



MICHIGAN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

An advisory committee to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2016

Grand Rapids Community Foundation
185 Oakes Street SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

MEMBERS

Joan Chadde
Marshall Baeckeroot
Bill Drews
Ryan Edwards
Kerry Gray
Dean Hay
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
(231) 534-5569

State of Michigan
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
PO Box 30452
Lansing, MI 48909
www.mi.gov/ucf



Present:

In-Person: Kerry Gray, Lee Mueller, Kevin Sayers, Margaret Studer, Bill Drews, Sue Tangora, Geoff Kempter, Rich Kobe,

Conference Call: Douglas Schultz, Annie Kruse, Ryan Edwards, Tyler Kliffman (for Amy Mangus), Lisa Perez

Approval of Agenda:

Motion – G. Kempter; Second – K. Gray; Approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

March 29, 2015 minutes reviewed.

Motion – B. Drews; Second- R. Kobe; Approved unanimously.

Public Comment:

- M. Studer provided welcome and overview of host facility. Discussed Grand Rapids Bi-annual urban forest report card and Brewers Grove/Beer City USA traditions.
- S. Tangora provided overview of her responsibilities as manager of the DNR's Forest Health and cooperative programs section. Major focus currently is on invasive/exotic species threats and specifically Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestations in Michigan.

Business Items:

FY 16 DNR UCF federal accomplishment reports

- Number of "Managing" and "Developing" communities being tracked increased to 76 (+2%) and 216 (+1%) respectively from FY15.
- Population assisted increased by 90,000 to 5.3 Million from FY15
- Northeastern Area wide comparison shows Michigan slightly lower than average for communities at the "Managing" level (54%/46%) and slightly higher than average for communities at "Developing" level (33%/26%)
- Written accomplishment report spotlighted grant funded "Green Macomb" regional urban forestry assessment and assistance project in Macomb County.

Action Item(s): None

Oak Wilt Subcommittee Report

- A. Kruse provided update of subcommittee's activities
- Group has been somewhat inactive since spring.
- Major issues related to Consumers Energy pruning in Hubbard Lake area (Alcona County). Oak wilt is known to be present in area and vegetation management practices were deficient or impractical for proper oak wilt sanitation in area (missed painting some cuts or mechanized trimming could not be painted). It appears that of nearly 5,000 oaks trimmed in area, at least 27 new oak wilt cases have been documented by Consumers.
- MSU Forestry has hired new researcher (Monique Sakalidas) who will likely be focusing some of her research efforts on oak wilt issues in Michigan.
- Need to work with researchers, public and utilities etc. to clarify issues related to oak wilt in Michigan. Coalition website (www.michiganoakwilt.org) is going to help.
- Next coalition meeting is set for November 22 in Lansing.

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

Michigan Tree City USA Subcommittee Report

- 2016 marks 40th year anniversary of Tree City USA
- Last Michigan Tree City USA award banquet was 2013
- Committee is researching dates and locations for possible banquet this year
- MSU University Club is available for \$250 plus food per sponsorship by Dr. Jim Kielbaso (member).
- Michigan Forestry and Park Association (MFPA) is willing to act as fiduciary again and handle registration etc. for a fee. DNR UCF has previously provided an administration grant to MFPA in amount of ~\$2,000.
- A. Kruse will join the subcommittee along with K. Sayers, L. Mueller and R. Kobe

Action Item(s):

1. *Subcommittee needs to identify date(s) and venue. Likely in mid-Michigan in March or early April.*
2. *Subcommittee needs to develop budget, provide grant, market and host award banquet.*

1st Annual MUCFC Letter to Michigan DNR State Forester

- L. Mueller provided copies of draft letter for council review/comment.
- Letter is intended to update Michigan State Forester on issues and actions relevant to DNR's UCF program.
- Members provided suggestions and edits for letter. Further comments need to be provided to L. Mueller by Friday November 4.
- K. Gray made motion for Chair to submit letter with recommended edits. G. Kempter seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Action Item(s):

- *L. Mueller will final draft the letter based on further comments and put on council letterhead before mailing to State Forester*
- *K. Sayers will invite State Forester (Bill O'Neill) to next MUCFC meeting in Lansing on March 27*

Grants Update:

- K. Sayers provided status update on various program related grants

- FY16 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) awards recently announced. 9 funded in Michigan for a total of \$1.4 Million. New federal grant process for this went well.
- FY17 Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant program generated 4 proposals from Michigan including 1 submitted by American Forests on behalf of the City of Detroit for a collaborative reforestation and planning project.
- DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting grant annual funding renewal request (\$75,000) submitted to foundation by K. Sayers to support 2017-18 program.
- Michigan DNR Community Forestry Grant (CFG) program generated 30 proposals requesting \$240,000 for projects related to management and planning (40%), tree planting (43%) and education/outreach (17%). Total available funding is ~\$80,000. Awards likely to be announced in early-mid November.
- Federal Community Forestry Grant program request for proposals released with deadline of January 13. Focus on preserving coastal wetlands (possible interest in Upper Peninsula).

Action Item(s):

1. *K. Sayers will send federal CFG program grant announcement to group.*

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:

B. Drews:

- Getting drawn into more Beech Bark Disease research and treatment on west side of state.
- Oak wilt is ongoing issue of concern in his area. Seeing more and more of it.
- Attended National Tree Climbing Championship (NTCC) in Canada where his son competed very well. Very impressed with woman arborist/climbers and their performance as well.

K. Gray:

- Continuing to rebuild city's urban forestry program.
- Advocating getting back to 7 year pruning cycle citywide for street trees.
- Steering city away from focus on tree planting, more on tree maintenance (#1 goal of 2014 Mgmt. plan)

G. Kempter:

- Working on ANSI A300 standards revisions (via International Society of Arboriculture). Efforts are ongoing but slow and difficult. Trying to rewrite in more user-friendly way. Heavy emphasis on structure. Last updated in 2008. Still don't have available in electronic version.

R. Kobe:

- MSU Forestry program doing well. 80% increase in undergraduate and graduate enrollment.
- Enrollment for Urban minor is increasing as well.
- Working with Michigan DNR and USFS on ways to expand forestry/urban forestry program
- New faculty recently hired: Monique Sakalidas (pathologist), Emily Huff (social/human dimensions).
- MSU Shadows campus wood recovery program getting good visibility and exposure

A. Kruse:

- Arboriculture Society of Michigan (ASM) is winding down year.
- Actively working on educational seminars, workshops & invasive species grant for oak wilt
- Kicking off upcoming ArborCon in February (13-17) in Lansing

D. Schultz:

- Dealing with contractors who are installing trees with wire baskets intact and not sure if this is acceptable.
- Would like to have information on tree planting specs./standards (e.g. ANSI A300)

Next Meeting(s):

- Summer conference call: *TBD*
- In-person: *Tuesday, March 27th, 2017 - Lansing, MI*

Adjourn: 12:02 PM

Respectfully submitted: Kevin Sayers