



MICHIGAN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

An advisory committee to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

MEMBERS

Marshall Baeckeroot
Joan Chadde
Bill Drews
Ryan Edwards
Kerry Gray
Dean Hay
Geoff Kempter
Rich Kobe
Tyler Kliffman
Annie Kruike
Lee Mueller - Chair
Margaret Miller
Douglas Schultz

USFS Liaisons

Jill Johnson
Lisa Perez

Staff Liaisons

Kevin Sayers
(517) 284-5898
Ada Takacs
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State of Michigan
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
PO Box 30452
Lansing, MI 48909
www.mi.gov/ucf



Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2017

Rowe Professional Building
540 S Saginaw St. Suite 200, Flint, MI

Present:

In-Person: Lee Mueller, Kevin Sayers, Bill Drews, Rich Kobe, Geoff Kempter,
Annie Kruike, Doug Shultz

Conference Call: Kerry Gray, Ryan Edwards, Tyler Kliffman, Lisa Perez, Ada
Takacs, Margaret Miller

Approval of Agenda:

- Motion by Mueller
- Supported by Kempter
- Approved unanimously as amended:
 - moved New Business item a) "Member Appointment" to Old Business item a).

Approval of Minutes of August 1, 2017 meeting:

- Motion by Shultz
- Supported by Kobe
- Approved unanimously

Public Comment:

- Doug Shultz introduced local guest attendees (Angela Warren, Blake Storer) and provided a welcome to Flint and Rowe Professional Services Building
- Fai Foen, interim Green Infrastructure Director with the Greening of Detroit, introduced herself and expressed interest in maintaining participation on council as a representative of the Greening

Old Business:

Member Appointment

- Mueller moved to approve member nomination of Tyler Kliffman to replace Amy Mangus on council
- Supported by Kruse
- Approved unanimously

Visiting Urban Forester Program

- Sayers submitted written report on behalf of ad hoc committee (attachment)
- Discussion included recommendation that local municipal forestry staff could be paired with nearby communities who are interested in the program. Municipal forestry staff can do VUF visits
- Miller suggested that the Great Lakes Commission Green Infrastructure Champions Peer-to-Peer network was something relevant to this program <https://www.glc.org/work/champions/network> from a mentoring standpoint.

Action item(s):

1. *Subcommittee to finish revisions of program documents, schedule next conference call*
2. *DNR to award subgrant to ASM to support FY18 program*

Oak Wilt Coalition

- Kruse provided verbal report of coalition's recent activities
- Public announcement/promotion of www.michiganoakwilt.org occurred in August with significant feedback and response
- DNR Michigan Invasive Species Grant supported work is ongoing including hosting recent oak wilt training event that may move the profession towards possible qualification program in Michigan this spring.

Action item(s): None

Midwest State UCF Council Meeting

- Mueller submitted written report (attached) and addressed committee questions.

Action item(s): None

2018 Tree City USA Banquet

- Mueller provided verbal report on status/outcomes of 2017 Tree City USA banquet.
- Group discussion included interest in convening working group to look into hosting this again in 2018 and possibly annually thereafter. Suggestions made to have recipient communities invite neighboring (non-certified) communities to future event. Also, attendance might be increased by promoting it as a professional development training (Continuing education credits are available)

Action item(s): Mueller will reconvene ad hoc committee to discuss next steps

New Business:

Membership Terms

- Mueller advised group that membership term period (i.e. calendar year vs fiscal year) and individual membership terms were not clearly defined or established subsequent to recent revision of the policies and procedures

- Mueller motioned to establish that member terms expire at the end of a calendar year.
- Supported by Kruse
- Approved unanimously
- Group discussion resulted in the following member /expiring term schedule:

<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Ryan Edwards	Bill Drews	Annie Kruse
Doug Shultz	Rich Kobe	Dean Hay
Lee Mueller	Joan Chadde	Margaret Miller
Kerry Gray	Marshall Baeckeroot	Tyler Kliffman
Geoff Kempter		

- 2017 expiring terms are effective at the end of this meeting. Members Edwards, Shultz, Mueller, Gray and Kempter requested reappointment for 2nd, 3yr. term to expire in 2020
- Shultz motioned to approve, supported by Kempter, approved unanimously

Action item(s):

Mueller requests suggestions of prospective new members and he will provide follow-up contact with them. Suggestions included conservation district foresters, tribal representative, urban wood utilization professional, and MSU Extension contact in the upper peninsula

FY17 MI DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program and FY18 Budget Report

- Sayers submitted written report (attached) and addressed committee questions
- Discussion centered on possibility of reduced/eliminated budget in FY18 and beyond and how it would impact the program. Are we prepared?
- Council suggests the need to strengthen communication with our stakeholders and partners (ex. Tree Care Industry Association, Michigan Municipal League, American Public Works Assoc., etc.) who can help formally advocate on our behalf. Advocacy efforts could highlight and leverage the impacts of our program at the statewide level in terms of relevance to tourism, ecosystem service benefits, quality of life, education etc.
- Kempter motioned to form Advocacy subcommittee to discuss how the council can effectively engage and inform audiences statewide about the UCF program
- Motion supported by Kobe
- Approved unanimously
- Advocacy subcommittee members: Kempter, Kruse and Mueller
- Initially this subcommittee will update talking points, budget issues and content for annual letter to the state forester

Action item(s): Kempter will convene meeting of new subcommittee

Metro Detroit Nature Network

- Perez submitted written report (attached) and addressed committee questions
- Next meeting is November 9th in conjunction with the Urban Bird Summit at the State of the Straight Initiative www.stateofthestrat.org

Action item(s): None

DNR Forest Action Plan (FAP)

- Scott Jones (DNR Forest Planning Specialist) presented to the group on the Forest Resources Division plans/schedule for updating the federally required statewide forest action plan
- Current state FAP available online at: <http://www.stateforesters.org/forest-action-plans/michigan>
- New effort will deviate from previous plan in that it will be divided into two documents with the largest part being the *assessment* of all forest conditions statewide and the second portion being the state of the forest *report* including priorities, goals and objectives. The plan section will follow the internationally accepted Montreal protocol and likely break down landscape priorities at watershed level
- The assessment phase is beginning now using National Landcover and Forest Inventory and Analysis datasets. Plans are to engage stakeholder groups beginning late next year with data and formally discuss issue identification, prioritization and goals/objectives etc. throughout 2019
- Deadline for final submission to U.S. Forest Service is June 2020

Action item(s):

Sayers will keep council informed as to status of the FAP process and invite Scott Jones to present assessment findings to group, possibly at a special day-long FAP meeting of the council in 2018

MUCFC Objectives and Direction and Annual State Forester Letter

- Mueller summarized 2016 letter to state forester and suggested that this year's could be more effectively used to engage and inform the state forester, DNR management, and various stakeholders about the DNR's UCF program. Specially, it could highlight program effectiveness, as evidenced by annual accomplishment metrics, budgetary need (i.e. threats to federal funds), resource threats (e.g. oak wilt), partnerships (e.g. MSU Forestry) and outreach (e.g. Tree City USA awards)

Action item(s):

1. *Mueller and Sayers to draft letter by end of year and circulate to council for comment before formally submitting to state forester and others.*
2. *Mueller and Sayers to schedule presentation about program to the Natural Resources Commission in spring/summer 2018*

Staff Communications

- DNR Staff Sayers and Takacs submitted written updates (attached)

Member Communications

- Miller, and Kobe submitted written updates (attached)

Next Meeting(s):

- In-person: *Tuesday, March 27th, 2018 Lansing, MI*
- In-person FAP work session: *Summer 2018 - TBD*
- In-person regular meeting: *Tuesday, October 30, 2018 - TBD*

Adjourn: 12:06 PM

Respectfully submitted: Kevin Sayers

Visiting Urban Forester Program

- Ad Hoc committee - Kevin Sayers, Annie Kruse, Kerry Gray, Melinda Jones
- Conference calls: 6/14, 9/11, 9/27 (cancelled).
- Agreement to move forward with limited roll-out in FY18.
- DNR and ASM partnership via reimbursement grant.
- Consultant base will initially be solicited from past VUF consultants, then current ASM members.
- DNR to commit \$3,000 to start for an initial 3 communities (Saginaw, Beverly Hills, Tecumseh)
- ASM will handle administrative responsibilities (application, consultant/comm. coord. Etc)
- Received limited input from past participating consultants but all agreed that fees should increase somewhat.
- Community application fee increase of \$50 for each category to \$150, \$250, \$350 (pop. based)
- Consultant fee increases from \$600 to \$750/visit. Admin. fee increases from \$75 to \$150/visit
- Updates to all program forms, application materials, and creation of standardized consultant report template is in progress.
- Next conference call in late November-early December (tba)

Midwest state Urban Council meeting (Mueller)

Kevin Sayers and Lee Mueller attended a joint meeting of the Wisconsin Urban and Community Forestry Council and Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Council in October. Coordinators and chairs from surrounding states (IA, IL, MO, IN, MI) were invited to attend what has become an annual occurrence for WI and MN. Representatives from IA, IL, IN, and MI ultimately made it.

We discussed current priorities and activities for each UCF program and council, and had an opportunity to discuss ways councils can work together and with the USFS to bolster our programs.

If desired, there's an opportunity to host a future meeting in Michigan, or even look to host our own meeting with an adjacent state to understand how we may work together and share ideas.

Cell: 248.221.0439 lee.mueller@davey.com



DNR UCF Program Report

FY17 Accomplishment Highlights

In FY17, Michigan's Urban and Community Forestry program provided assistance to 259 communities where more than 5 million residents live. Forty-nine grants were awarded to communities and partners for a variety of projects, from tree planting to urban tree canopy assessments, totaling nearly \$200,000 and leveraging nearly \$1,000,000 in matching contributions. Additionally, 113 communities were certified as a Tree City USA along with four universities and two utility for the Tree Campus and Tree Line USA programs respectively.

- Total population living in communities provided assistance increased to 5.4M (5.3M in 2016).
- FY17 Michigan Population: Managing: 46% (--); Developing: 33% (+); Assisted: 5.4M (+100K)
- NA comparison: Managing: 55% (+); Developing: 27% (+); Assisted: 84M (+1.2M)
- NA State comparison: 12 increased Assistance, 8 increased Developing, 10 increased Managing
- Number of volunteer hours reported: 9,736 (decrease from 13K in 2016)
- Written success story highlighted the impacts of federal/state program grants to communities for improved management. Specifically, I focused on describing the impact of our assistance to 3 communities (Ann Arbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids) for inventory and management planning activities. This support has recently helped justify and translate into budgetary enhancements and improved management of the urban forests.

FY18 Budget

- Have not received federal financial advice for FY18, which began October 1.
- FY 18 Federal UCF program budget marks: President (\$0), House (\$27M), Senate (?)
- Federal UCF program currently operating under a continuing resolution through December.
- Don't expect to hear anything soon but likely to see a reduction in federal UCF program budget, which will translate to reduced allocations to states.
- Partner advocacy at local and national levels has been critical to maintaining support in the past and will continue to be moving forward.
- Question: How should we plan and prepare for delivering MI DNR UCF program in the event of funding reduction?

METRO DETROIT NATURE NETWORK (working title)
Partnership Agreement
July 2016

Vision

Our vision is that all people in the metropolitan Detroit region have access to and actively steward nature and promote ecosystem sustainability.

Opportunity and Need

The metropolitan Detroit region combines a large and diverse human population, rich and complex cultural and industrial histories, ecological diversity, recreational opportunity, and natural beauty. Promoting nature and creating natural spaces builds a sense of place where people want to live, work and play; inspires people to be stewards of the natural assets in our trust; fosters economic development; enhances community health; and sustains our region for future generations.

Organizations throughout the region work to preserve the waters, natural areas, and working lands of southeast Michigan and connect residents and visitors with nature and outdoor recreation. The Metro Detroit Nature Network strengthens collaborations by maximizing our collective resources and results.

Core Values

- *Respect:*
 - Members represent multiple interests, varied perspectives and experiences.
 - Members actively hear and respect all voices.
 - Members recognize that each entity operates within its own authority and mission, and are considerate of member policies and processes.
- *Trust and Accountability:*
 - Members recognize that common goals intersect and interconnect.
 - Members recognize each has a role to play in the Network and contribute to actions that lead to collective outcomes.
- *Conservation:*
 - Members prioritize conservation, sustainability and access; promoting actions that preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the region's ecosystems.
- *Inclusion and Collaboration:*
 - Members are inclusive and collaborative in mutually beneficial ways.
 - Members participate with openness and transparency.

Network Objectives

This network will:

- Develop a structure that encourages productive working relationships among members;
- Implement the Network's vision through a blueprint of strategic actions;
- Be an inter-disciplinary forum for governmental agencies, nonprofits, businesses, academic institutions and other organizations to coordinate plans and shared interests;
- Add value to existing organizations and avoid duplication of efforts already in place;
- Advance education about and advocacy for nature and conservation;
- Share knowledge and best practices; and
- Select projects for collaborative action that advance the Network's regional vision, build a strong sense of place, and increase participation in conservation throughout the region.

Expectations

- Members will participate in the Network to their fullest capacity.
- Members may be asked to contribute on an in-kind basis to support the operational needs of the Network.
- Members can expect to achieve larger goals in collaboration than their organizations could on their own, obtaining more substantial results and resources.
- Members will also collaborate on forums for knowledge sharing, problem solving, and identifying collaborative solutions.
- Active members may choose to participate in grant applications to enhance and support the collaborative work of the Network.

On _____, _____ (date) (organization)	
_____ passed their support of the Metro Detroit (authorizing entity, e.g. CEO, board)	
Nature Network (MDNN) and authorized _____ to actively (MDNN representative)	
participate and notify the Network of its support.	
_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Printed name, title	

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join other organizations in the Metro Detroit Nature Network, to share in the vision that *all people in the region have access to and actively steward nature and promote ecosystem sustainability.*

Beginning as a workshop hosted on the campus of University of Michigan-Dearborn by the Environmental Interpretive Center in May 2015, the Metro Detroit Nature Network has evolved to a point of seeking Network members. Over the course of several months of deep and collaborative discussion, a steering committee has developed a partnership agreement.

The agreement is non-binding, and decidedly broad and inclusive in nature.

The participants chose to create this type of partnership agreement in order to identify ways we can work collaboratively together. It is purposely flexible and open so that we can engage numerous partners, leverage resources, and demonstrate a general regional interest in collaboration and cooperation to enjoy and preserve our natural spaces.

It is our belief that through collaboration and shared vision, we will be able to accomplish more than our organizations could alone. The potential for grant funding is increased as a Network, allowing us to leverage more resources together than apart.

While it is not necessary to sign on to this non-binding agreement to benefit, it is our hope that you will share our vision and connect with the Network. We also ask that you please provide a brief description of your organization so that we can better understand the scope and competencies of our Network members and opportunities for collaboration.



Marc Miller
Deputy
Regional Initiatives
Michigan Department of Natural Resources



John H. Hartig, Ph.D.
Refuge Manager
Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Tracy S. Hall, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Office of Metropolitan Impact
University of Michigan-Dearborn

Michigan DNR Staff Communications

Kevin Sayers – UCF Program Coordinator

- Angel Squalls AmeriCorps member term ends on Nov. 3rd. Big help to program.
- Attending Arbor Day Foundation's Partners in Community Forestry conference in Tulsa, OK next week
- Tree City (Campus/Line) USA applications due by end of year. 113 (4/2) in 2016
- Rotary Tree Planting Initiative – Created Michigan specific handout, given 3 rotary club presentations, International goal is 1 tree/member by Earth Day (April 22) 2018
- Participating on interview committee for MSU urban forestry faculty search
- Finalizing Michigan Municipal Forestry Survey for release in early 2018
- 2017-18 Municipal Forestry Award nominations being sought for upcoming ArborCon Conference. Please email me by end of year
- Continuing work with MDEQ interns to conduct i-Tree Canopy community assessments. Approximately 90 new communities completed in 2017 (387 total w avg. 31% TC)
- Awaiting word from Arbor Day Foundation regarding continuation of the Detroit Community Tree Recovery tree giveaway for 2018
- Grants:
 - Partnership Grants – Greening of Detroit, Michigan Arbor Day, ReLeaf Michigan
 - Community Forestry Grant – 30 applications received (\$188K). 17 Tree Planting, 8 Management & Planning, 3 Education & Training, 2 Arbor Day
 - DTE Foundation Tree Planting Grants – 2018 Funding unknown. Having conference call with DTE Foundation and ReLeaf Michigan in mid-November to discuss

Questions or comments, please contact Kevin at sayersk@mi.gov or 517.284.5898

Ada Takacs – Volunteer Programs Coordinator

We are working on a few forestry-related projects at the DNR's Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit. We recently received two Weyerhaeuser grants totaling \$10,000. A few things we are working on include:

1. "Career Clips" which are short videos featuring various careers in conservation (forester, firefighter, wildlife and fisheries biologists, park ranger and conservation officer). These clips will be shown at the OAC as well as at other venues around the state.
2. "Fatheads" similar to life-sized football star decals you may have seen on walls...the cafeteria at the OAC will feature conservation career decals geared toward getting youth interested in careers in conservation.

3. “Wood utilization puzzle” See attached photo. We are still fundraising for this, but the plan is to include forest product facts on the boards that pull up from the puzzle.
4. “Stair treads” were recently added and include forestry facts that can be read as visitors to the OAC climb stairs at the facility.



We will continue looking for ways to highlight forestry and forest products at the OAC. If anyone has funding sources or ideas, please send them my way.

In addition, I was nominated as the coordinator representative to serve on the National Project Learning Tree Education Operations Committee (EOC) through 2019. In this capacity, I represent my PLT counterparts from other states, Mexico, and Japan (and soon Canada) at National meetings.

Some may know that Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc. (SFI) recently took over PLT on a National level. We had our first PLT/SFI EOC meeting in Washington D.C. October 11th/12th. I am very excited for the new energy SFI and their staff have brought to the program. The mood has definitely shifted in the PLT network and a lot of opportunities are on the horizon.

After PLT moved to SFI, my PLT coordinator representative role was placed on the “SFI Inc. Resources Committee.”

The Resources Committee is the primary working committee of the SFI Board. The Board relies on the Resources Committee to develop recommendations on changes and enhancements to the SFI Standard, certification procedures, issue of technical or scientific nature, and other policies and procedures the Board may deem necessary. My role will be in looking for ways to combine efforts and make connections between the SFI and PLT programs.

The Resources Committee meets up to four times per year (mostly conference calls with one in-person meeting). I have already seen the potential benefits to Michigan due to my being on this committee.

If anyone has any questions they can feel free to contact me.

Office: 231.922.6048 Cell: 231.534.5569 Fax: 231.922.1853 takacs@michigan.gov

Member Communications

Margaret Miller – Spalted Banjo Consulting

Working on promotional forestry and urban wood utilization videos as part of the Sustainable Resources Alliance Forestry Harvesting Demo grant. Things are in the final stages and should be ready for release in the upcoming month. Questions or comments: margaret@spaltedbanjo.com

Richard Kobe – Michigan State University, Department of Forestry

1. Enrollment in Forestry B.S. has increased 85% in last five years, now at 72.
2. 15.9% of undergrads are students of color
3. 8 student enrolled in the Urban and Community Forestry minor
4. Hiring 4 new faculty members during 2017-18
 - a. Forest economics
 - b. Teaching
 - c. Director of Escanaba Field Station
 - d. Urban & Community Forestry (PERM through MI DNR)
5. With new hire, will have a critical mass of faculty with interests in urban forestry (Huff, Cregg, McCullough, MacFarlane)
6. Still working on integrated educational pathway in arboriculture & urban forestry with MSU's IAT and community colleges
7. Detroit Field Station
 - a. now called MSU – Detroit Partnership for Learning & Innovation
 - b. Lease granted by City of Detroit; site planning is

Questions or comments: kobe@anr.msu.edu