



MICHIGAN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

An advisory committee to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2016

Oakland Community College
2900 Featherstone Rd. Auburn Hills, MI

MEMBERS

Joan Chadde
Marshall Baeckeroot
Bill Drews
Ryan Edwards
Kerry Gray
Dean Hay – Vice Chair
Geoff Kempter
Rich Kobe
Annie Kruse
Amy Mangus
Lee Mueller - Chair
Douglas Schultz
Margaret Studer

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
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Present:

In-Person: Kerry Gray, Lee Mueller, Annie Kruse, Kevin Sayers, Lisa Perez,
Doug Schultz, Marshall Baeckeroot

Conference Call: Dean Hay, Joan Chadde; Rich Kobe, Ada Takacs, Ryan
Edwards, Tyler Kliffman (for Amy Mangus)

Absent: Bill Drews, Geoff Kempter, Margaret Studer,

Approval of Agenda:

Motion - L. Mueller; Second - R. Edwards; Approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

October 27, 2015 minutes reviewed.

Motion - L. Mueller; Second- D. Schultz; Approved unanimously.

Public Comment:

- M. Baeckeroot provided host welcome and introduction of Dean of Math and Sciences, Michael Goldin.

Business Items:

Budget Update

- FY14 balances: Core - \$4K; Detroit - \$27K
- FY15 balances: Core – \$163K; GLRI - \$54K
- FY 14 Core and Detroit balances are encumbered and will be drawn down completely by 9/30/16 expiration date.
- FY15 Core balance will largely be used for FY16 awarded grants, less some salary/wage charges. Expiration: 9/30/17.
- FY15 GLRI grant balance is largely encumbered to project partner subgrants, less approximately \$5K for administrative charges. Expiration: 9/30/17.
- FY16 federal budget advice is anticipated within next month and funding is anticipated to be consistent with past 2 years, i.e. ~\$325-\$350K.
- Indications from USFS are that FY17 federal budget for national UCF program will be reduced by ~15% with similar reductions for state partners.

Action Item(s): Kevin will share budget advice with group as received.

Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) Workforce Development Presentation

- Presentation from Brigitte Orrick (TCIA)
- Goals of program are organizing and supporting effort to work with employers and schools nationally and create training, educational and employment opportunities for prospective tree care professionals. Much of this effort will focus on working with local colleges and universities to develop degree, certificate and apprenticeship programs.
 - Oakland Community College offers 2yr. landscape design & management degree (11-12 courses @ \$300/class). Proposed changes to program would strengthen training in arboriculture and create apprenticeship program engaging veterans. Administration will need data on industry need, career opportunities and salary rates to justify future program offerings and support.
 - Michigan State Univ. will be offering a minor in urban forestry beginning Fall semester 2016. Very interested in further discussions on how to support this effort.
 - Greening of Detroit offers a certificate of completion for their adult workforce training program.

Action Item(s):

- *K. Sayers will request presentation documents (e.g. Arborist Career Pathway) to share with group.*

MUCFC Membership:

- Chair/Vice-Chair election:
 - Lee Mueller nominated for Chair
 - Motion – D. Schultz; Second – M. Baeckeroot; Approved unanimously
 - Dean Hay nominated for Vice-Chair
 - Motion – A. Kruse; Second - K.Gray; Approved unanimously
- Suggestion made to update policies and procedures to indicate election of chair/vice-chair occur annually during the first (spring) meeting of MUCFC.
 - Motion – A.Kruse; Second – K.Gray; Approved unanimously
- Discussion of current MUCFC membership matrix and efforts to solicit additional members to improve diversity issues on council.
- Need to connect with Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), land conservancies, tribal partners and conservation districts for possible membership.

Action Item(s):

1. *All members need to review matrix and verify their representation.*
2. *K. Sayers to update policies document with edits, send to council and post to website.*
3. *L. Mueller to create MUCFC marketing brochure for use in recruiting new members and K. Sayers to share with council for comment and ultimate distribution.*

Michigan 2015 Tree City USA Report

- K. Sayers provided 2015 Tree City/Campus/Line USA summary handout.
- 121 Tree City USA communities certified: (new – Sault Ste. Marie). Possibility of 1-2 additional.
- 4 Tree Campus USA schools certified: Univ. of Michigan, Western Michigan Univ., Calvin College and Kalamazoo Valley Comm. College
- 2 Tree Line USA utilities certified: ITC and Lansing Board of Water and Light (BWL)
- 5 Growth Awards
- Award materials mailed March 16. No banquet this year (3rd year in a row without).

- 2016 is 40th anniversary of national Tree City USA program. Gearing up for national publicity.
- 2016-17 will be a good year to renew the Michigan Tree USA awards banquet.
- 2016-17 may see more changes to Tree City Growth Award as proposed by Arbor Day Found.

Action Item(s):

1. *K. Sayers to keep council informed on changes to Tree City USA and Growth Award programs.*
2. *K. Sayers to work with council on planning/budget for 2017 award banquet.*

Oak Wilt Subcommittee Report

- A. Kruse provided update of subcommittee's activities
- Recent meetings held in November and January. Next meeting has not been set.
- Realization that multiple and slightly varying messages about oak wilt risk will still be pushed from partners to better and more accurately represent different perspectives.
- Members of subcommittee determined the group was better defined as a coalition and should fit under the umbrella of the Arboriculture Society of Michigan. The group's official name is now the Michigan Oak Wilt Coalition.
- ASM's Oak wilt proposal to the Michigan Invasive Species Grant program was approved for \$115K to help raise awareness about threats from Oak Wilt and how to manage it.
- Coalition has created a website: www.michiganoakwilt.org
- Coalition membership is diverse and growing
- Idea of creating "Oak Wilt Certified Arborist Areas" in Michigan.

Action Item(s): A. Kruse will provide regular updates of subcommittee's continuing efforts.

Staff Communications:

A. Takacs –

- Gave update on DNR Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC) career tabletop display status and will follow up with Parks Division staff to find out when they are installed.
- Discussed if and how the council's newsletter "Community Canopy" should be continued.
- Working with DNR's Forest Stewardship Program coordinator (Mike Smalligan) and MSU Extension on recreating Michigan School Forest bulletin
- Working with Tree Farm and Mike Smalligan on Wheels to Woods programs to support transportation costs for school kids taking field trips to school forests and natural areas.

K. Sayers -

- Reported on activities recorded in call-log per suggestion at previous council meeting:
 - Nov-March (slower time of year)
 - Mix of everything. 1st step determine categories to track items under.
 - Technical assistance: Tree Health (20%), Tree ID (5%), tree appraisal (2%), planting/maintenance (5%), Tree Ordinance (2%)
 - Programmatic assistance: Grants (15%), Tree City USA (20%), community management (2%); sales (1%)
 - Education/Outreach assist: (5%), ADF Referrals (LOTs), volunteer engagement (1%) Utilities (5%), firewood (2%)
 - Oddities: (5%); wood utilization, taping trees, walnut value, memorial tree, save my tree, poisoned tree, beaver damage, etc..
- Sue Tangora hired as manager for newly created Forest Health and Cooperative Programs section within DNR Forest Resources Division. UCF program staff (K. Sayers and A. Takacs) will report to Sue.

- Misc. grants:
 - FY16 GLRI RFP coming out in late spring. New changes to application process likely.
 - 5 LSR proposals submitted to USFS. Expecting word in next month or so.
 - DTE Foundation Grants – funding request verbally approved @ ~\$75K
 - CFG Grants: Anticipated for summer RFP in August.
- Arbor Day Foundation Partners Conf. coming up in Indy in November.
- No news on Urban field station proposal from USFS/MSU

Member Communications:

J. Chadde:

- Will send contact info. to Kevin for possible additions (Jerry Jondreau - MTU) to council to help with diversity goals.
- *** I missed capturing other items you shared. Please add!***

A. Kruse:

- Recent industry fatalities in Michigan reinforces importance of proper safety and training.
- Reported on recent winter ArborCon conference and other upcoming events.
- Reported that Lucas Drews is representing Michigan at National Tree Climbing Championship in Texas.
- Reported that members of ASM and Archangel historic tree group are going out west to obtain scion wood from historic redwoods/sequoias to clone and ensure diversity.

L. Perez:

- Reported on activity of USFS urban field research station for Michigan. Currently active in Detroit but will be supporting efforts more broadly along the I-96 corridor from Detroit, through Lansing to Grand Rapids and Muskegon/Manistee National Forest
- Urban Waters Environmental Research group at Wayne State University is active and working with USFS and other partners in SE MI on Detroit urban tree canopy analysis.

K. Gray:

- City is hiring a summer intern to assist in the Urban and Community Forestry program

L. Mueller:

- Announced upcoming Emerald Ash Borer Conference “Return to Ground Zero” to be held in Detroit this summer (June 8-9). Partners are working on agenda and marketing. Goal is to have 75 attendees from around the region/country to share perspectives on EAB from its arrival in MI to today and highlight various related issues via field tour.

Next Meeting(s):

- Summer conference call: *TBD*
- In-person: *Tuesday, October 25th - Lansing, MI*

Adjourn: 11:53 AM

Respectfully submitted: Kevin Sayers