



# Urban & Community Forestry Council



## Meeting Minutes

Location: Virtual meeting

Date: July 21, 2022

### Roll call

Present for the Council (council):

- Rachel Tarpey, *Chair*
- Doug Schultz
- Kerry Gray
- Tyler Klifman
- Emily Hanson
- Heather Griffin
- Lee Mueller

Present for the DNR Staff (department)

- Kevin Sayers, UCF Program Manager
- Lawrence Sobson, Urban Forester and Partnership Coordinator

Others Present

- Alec Smith, Oakland Conservation District
- Jill Johnson, USDA Forest Service

Call to Order: 10:01 AM

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: Doug Schultz  
Support: Kerry Gray  
Approved unanimously

Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2022 meeting:

Motion: Kerry Gray  
Support: Annie Kruse  
Approved unanimously

Introductions:

#### **New DNR UCF Program Staff**

- Lawrence Sobson
- Andrea Stay (Volunteer Programs Coordinator)

**Others** (Alec Smith – Oakland CD)

## Items for Discussion:

### **Advocacy** (Griffin)

- Follow-up on issues relating to need for communication/outreach to residents in Flint area. Help is needed to create messages that improve perceptions and understanding about the benefits of urban trees. This is a role the council can serve.

#### Action item(s):

- *Heather will work with Advocacy committee to put together an outline of needs and ideas for further discussion at fall meeting.*

### **Michigan Arbor Day Alliance** (Sayers)

- Updated group on status of the [MI Arbor Day Alliance \(MADA\)](#) program transition from Eaton Conservation District (ECD) to DNR
  - Existing grant with ECD expires at end of fiscal year.
  - DNR staff have met once with Sue Spagnuolo at ECD to outline plans for transition
  - DNR staff coordinating meeting with MADA committee to update them on transition status and start longer-term MADA programming discussion
  - DNR and ECD to meet in early September to inventory and transition physical materials/supplies from ECD to DNR.
  - Current plans for Arbor Day 2023 will likely be limited and not involve a significant event but may change based on transition discussion over winter

#### Action item(s):

- *Kevin will keep council members informed on status of MADA transition*

### **Misc. Announcements** (Sayers)

- Grants
  - Community Forestry Grant RFP in early-mid August (deadline late September).
  - DTE Tree Planting Grants are under review (42 applications received).
- Membership
  - Members with terms expiring at Fall meeting: Kliffman, Kruse
  - Chair and vice-chair renewal or elections at Fall meeting:
- Workshops/events
  - [ISA-Michigan](#), [Michigan Green Industry Association](#), [Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association](#) workshops – see weekly DNR UCF e-news for listing
  - Initial discussions about need for coordinating a workshop or series on community tree ordinances.
    - Sayers, Mueller, Dowtin, ReLeaf MI, Macomb Co. Planning
    - Others – ISA-Michigan, SEMCOG, Doug Schultz, Michigan Municipal League, American Planning Association

- Connection to Arbor Day Foundation (Tree City USA) and USFS (UCF) on efforts to provide communities with consistent guidance on ordinances

Action item(s):

- *Sayers to engage MUCFC members and other stakeholders in further conversations and plans for ordinance workshop*
- *Sayers to share Arbor Day Foundation community tree ordinance survey with MUCFC (attached)*

### **Fall Meeting** (Sayers)

- In-person/hybrid/location?
  - Date is October 25. Currently planned as virtual
  - Can coordinate in-person or hybrid. If in-person, need location.
- Suggested agenda items:
  - [MUCFC Policies/Procedures](#) review
  - [Forest Action Plan](#) (FAP) update (DNR and all members)
  - Legislative Awareness and Outreach Messages (Griffin)
  - Committee reports
  - Outline theme/topics for [MUCFC Annual Letter to State Forester](#)
  - other

Action item(s):

- *Members to provide input on meeting format, location and agenda prior to Oct 1.*

### Member Communications:

- Kruse
  - [ISA-MI Fall conference and tree climbing championship](#) planned at Belle Isle Park in Detroit for mid-September
  - Tree City USA 2023 event? Kruse, Mueller and Sayers (others) need to decide.
  - [Oak Wilt Qualified](#) trainings scheduled in August.
- Downtin
  - Partnering with ISA-MI and others to continue developing and expanding the [Tree Work 101](#) Workforce program
- Klifman
  - SEMCOG is revisiting and updating the [2014 regional Green Infrastructure Vision assessment for SE Michigan](#).
- Mueller
  - Reminder to members (and others) to review and provide feedback on the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's [new UCF Sustainability Standard](#). Current deadline for input is August 2.

Next Meeting: Tuesday October 25, 2022 (location and time TBA)

Adjournment: 10:58 AM

Motion:

Support:

Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted: Kevin Sayers