to share at the UFC's next meeting in March.

This plan does not identify all work but that work involved in significant changes. Measures need to be feasible and quantifiable.

Jeff Treu asked how this new process is being accepted by workers which are important in gaining buy-in. Jim Warren stated that forestry leadership has given greater authority to the team to determine where and how they are moving forward. Identification of implementation steps is getting staff directly involved and building team support. The leadership team is committed to planning.

#### **EAB Update**

**Christopher Deegan**

A review of current EAB spread and past seasonal work was presented. Because of the reduction in federal funding starting July 1, the DATCP EAB program is down to one regulatory staff member and no detection staff. State level quarantines (including regulated items from infested states/areas are not allowed into state) are being maintained in addition to federal quarantine (regulate items moving outside quarantine areas). Future federal support for detection/trapping is in question. APHIS is supporting partnership programs including Nature Conservancy/Beetle Buster programs. The WI EAB hotline (1-800-462-2803) and website (<http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov>) are still being maintained. Paul DeLong (DNR) and Brian Kuhn (DATCP) are members of a national committee which provides input on federal support. The WI DATCP EAB program is in the process of being revised. Christopher will share program direction information as it is available.

Management and control issues are primarily the domain of DNR/ Extension. WI has a multi-agency EAB operations (DATCP/DNR/UW-Extension/USFS/APHIS/BIA) group which has developed the guide, *EAB Response Guide*, which is helping to guide community EAB response.

Don't hesitate to contact Christopher with questions.

#### **DNR Update**

**Olivia Witthun**

Olivia shared working group report

#### **Future Focus – Task Focus Storm water Issue Group**

**Jordan Skiff**

A review of the storm water action plan took place. It was suggested to add a 9<sup>th</sup> action step of “funding”. Excellent discussion followed.

Patti Drier offered to assist in getting the survey out to a wider audience of elected officials. Patti also offered to contact the UWSP LEAF program and inquire how their curriculum addresses the issue of trees and storm water. Patti noted that students can be effective in educating adults and elected officials on up and coming environmental issues.

David Sivyer stated that ½ of his budget is being supported by storm water utility funds. The department shared tree benefit values generated through i-Tree analysis with elected officials. A correlation was made between canopy and storm water and a proposal made by an elected official involved with finance to shift a portion of the general fund supported forestry budget to the storm water utility. With this shift, these forestry dollars are not competing with tax fund associated with the levy and protected services.

Jordan shared that he has learned that several parts of the state have formed regional storm water consortiums and this might be a good avenue for outreach. Jordan suggested the Council consider the storm water/tree issue as a talking point with legislators in March.

Tom Dunbar made a motion to adopt the storm water strategic action plan. Seconded by John Gall. Motion passed.

### **Diversity Issue Group**

**Jeff Wolters**

Increasing diversity through the proper tree in the property place. This initiative opens communication between the municipalities, end users and suppliers (nurseries). Action plan is fluid and changing.

Several items already in motion: Jeff and Todd Chwala have met with the municipal networking group in NW. Transportation costs for trees was discussed and the idea of combining several smaller orders and identifying a local drop-off site. The suggestion of offering “diversity packages for smaller communities” was also discussed. Jeff will be sharing these ideas and other with the nursery association.

The economy has impacted the number of trees which are being lined-out in nurseries and this will have a negative impact on diversity and future efforts to diversify.

Leif Hubbard moved to accept the diversity issue action plan. Seconded by Bryan Spencer. Motion passed.

### **Advisory Issue Group**

**Leif Hubbard**

Will present action plan at a later meeting.

**ACTION:** Dick asked all groups, in regards to the uf inventory and assessment process, what types of information pertaining to Wisconsin’s urban forests would be helpful to have in planning actions and/or evaluation. DNR will be investing in uf inventory and

assessment and we need to be sure they are providing value for the UFC goals and projects.

**Closing comments by chair.** Kelli reminded groups to consider the “entire” urban forest which is comprised of both public and privately owned trees. Issue groups should consider who they would like to invite to present to the entire Council and share those recommendations with Laura and herself.

**ACTION:** UFC members thought it would be helpful if issue groups had time at each meeting to meet and discuss items. . .maybe 40 minutes.

**Open Mic**

**ALL**

Jeff Treu was recognized for his work with hurricane Sandy. Jeff shared that he worked 7 days a week/ 16 hours a day helping utilities accessing the conditions and providing input regarding what needed to be done to establish safe conditions and rebuild service.

Kelli reported that Dan Green stated Alliant Energy sent 300 workers to the location.

City of Menasha budget passed with an urban forestry component. Menasha utility is a Tree Line USA Utility.

DATCP has applied for funding to support a certified firewood/ marketing program.

Meeting adjourned: 2:20pm

**NEXT meeting: March in Madison**