



# MICHIGAN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

An advisory committee to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

## Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2015

MUCC Office - 2101 Wood St. Lansing, MI 48823

### MEMBERS

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

### USFS Liaisons

Jill Johnson  
Lisa Perez

### Staff Liaisons

Kevin Sayers  
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State of Michigan  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
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### **Present:**

Conference Call: Dean Hay, Joan Chadde; Marshall Baeckeroot; Margaret Studer

In-Person: Geoff Kempter, Rich Kobe, Kerry Gray, Lee Mueller, Annie Kruse, Ryan Edwards

**Absent:** Bruce Morrison, Bill Drews, Amy Mangus

### **Present for DNR Staff:**

Kevin Sayers, Ada Takacs

### **Other Attendees:**

Paul Dykema – City of Lansing, Chip Kozlowski - DNR

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve L. Mueller; seconded D. Hay; carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

March 31, 2015 minutes reviewed.

Correct previous minutes approval to reflect October 28, 2014 date.

Motion to approve, L. Mueller, seconded D.Hay; carried unanimously.

### **Public Comment:** None

### **Business Items:**

#### Budget Update

- Balances: FY12: \$27 | FY13: \$428 | FY14: \$5K (\$60K Detroit) | FY15: \$160K
- FY 12 & 13 grants expired and will lapse balances to USFS. Final reports due by end of year
- FY 14 Detroit funds encumbered and will be spent by EOY. FY14 Core will be merged w/FY15 balance
- FY14-15 balances combined for total of \$165K for all grants (partner and competitive)

#### MUCFC Policies and Procedures

- Discussion of polices/procedures revision process
- Removed term limit rule, member categories and standing committees
- Add statement requiring annual review of membership makeup with focus on ensuring diversity (gender, race, geography) of membership.
- Motion to approve, as amended: L. Mueller, second: R. Kobe, carried unanimously.

*Action Item(s): Lee will update policies with edits and send to Kevin for website*

## MI UCF Program Report

### **Community Accomplishment Reporting System (CARS) – 2015 Michigan Data:**

- Assisted & Managing numbers increased from last year. Due in part to delivery of program subgrants, i-tree canopy community assistance (intern project), partner (Greening, ReLeaf MI) outreach etc..
- FY14-15 Trend: +4.5% Managing -1% Developing; +3% Assisted
- NA states comparison: Managing - (4 decreased, 10 increase, 7 unchanged); Developing - (9 decreased, 10 increased, 2 unchanged); Assisted -(2 decreased, 12 increased, 2 unchanged)
- Suggestions made to contact Michigan Municipal League (MML), Michigan Township Association (MTA), Michigan Complete Streets Coalition, and Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) to inquire about sharing of contact lists that might help fill gaps in our current community contact list.
- Suggestion to use interns to assist with annual CARS information data collection and update.

*Action Item(s): Kevin to contact partner organizations to possible use of contacts lists*

### **Michigan Municipal Forestry Survey**

- 5yr. cycle for this periodic survey is in 2016.
- Survey helps assess status of municipal forestry programs in Michigan and provide trend data to help guide state UCF program management and administration.
- Goal will be to have council finalize question set and announce survey by next spring.

*Action Item(s): Kevin to send group previous survey report/questions and Dr. Rich Hauer's (Univ. WI) recent national survey questions/report for review.*

### **New Unit restructuring within DNR Forest Resources Division**

- DNR Forest Resources Division will be restructuring units and sections late this year and early next.
- Several of the cooperative forestry programs (UCF, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship) will be removed from the Forest Resource Protection (Fire) section and elevated to a new Section status sometime after the beginning of the year.
- Changes are due in part to staff transitions and to streamline/balance administrative responsibilities of supervisors.

*Action Item(s): Kevin to update council on status of changes as they happen.*

### **UCF Program Suggestions and Expectations for FY16**

- Suggestion of providing a more comprehensive program budget analysis to council on annual basis
- Suggestion of keeping a phone/email log to track types of requests received by program. This would help improve program delivery and reporting by better understanding where efforts are being expended or need to be. This could be done on a short term or ongoing basis as needed to get a good sense of the pattern

*Action Item(s): Kevin to begin tracking requests and reporting to council at next meeting.*

## Oak Wilt Subcommittee Report

- A. Kruse provided update of subcommittee's activities
- Held first meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup> in Lansing. Next meeting is in November.
- Goals are 1) unified effort to create and distribute consistent and appropriate messages related to oak wilt and 2) create a central website to host and act as clearinghouse for info.

- Idea of creating “Oak Wilt Certified Arborist Areas” in Michigan.
- ASM/Oak Wilt coalition to discuss funding and website design at next meeting. A suggestion was made that an Oak Wilt risk-gradient could be created and used as part of this website and would be extremely useful.
- Unclear as to what council’s role should be in this subcommittee’s efforts. Most likely role is to act as sounding board and to communicate our support (or lack of) to state forester, as authorized in our policies/procedures.

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

### **Staff Communications:**

A. Takacs –

- Working with DNR’s Forest Stewardship Program coordinator (Mike Smalligan) and MSU Extension on recreating Michigan School Forest bulletin
- Will share draft of next “Community Canopy” newsletter for council to review and post to UCF program website.

K. Sayers -

- DNR Forest Action plan updates in 2015. MUCFC will be requested for stakeholder input
- GLRI grants: 14 submitted in March. 11 awards announced in July (\$1.5M)
- 5 LSR proposals submitted to USFS (2 urban – Greening and ReLeaf MI) (\$811K)
- DEQ Coastal Zone Mgmt. proposal for multi partner/city UTC/tree planting - denied
- DTE Grants (41 proposals awarded for \$145K)
- CFG Grants: 22 proposals under review. Budget ~\$90K. Awards in Nov.
- Arbor Day Foundation: Community Tree Recovery Program in MI to assist w/EAB damage.
- Tree City USA: 1) Due Dec. 31; 2) Growth Award changes
- AREA Research Conference Survey announcement

### **Member Communications:**

R. Kobe –

- Still working to hire Forest Pathologist in Department of Forestry.
- Department effort to create a minor in Urban and Community Forestry are progressing through university administration channels and is still on target for Fall semester 2016.
- New area of potential research interest is in urban forests and human health. Relates well to shared interests from Forestry, Human Medicine departments and MSU Extension.
- Potential for new synergies and sharing of resources between USFS and MSU Department of Forestry if announcement of new USFS urban field station comes to fruition in East Lansing.

J. Chadde -

- Discussion of recent survey (“Undergraduate Enrollment Trends in Natural Resources...”) and presentation by Michigan Tech Univ. (MTU) Dean of School of Forest Resources (Terry Sharik) at the Michigan Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators (MAEOE).
- Announcement of new MTU/MSU collaboration on Michigan Forest Biomaterials initiative.
- Will send contact info. to Kevin for possible additions (Gary Williams and Jerry Jondo?) to council to help with diversity goals.

A. Kruse –

- ASM call for presentations deadline is November 25<sup>th</sup> for upcoming winter conference.
- ASM is celebrating 10 yr. anniversary of organization. More details to come

- ASM creates new foundation for delivering grants, scholarships, and new initiatives (e.g. sawmill on Belle Isle).

G. Kempter –

- DTE ramping up in-house staffing/capacity for vegetation management efforts
- Right-of-Way Stewardship program represents potential for better land stewardship by utilities. Will follow-up at next meeting.

**Adjourn:** 12:04 PM

Respectfully submitted: Kevin Sayers