

Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council



An advisory committee to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Michigan.gov/UCF

Meeting Minutes –March 26, 2019

Michigan Municipal League, call to order at 10:03am

Present

In-person: Kevin Sayers

Conference call: Joan Chadde, Drew Decker, Dean Hay, Annie Kruse, Marshall Baeckeroot, Kerry Gray, Hannah Reynolds, Heather Griffin

Approval of Agenda:

- Motion by K. Gray
- Supported by A. Kruse
- Approved unanimously

Approval of Minutes of October 30, 2018 meeting:

- Motion by K. Gray
- Supported by A. Kruse
- Approved unanimously

Public Comment:

- Introduction of Hannah Reynolds with the Michigan Arbor Day Alliance
- Introduction of Heather Griffin with the City of Flint
- Joan Chadde made announcement of upcoming Place-based Education Conference to be held in Flint in November (7-9). Looking for presenters. Conference website: <https://placebasededconference.org/>

Old Business:

DNR Forest Action Plan (FAP)

- Assessment phase continuing. Slowed by delays in USFS data. Hope to finish by May/June
- Website story map progress continues
- Stakeholder list compiled. Meeting facilitators lined up. Announcements to be sent.
- Tentative schedule for stakeholder meetings set:
- Issues: July 16 (Lansing), July 18 (Marquette), Aug. 5 (Cadillac), Aug. 8 (Gaylord)
- Strategies: Oct. 10 (Gaylord)
- Will need MUCFC input at these meetings. Try to attend at least one of the issue meetings and the final strategy meeting in October.

- No in-person Fall MUCFC meetings due to these. Plan on a late fall conf. call tbd

Action item(s):

1. *K. Sayers will keep group updated on status of FAP progress & stakeholder meeting schedule.*
2. *Members should try to make at least one issue meeting and the final strategies meeting.*

Visiting Urban Forester Program

- No progress
- Annie and Kevin to meet on April 30th in Williamston, MI. Others welcome to attend.

Action item(s): *K. Sayers and A. Kruse to meet and discuss program forms revisions and establishing grant.*

Oak Wilt Coalition

- Had to cancel fall meeting of coalition
- Received word that MISGP proposal was denied
- Having discussions with DNR to see where oak wilt fits in their priority list.
- Will announce upcoming meeting when scheduled.

Action item(s): *Kruse will announce next meeting to be scheduled in spring.*

Tree City USA Banquet

- Banquet set for April 10 (10:00-2:30 PM), MSU Kellogg Ctr., East Lansing
- Registration \$35 fee
- Mayor of GR to keynote
- Members encouraged to attend

Action item(s): *Host luncheon/conference on April 10th. Provide summary at next meeting.*

Advocacy

- No update
- Joan C. asked about purpose, goals of committee.

Action item(s): *G. Kempter to add Joan C. to committee and group to work on creating a calendar of appropriate events, conferences for MUCFC members to target for presenting at.*

New Business:

Member Terms/Appointments

- Member term limit schedule reviewed.
- Members with terms expiring at end of fall meeting are: D. Hay, A. Kruse, T. Kliffman
- D. Hay and A. Kruse expressed interest in renewing term upon expiration.
- J. Chadde suggested inviting tribal representative, D. Hay suggested inviting Jacki Grow from [Wayne Co. Community College District](#) and M. Baekeroot suggested inviting alumni from Oakland Community College Horticulture/Landscape maintenance program.

Action item(s):

1. *D. Hay to contact T. Kliffman prior to fall 2019 meeting about possible renewal for 3-yr term.*
2. *Sayers will discuss membership interest prospective new members Hannah Reynolds (Michigan Arbor Day Alliance) and Heather Griffin (City of Flint) and make nominations as appropriate.*
3. *Chadde and Sayers to investigate and invite tribal representatives. Hay and Baekeroot to invite*

others from their respective groups.

2018 Tree City/Campus/Line USA Accomplishments

- AmeriCorps member (Jessica Applin) has been a real help this year.
- 118 cities, 5 campuses, 2 utilities certified
- 2 new communities: Ludington and Petoskey
- 1 new campus: Hope College
- Lots of turnover of community contacts.

Action item(s): *Sayers to send out annual press release and distribute awards in April*

FY19 UCF program funding

- Federal financial advice for FY19 has not been received yet.
- No idea what's going on. President's budget again \$0. USFS budget summary's and justifications either show \$0/elimination or no mention at all.
- Expect to receive federal financial advice soon
- Best estimate of FY19 might be \$325-\$350K

Action item(s): *Sayers will update group via email once financial advice is received.*

FY19-20 Community Forestry Grant program priorities

- Program will proceed as planned annually (funding dependent) with announcement of applications in July/August.
- Estimate approximately \$100K being available
- Last year Management and Planning projects were focus (no tree planting)
- What should priority be this year?
- Sayers suggested eliminating tree planting again since DTE & Consumers Energy both provide source for tree planting grants. Would rather consider adding category for maintenance.
- K. Gray and H. Reynolds both commented in support of adding maintenance category and prioritizing that or education/outreach categories for this year.
- Sayers suggested forming a Grants subcommittee with K. Gray and others to meet this spring.

Action item(s): *Sayers to schedule date to meet with new committee in spring/early summer.*

Staff Communications

- K. Sayers:
 - AmeriCorps member has been very helpful this year
 - Possible UFST deployment/training in Grand Rapids this spring/summer?
 - Continuing to collaborate with MSU Forestry Urban Forestry
 - Joining ASM Foundation as a board member
 - Urban Wood Toolkit and webinar series initiated with DNR wood products/utilization staff
 - Events: ISA conference (August in TN.); Partners conference (November in OH)
 - Grants:
 - Finishing 2016 GLRI project in UP w/tree plantings this spring in 3 communities
 - No urban LSR grants funded
 - GLRI partnering grant in Lower Grand River Watershed is underway
 - DTE Foundation Tree Planting Grants taking applications (\$75K/\$3K) **April-June**
 - DNR UCF Community Forestry Grants (CFG) anticipated Aug RFP

Member Communications

- D. Decker: (Greening of Detroit)
 - Greening of Detroit is on track to plant 1,900 trees in parks and rights-of-way and nursery
 - Developing an urban wood reuse program at the Greening of Detroit.
- K. Gray: (Davey Resource Group)
 - Resigned from City of Ann Arbor in December to take new position with Davey Resource Group.
- M. Baeckeroot: (Retired Oakland Community College)
 - Continuing to work with Oakland University and offered to help on any projects in the Flint area as needed.
- H. Reynolds: (Michigan Arbor Day Alliance/Eaton Conservation District)
 - Eaton Conservation District is doing oak wilt outreach and education as well as other invasive plant issues.
- A. Kruse: (Arboriculture Society of Michigan)
 - Successful ArborCon Conference in February despite weather
 - Upcoming TRAQ trainings (www.asm-isa.org)
 - Moving forward with oak wilt qualification trainings and credentialing
 - Received word that proposal for oak wilt research was denied by Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program. Having discussions with DNR about priorities

Next Meeting(s):

- In lieu of Forest Action Plan meetings in summer/fall, there will be no regular fall in- person meeting scheduled.
- Possible late fall conference call tbd

Adjourn: 11:34 PM

Respectfully submitted: Kevin Sayers

Members

Marshall Baeckeroot, Joan Chadde, Bill Drews, Asia Dowtin, Ryan Edwards, Fai Foen, Kerry Gray, Dean Hay (Chair), Geoff Kempter, Tyler Kliffman, Annie Kruse, Lee Mueller, Douglas Schultz, Margaret Miller, Douglas Schultz

USFS Liaisons

Jill Johnson, Lisa Perez

DNR Contact

Staff Liaisons: Kevin Sayers, 517-284-5898; Ada Takacs, 231-534-5569

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