



## MICHIGAN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

An advisory committee to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

### MINUTES

March 30, 2011

#### **MEMBERS**

Rebecca Salminen-Witt, Co-Chair  
Bert Cregg, Co Chair  
Jerry Adams  
Marshall Baeckeroot  
Pam Blough  
Nancy Carpenter  
Jeff Dunmire  
Vic Foerster  
Bill Lawrence  
Steve Snell  
Michael Sterling

#### **Staff Liaisons**

Kevin Sayers  
UCF Program Coord.  
(517) 241-4632

Ada Takacs  
Volunteer Coord.  
(989) 275-5151

State of Michigan  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO Box 30452  
Lansing, MI 48909

(517) 241-4632  
[www.mi.gov/ucf](http://www.mi.gov/ucf)



**MEMBERS PRESENT:** ADAMS, BAECKEROOT, BLOUGH, CREGG, DREWS (FOR ASM), DUNMIRE, LAWRENCE, SALMINEN-WITT, SNELL, STERLING

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** FOERSTER,

**STAFF PRESENT:** SAYERS, TAKACS

**OTHERS PRESENT:** KERRY GRAY, TYLER STEVENSON

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by B. Cregg to approve the October minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by J. Dunmire. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Communication/Public Comments:**

None

#### **Organizational Items:**

Membership Terms / Vacancies – Review of current council vacancies (Education and MSU Ext.) and update on next positions to expire at end of Fall 2011 meeting (Adams, Dunmire, Foerster, Lawrence)

*Action Item(s): Recruit new members for current vacancies*

New Member Introductions – Introduction of Mike Sterling as utility rep. and Steve Snell as Nature Center/Arboretum rep. Kerry Gray (City of Ann Arbor) and Tyler Stevenson (City of Grand Rapids) indicated interest in joining the council and provided background and summary of their respective programs and positions.

*Action Item(s): N/A*

Review Policies and Procedures – Council reviewed and discussed edits, revisions to be made to existing council “Policies and Procedures” document.

*Action Item(s): Sayers will make changes as discussed and repost to council website.*

#### **Action Items:**

Sayers provided draft questions for 2010 MI Municipal Forestry Survey for council discussion and approval. Council supports doing survey with minor adjustments to wording, length etc.

*Action Item(s): Sayers will modify questions per council comments and feedback and plan to announce survey in May.*



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#### **New Business:**

Spring 2011 Community Canopy newsletter – Sayers provided draft newsletter for review, comment and discussion. Several additions and edits provided.

*Action Item(s): Sayers will take additional items until week of April 18<sup>th</sup> and then post and send announcement advertising new edition.*

MGIA Healthy Tree Care Program – Sayers provided background information and handout describing new initiative from MGIA brought to his attention by Ms. Lillian Dean (SOCWA). Group discussed several concerns about what intent of program was, what is/isn't implied by this designation, what the public perception might be, and how the council should respond to MGIA.

*Action Item(s): Sayers will communicate with Lillian Dean about concerns of the council and request to be kept in the loop by her and MGIA on further discussions of this program. Additionally, Drews indicated that ASM would be discussing this internally and with their member (Smith Tree and Landscape – Lansing area) who may have attended some of MGIA's meetings on this issue.*

Project Learning Tree (PLT) Green Schools – Takacs provided information and background on the PLT Green Schools program for discussion (<http://www.pltgreenschools.org/>). This is a national program and is not competing with the Michigan Green Schools program (<http://www.michigangreenschools.us/>).

*Action Item(s): N/A*

#### **Old Business:**

Status of Open Grants and Pending Proposals – Sayers reviewed the status of existing/open DNR UCF program grants (inclusive of all federal and private funding sources) and indicated that no announcement has been made on pending proposals to USFS as part of the 2010-11 Competitive Grant program.

*Action Item(s): Sayers will provide update(s) on status of pending proposals, new RFPs as notification is received. Open grant status report will be provided at the next council meeting as well.*

DNR UCF Program FY 11 Budget – Sayers reported that due to a lack of federal budget (operating under continuation), the DNR has not yet received FY 11 financial advice. Possibly by late spring or early summer.

*Action Item(s): Sayers will share update as soon as we hear.*



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#### General Updates:

2010 MI Tree City/Campus/Line USA – Sayers provided handout and update on status of 2010 MI Tree USA programs. 119 Tree Cities, 2 campuses and 3 utilities. Awards will be presented at upcoming workshop or mailed to recipients. List is posted online at

[www.mi.gov/dnrctusa](http://www.mi.gov/dnrctusa).

*Action Item(s): N/A*

American Grove Social Networking Initiative – Sayers provided handouts and updated group on a new social networking site geared towards persons interested/involved in tree planting, environmental stewardship etc.. [www.americangrove.org](http://www.americangrove.org)

*Action Item(s): N/A*

2011 MI Community Tree Seminar and Tree USA Awards – Sayers provided handouts and updated group on upcoming workshop sponsored by DNR, MFPA, ITC, DTE and Consumers Energy. This all day workshop will also serve as a venue to officially present 2010 Tree USA awards.

*Action Item(s): N/A*

State Arbor Day Celebration and Go Green Youth Challenge – Sayers provided handouts and updated group on upcoming annual state Arbor Day Celebration to be held at Potter Park/Zoo in Lansing on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Governor and Mayor of Lansing have been invited. Additional information provided regarding the Go Green Youth Challenge initiative that was developed in response to void created when Arbor Day Foundation discontinued the annual National Arbor Day Poster Contest.

*Action Item(s): N/A*

MSU Forestry and CANR Reorganization status – Cregg updated group on status of ongoing college and Forestry department reorganization at MSU. Indications are that there will no longer be a separate Forestry Dept. within the next year. Forestry will become part of new Nat. Resources, Ecology and Management (NREM) dept. SAF accreditation will depend on status of a “Forestry” major, which should remain intact.

*Action Item(s): Bert will keep us updated on this issue.*

#### Adjourn:

12:10pm