

**MI Urban & Community Forestry Council**  
**- Minutes of -**  
**Friday, November 9th**  
**DNR Operations Service Center – Gaylord, MI**

**Members present (voting):**

Jerry Adams, Nancy Carpenter, Kathy Fischer, Vic Foerster, Bill Van Liere, Robert Taggart, Marshal Baeckeroot, Bert Cregg, Robert Gentry

**Members present (non-voting):**

Lisa Burban, Katie Armstrong, Kerry Gray, Scott Heather, Maureen McDonnough, Ada Takacs

**Other attendees:**

Steve Ryder (Invited guest - Great Lakes Energy)

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by Chair Vic F. Self introductions given.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Robert T. moved to accept the agenda.  
Bert Cregg. seconded the motion.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Robert T. moved to accept the previous meeting minutes. Bert Cregg seconded the motion.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Announcements:**

Jim Kielbaso (NUCFAC rep.) unable to attend meeting but will work with Kevin to provide an update to the group on current happenings with NUCFAC.

Rebecca Salminen-Witt (Greening of Detroit) was unable to attend meeting but will be presenting at next weeks "Partners in Community Forestry Conf." in Baltimore. Also, the Greening has recently hired former City of Ann Arbor Forester, Paul Bairley, to direct all forestry operations for them.

Kevin S. announced that the next round of DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grants will be available next week (see [www.mi.gov/dnrucf](http://www.mi.gov/dnrucf) for application).

**Old Business:**

**Membership vacancy and reappointments:**

- 1 position vacant - (Landscape Architect)
- 1 officer position vacant - (Vice-chair)
- Nancy Carpenter, Bert Cregg, and Tom Abramson, appointed to new terms **expiring at Fall 2010 meeting.**
- Robert Taggart (utility rep.) not seeking renewal of position on council due to work commitments.
- Steve Ryder (Great Lakes Energy) is attending meeting as guest of Robert T. and is interested in filling the utility position (pending corporate approval).
- Bill Van Liere (Meijer Gardens) and Jerry Adams (City of Cadillac) attending first meeting as council members.
- Vic F. will continue as chair until new chair and vice chair positions are appointed

*Action Item(s):*

1. *Kevin to formally invite Steve Ryder to fill utility position on council*
2. *Kevin to follow-up on possible lead to fill vacant Lands. Arch. Position.*
3. *Solicit candidates to fill chair and vice-chair positions on council*

**New Business:**

**Redesign of USFS State & Private Forestry (SPF)**

- Lisa Burban (USFS) gave overview
- States have traditionally received funds from USFS via allocation formula based on accomplishments and population
- Beginning in FY08, S&PF going through restructuring process which will gradually shift funding from formula-based to competitive grants over next 5 yrs.
- USFS nationally trying to reduce operating costs by 25% to allow for greater availability of funds at the field level.
- SPF in Northeast Area is an anomaly in

- overall USFS structure because it is so heavily urbanized.
- Congress was questioning what actual accomplishments were for money being spent.
- Redesign is effort to provide answers to Congress.
- USFS taking the lead on restructuring was a good thing as Congress would likely have forced it to happen otherwise
- Focus is primarily on maximizing public benefits from private and public lands.
- Three priority areas:
  1. Conserving Working Forests
  2. Protecting Forest from Harm
  3. Enhancing Benefits from Trees/Forests
- States received notice of RFP from USFS in early October.
- Deadline for states to submit proposals in Jan. 15, 2008.
- Decision/awards made by USFS in April/May
- Proposals from State Forester only this year (MI decision). Opportunities for other organizations to partner with state on proposal ideas though.
- Kevin is considering two UCF related proposals:
  1. Urban Tree Canopy Assessment
  2. Midwest Urban Ecology Collaborative
- States will be creating statewide resource assessments and response plans. Council should focus on getting UCF strategic plan priorities into these documents.

*Action Item(s):*

1. Kevin to send group list of proposal ideas for added input
2. Kevin will keep group updated on status of process

Midwest Technology Transfer Center Update:

- Lisa B. and Maureen M. provided group update on center activities
- Maureen M. presented with 15yr. Award for Service by Lisa B.
- Several new products completed or nearing completion including:
  1. Tree Owners Manual - pub.
  2. Stem Girdling Roots - pub.
  3. Before the Bug Comes to Town – pub.

4. Speakers Bureau info
  5. EAB info. – research and resource list
  6. Street Tree Planning Guide – UMINN
  7. [www.mortonarb.org/deeptreeroots](http://www.mortonarb.org/deeptreeroots)
- Group especially interested in Tree Owners Manual.

*Action Item(s):*

1. Lisa and Maureen will notify group via Kevin when Tree Owner's Manual is available in print

Joint Meeting of Stewardship and Urban Forestry:

- Kevin S. gave overview of upcoming joint meeting between Forest Stewardship and Urban Forestry staff from USFS and states in Northeast area.
- First time meeting is being held jointly.
- May 13-15, 2008 @ Grand Traverse Resort  
Kevin is currently working with Deb Huff (MDNR) to put together agenda with input from respective committees
- Primary focus will be on issues of mutual concern, esp. forest fragmentation, urban sprawl and identifying tools to help communities and private prop. owners address them.
- As host state council chair, Vic F. will be invited to participate in the meeting
- Group advised that speaker contract(s) may be needed to ensure commitment of speakers.
- MI also benefited from increased assistance to communities (esp. highly populated ones) primarily as a result of EAB assistance. These factors play critical role in new USFS formula.

*Action Item(s):*

1. Nancy C. to provide example/assistance with creating speaker contracts
2. Kevin to contact Maureen M. for possible agenda suggestions
3. Kevin to investigate possibility of having local area speaker Jerry Dennis as presenter

MI Urban and Community Forestry Awards:

- Kevin S. provided handouts as background on idea of creating MI DNR and MUCFC awards program.

- Group supported the idea of having an awards program tied to UCF program and Council.
- Ada T. suggested that it could be tied to Keep Michigan Beautiful awards program. She has a contact (Brian Colter).
- Suggestion was made to contact the Michigan Municipal League (MML) about possibility of presenting awards and/or Tree City/Line USA upcoming conference in May.

*Action Item(s):*

1. *Ada T. to provide Kevin with handout from Keep Michigan Beautiful awards program.*
2. *Robert G. to work with Kevin to contact MML re: interest in hosting Tree City USA/and UCF awards*
3. *Kevin and Nancy C. will discuss partnership opportunity for awards programs with ASM.*

DNR UCF Accomplishment Report – FY07:

- Kevin S. provided summary documents and gave report.
- USFS's Community Accomplishment Reporting System (CARS) focuses on three main measures (categories) of community/program development: **Managing, Developing** and **Assisted**
- USFS funds allocated to state for UCF are determined in part by state performance in these categories.
- Trend over past 3 yrs. indicates increase in number/population of communities at the **Managing** level. Decreases at the **Developing** level and in communities being **Assisted**.
- Decreases are attributed to:
  1. Inaccurate definition being used by USFS to describe **Developing** communities.
  2. Ability of state staff to provide qualifying assistance to communities due to reduced travel and limited staffing.
  3. Transition of pop. from **Developing** to **Managing** communities.

- USFS has a review process whereby they consider any changes to CARS reporting system, including definition changes.
- Summary of FY07 UCF grant accomplishments given.
- Comment made that certain aspects of UCF program grant application process are confusing for applicants.
- Suggestion made that future program grant applications should include a checklist to assist applicants in submitting all required info..

*Action Item(s):*

1. *Kevin will follow-up with Lisa B. regarding any changes to CARS definitions*
2. *Kevin and Kerry G. will create grantee checklist for future grant applications*

**Misc. Updates**

State budget and grants:

- Total FY07 budget for MI ended up at \$336,000 (additional \$65K provided in Sept.)
- Have not received FY 08 financial advice
- State budget issues caused delayed payments on all program grants and is currently causing delayed award of grants in new fiscal year
- Another consequence is reduced travel and spending in general
- Nothing is expected to change soon.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):

- EAB confirmed at two (2) locations north of the Mackinac Bridge: Moran and Straights State Park
- Larvae found on trap trees in both cases.
- EAB likely arrived via campfire wood.
- MDA is currently delimiting sites but is stretched thin due to limited funding.
- Both sites have significant ash resource
- Eradication is likely not an option (funding). Policy is now more likely to be slow-the-spread.

Newsletter:

- Latest edition recently posted to website
- Next edition due out in spring (April)

- In future, use only USFS, ISA etc. as reference citations in newsletter.
- Send article ideas to Ada T. by early April
- Depending on funding, might plan another mailing. We had to stick to web. Only the last two times for budget reasons.

Tree City/Line USA programs:

- Map and list of all MI Tree Cities posted on [www.mi.gov/dnrtcusa](http://www.mi.gov/dnrtcusa)
- Starting to get applications for this year already. 3 are from new communities
- Deadline is end of year.
- MI currently ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in total TC USA communities
- 111 MI TC USA communities spent \$8.02/capita in 2006

Upcoming events:

- DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grants to be announced next week. Check [www.mi.gov/dnrucf](http://www.mi.gov/dnrucf) for applications. Deadline is 12/28/07
- Partners in Comm. Forestry – Baltimore, MD, (11/12-14)
- Great Lakes Trade Expo – Grand Rapids (1/7-9)
- Trees and Utilities – Orlando, FL (4/7-9)

Next meeting:

Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – location TBA

**Adjourned:**

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm

Submitted: *Kevin Sayers*