



## MICHIGAN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

An advisory committee to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

### Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2017

Michigan United Conservation Clubs  
2101 Wood St. Lansing, MI 48912

#### **MEMBERS**

Joan Chadde  
Marshall Baeckeroot  
Bill Drews  
Ryan Edwards  
Kerry Gray  
Dean Hay  
Geoff Kempter  
Rich Kobe  
Tyler Kliffman  
Annie Kruike  
Lee Mueller - Chair  
Margaret Miller  
Douglas Schultz

#### **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](http://www.mi.gov/ucf)



#### **Present:**

In-Person: Lee Mueller, Kevin Sayers, Bill Drews, Bill O'Neill, Angel Squalls

Conference Call: Dean Hay, Kerry Gray, Annie Kruike, Ryan Edwards, Tyler Kliffman, Geoff Kempter, Rich Kobe, Jill Johnson, Lisa Perez

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion – G. Kempter; Second – A. Kruike; Approved unanimously as amended (reordering of agenda items only).

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

October 25, 2016 minutes reviewed.

Motion – A. Kruike; Second- B. Drews; Approved unanimously.

#### **Officer Elections:**

Chair Nomination(s):

L. Mueller [Motion – A. Kruike; Second – K. Gray]

Vice Chair Nomination(s):

D. Hay [Motion – D. Hay; Second – B. Drews]

Vote to Approve Chair Nomination:

Motion – B. Drews; Second – K. Gray; Approved unanimously

Vote to Approve Vice Chair Nomination:

Motion – G. Kempter; Second – A. Kruike; Approved unanimously

Both positions serve 1yr term through spring 2018 meeting.

#### **Public Comment:**

- B. O'Neill provided overview of his responsibilities as Michigan State Forester and Chief of DNR's Forest Resources Division. Described his roles as representative on National Association of State Foresters, Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters and MSU Forestry Advisory Board. Discussed high impact/visibility of state UCF program and important role of council. Listed 4 priorities for council:
  1. Define and articulate who we are and what we do for the state
  2. Expand on our networking and partnership facilitation role
  3. Identify UCF program priorities for investment (e.g. MI Forest Action Plan)
  4. Help UCF program evaluate, monitor and report successes and outcomes

## Business Items:

### FY 17 DNR UCF Federal Funding Reports

- USFS Financial Advice to states - \$343K – up from FY16 (\$322K) and higher than 5yr avg. (\$335K)
- Difference is partly due to not putting money into West Virginia Univ. travel account.
- NA comparison: higher than base of \$200K and higher than 60% of other states
- Annual program narrative submitted and pending approval by USFS
- FY18 federal projections uncertain but indications are not good and likely lower or zero from president but ultimately will be determined by congress in discussion with president.
- L. Mueller inquired about the amount of State Funding. K. Sayers reported the state currently provides no funding for the UCF program. All match is provided through Michigan's grant program and funding partnerships (e.g. DTE grant program).

*Action Item(s):* K. Sayers will keep council updated as we receive further advise on FY18 budget info.

### Oak Wilt Subcommittee Report

- A. Kruse provided update of subcommittee's activities
- Last group meeting was November but new schedule agreed on is quarterly meetings
- ASM is utilizing Michigan Invasive Species grant to help improve outreach, awareness and education about oak wilt in Michigan (press release in nearly ready)
- Coalition website ([www.michiganoakwilt.org](http://www.michiganoakwilt.org)) enhancements are ongoing
- MSU Forestry and DNR are collaborating on research to improve understanding of critical risk period for spread of oak wilt in Michigan. 1<sup>st</sup> year of multi-year effort
- L. Perez updated group on oak wilt issue and removal process at Belle Isle Park in Detroit
- Next coalition meeting is set for June 13<sup>th</sup> in Lansing

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

### Michigan Tree City USA Subcommittee Report

- K. Sayers provided handout of 2016 Michigan Tree City, Tree Campus and Tree Line USA numbers
- Total Tree Cities 111, which is down from past several years. Tree Campus (4), Tree Line (2)
- L. Mueller provided update on 2016 Michigan Tree City USA award banquet held at MSU U-Club on April 11<sup>th</sup>
- ~60 attendees for ½ day engagement
- Attendees appreciated information, venue, awards and networking opportunities
- Could improve things for vendors in future (not much vendor contact time)
- K. Sayers thanked L. Mueller and others on planning committee for their efforts to secure sponsorships.

*Action Item(s):*

1. *Subcommittee of L. Mueller, K. Sayers, R. Kobe, and A. Kruse should discuss possibility of hosting event again in 2018, possibly broadening the format.*

### MUCFC Goals and Direction:

- L. Mueller initiated discussion on council's goals and direction for the future

- Group held discussion with state forester about how to more effectively serve state's interests for supporting UCF in general and the DNR's UCF program specifically.
- Several goals for 2017-18 were outlined as follows:
  - SE MI Sustainable Natural Resource use (e.g. urban wood reuse, nursery stock)
  - State Forest Action Plan review
  - Opportunities for direct communication, outreach and training on specific issues (e.g. urban tree planting/survival), collaboration with key partners (MSU/ASM, etc.), host annual arborist and/or municipal officials conference similar to Minnesota example.
  - Diversify council membership (esp. geographically in UP)
  - Get K. Sayers and L. Mueller on Michigan Natural Resource Commission (NRC) agenda for presentation
  - Continue with annual council letter to state forester

*Action Item(s):*

- *K. Sayers will send link to current State Forest Action plan*
- *J. Johnson to send document summarizing UCF portion of Northeast Area State Forest Action Plans*
- *J. Johnson to send summary of UCF outreach to rural communities*
- *L. Mueller to work with K. Sayers to secure agenda spot for presentation to Michigan NRC*
- *L. Mueller to work with K. Sayers to schedule date for July MUCFC conference call*
- *L. Mueller to review membership and facilitate identifying 2-3 new members from upper peninsula*

Visiting Urban Forester Program:

- K. Sayers and A. Kruse initiated discussion of the Visiting Urban Forester program
- K. Sayers provided background and handout about the program and recent interest from 2 communities via contact at the Arboriculture Society of Michigan
- Program began in 1993 with strong interest, which quickly waned until it was ultimately mothballed around 2006, coinciding with fracturing of state arborist association
- Is recent interest an anomaly or is there a real need?
- How does program help state UCF program achieve federal metrics of success and is it cost-effective?
- Further review and discussion of the program is warranted and a subcommittee consisting of K. Sayers, A. Kruse, and K. Gray was formed to this end

*Action Item(s):*

1. *L. Mueller to contact Melinda Jones (ReLeaf Michigan) about serving on subcommittee for the Visiting Urban Forester program*
2. *K. Sayers to coordinate and host conference call with subcommittee to discuss Visiting Urban Forester program*

**Staff Communications:**

K. Sayers:

- Shared highlights from recent spring events:
  - Tree City USA banquet
  - 1,000 tree giveaway with Arbor Day Foundation and partners in Detroit
  - Annual state Arbor Day celebration in Lansing
- Misc. grants:
  - DTE Foundation Grants – available and due June 9<sup>th</sup> (\$75K total)
  - CFG Grants: Anticipated for summer RFP in August.

- ISA Annual Trade Show and Conference coming up in July-August in Washington D.C.
- Arbor Day Foundation Partners Conf. coming up in Tulsa, OK in November.

A Squalls:

- Shared her experience as AmeriCorps member for DNR UCF program.
- Many great training opportunities she's taken advantage of
- Helped coordinate, host and present at numerous events
- Looking forward to getting outside for tree planting and field work this summer.

**Member Communications:**

B. Drews:

- Reported on MSU Extension seminar on pruning
- Announced summer (June) field day for landscape professionals

K. Gray:

- None

D. Hay:

- Greening of Detroit is rebounding after some organizational "right-sizing" and reprioritizing on core focus areas.
- Wrapping up tree planting season and working on workforce development issues with Greening of Detroit
- Detroit Mayor gearing up for large tree planting campaign announcement

G. Kempter:

- Working on ANSI A300 pruning standards (part 1) revisions (via International Society of Arboriculture) which are now improved and available online at both ISA and TCIA

R. Kobe:

- MSU Forestry is collaborating with Tree Care Industry Association and local stakeholders to identify industry employment needs and trends in Michigan and provide feedback.
- Several meetings have been held to date with more in the near future.
- MSU and other schools have a significant role to play in recruiting and providing necessary training and education for students to direct them into industry-related career opportunities.
- Ongoing partnership with Greening of Detroit for local youth engagement and research

A. Kruse:

- Arboriculture Society of Michigan (ASM) is planning for fall conference (ArborFest) on September 14-15 in Midland  
[http://www.asm-isa.org/events-list/?action=evrplusegister&event\\_id=21](http://www.asm-isa.org/events-list/?action=evrplusegister&event_id=21)

J. Johnson

- 2017 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant applications are under review. Expect announcement by mid-summer.

L. Perez

- Working with Michigan DNR to build a model of "Chicago Wild" in southeast Michigan called "Metro Detroit Nature Network"

L. Mueller

- Grand Rapids has a new mayor who is very supportive of parks and trees (#1 goal)
- City forestry staff is growing and expanding tree planting efforts/#'s this spring.

**Next Meeting(s):**

- Summer conference call: *TBD*
- In-person: *Tuesday, October 31<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - TBD, MI*

**Adjourn:** 12:08 PM

Respectfully submitted: Kevin Sayers