

# MI Urban & Community Forestry Council

## - Minutes of -

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

DNRE Office – Lansing, MI

### Members present (voting):

Pam Blough, Bert Cregg, Vic Foerster, Bill Lawrence, Rebecca Salminen-Witt

### Others present (non-voting):

David Price, Kevin Sayers, Ada Takacs

### Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

### Approval of Agenda:

Motion made to accept previous minutes and meeting agenda (Vic F.); seconded by Rebecca S.

### Public Comment:

None

### Council Membership:

**Expired:** Tom Abramson, Marshall Baeckeroot, Bob Bricault, Nancy Carpenter, Bert Cregg, Tim Kennedy,

**Vacant** – Conservation District/Nature Center/Arboretum; Municipality with population less than 30,000.

**Next Expiring (Fall 2011)** – Jeff Dunmire, Vic Foerster, Bill Lawrence, Rebecca Salminen-Witt

- Marshall B. and Bert Cregg wish to renew for optional second term through Fall 2013
- Need nominations for vacant positions. Several suggestions discussed

#### *Action Item(s):*

1. Kevin to notify those not present who have expired terms to find out if they are interested in staying on
2. Group send Kevin suggestions for vacant positions by Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> or he will solicit openly for new members.

### Business:

#### Community Canopy Newsletter:

- Ada T. provided copies of DRAFT fall 10 newsletter for review/comment
  - No Comments
- Final version to be announced and posted on [www.mi.gov/dnrucf](http://www.mi.gov/dnrucf) by November 1, 2010

#### *Action Item(s):*

1. Kevin will post to website and send email announcement.

#### Update on Statewide Forest Assessments and Plan

- David P (DNRE) gave overview of recently completed statewide forest resource assessment and plan.
- Key Urban Forestry issues highlighted in plan that will direct focus for future grant proposals to USFS.
- USFS will solicit states for competitive proposals to address state plans. RFP to come in November

#### *Action Item(s):*

1. Council needs to be prepared to identify projects that can be proposed to USFS
2. Kevin will notify council as soon as USFS releases RFP.
3. Council should plan a conference call after RFP is released to start scoping possible projects

#### FY 10 MI UCF Accomplishment Report to USFS and Budget update

- Kevin provided update on FY10 Community Accomplishment Reporting System (CARS) and report.
- Kevin provided summary of FY10 budget expenditures and reported that FY11 program budget advice not yet provided to state by USFS.

#### *Action Item(s):*

1. Kevin will send announcement of FY11 fiscal advice from USFS when received.

#### Misc. Project Updates

- Kevin provided overview of status on several new projects initiated with external federal funding including: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Congressionally Directed projects, USFS Competitive Redesign Projects, i-TREE wksp.

#### *Action Item(s):*

1. Kevin will notify council of emerging RFPs as they are announced or made available.

#### 2010 MI Municipal Forestry Survey:

- Group discussed need for conducting 2010 Municipal Forestry Survey to maintain a 5yr baseline of info. that helps direct program assistance.
- Possible survey of nonprofits, educational institutions and utility needs as well.

#### *Action Item(s):*

1. In January, announce survey online
2. Kevin rework survey questions and share with council prior to announcement of live survey.
3. Rebecca S. will develop question set for nonprofit survey

#### Awards:

- 2010 Governmental Award For Excellence in Urban Forestry presented to City of Ann Arbor at the summer meeting of the Arboriculture Society of MI at Oakland University
- Michigan Forestry and Park Association (MFPA) has expressed interest in hosting the 2011 MI Tree USA awards luncheon and/or conference during spring 2011.

#### *Action Item(s):*

1. Kevin will review budget for awards banquet with MFPA and continue discussion with council re: possible banquet in spring.

#### Grants

- 2011 DTE Energy Foundation Tree planting grants will be available in mid- November.
- Announcement will be made via email, mail, press release and website posting [www.mi.gov/dnrucf](http://www.mi.gov/dnrucf)
- Other federal grant announcements to be coming soon for GLRI and USFS Competitive grants.

*Action Item(s): - Kevin will notify council of any RFP announcements for grants*

#### New Initiatives:

- Urban Forest Product Alliance is a committee made up of various members representing federal, state, local, private and individual interests in reclaiming and utilizing urban wood. Effort is currently focusing on developing mission, vision, members and partnerships.

- MSUE Planting Technique Bulletin is being developed by Dr. Robert Schutzki from MSU Horticulture. Developed in demand to need from green industry for proper planting specifications. Completion date is TBD but within next year.
- Michigan Arbor Day Alliance (MADA) is currently working on expanding membership base through membership drive. Please consider (as council members) supporting MADA by becoming a member
- Environmental Education in Urban Schools Initiative. Free registration for MI teachers in select areas to attend upcoming training. Visit <http://www.michiganenvironmentaled.org/pdf/2010/OrbanTeacherWorkshopsFLYER2010-11.pdf> for more details.

*Action Item(s):*  
N/A

Announcements:

- Arboriculture Society of MI Winter Conference (ArborCON) is 2/1-2/2011
- Arbor Day is officially the last Friday in April in MI. This years date is 4/29/2011
- Great Lakes Trade Expo to be held in Grand Rapids, MI 1/10-12/2011
- Tree USA applications due by 12/31/10

*Action Item(s):*  
N/A

Next meeting:

Location – TBA

Date – Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm

Respectfully submitted: Kevin Sayers