

District of Columbia Urban Forestry Advisory Council meeting minutes—DRAFT

MEETING CHAIR: Jim Woodworth email: james.woodworth@dc.gov phone: 202.535.2244
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Building Tour: 2:00pm – 2:30pm DCWater HQ building

Call to order: 2:30PM, June 26, 2019

Council Members (* if in attendance):

Jeff Seltzer, DOEE	Perry Wheelock, NPS	Nathan McElroy, Pepco
*Earl Eutsler, DDOT	Robin Snyder, GSA	*Dennis Chestnut, comm. rep.
Brent Sisco, DPR	*Maureen Holman, DC Water	Delores Bushong, comm. rep.
DGS - vacant	*Mark Buscaino, Casey Trees (phone)	*Brenda Richardson, comm. rep. (phone)

Invited guests (present):

*Steve Saari, DOEE *Maureen Alonso, GSA *Stephen Gyor, OP *Patrick Campbell, NPS

Guest Presenters: *Karen Felton, USDA FS; *Rick Turcotte, USDA FS; *Kasey Yturalde, DDOT

Quorum: No

Presentation and Discussion of USFS cooperative forest health programming (both presentations posted to UFAC website <https://doee.dc.gov/ufac>)

- Re-Organization of USDA, Natural Resources & Environment, Forest Service, Eastern Region/R-9 (across 20 states + DC)
- National Forest System, R&D, State & Private Forestry
- 80% population in urban areas; 92% of forest land is non-federal
- “All lands” and partnerships approaches via NMSFA
- ERDRR – early detection rapid response
- Current and emerging threats: ALB, EAB, thousand cankers disease, spotted lantern fly
- Robust discussion about managing invasive species across urban landscape (e.g. EAB and hazard trees) and opportunities for future partnerships
- NPS approach to managing some forest health issues is more hands-off, let things run its course, see what happens...
- DDOT-UFD has ongoing cryptic borer surveying, including identifying 3 bark/ambrosia beetles that previously went undetected in 2016 EDRR
- Annual Dutch elm disease (DED) management resulting in fewer elm removals and reduced % loss
- New Pest Vulnerability Index (PVI) tool being used to evaluate street tree inventory and priority planting
- Emerging problem: Sweetgum dieback, currently undiagnosed.

Presentation and Discussion of RiverSmart Homes program evolution

- Piloted in 2008-2009; scaled up District-wide in 2010 with ARRA funding

- RiverSmart “brand” now includes Homes, Communities, Schools, Rooftops
- Goals to reduce runoff quantity and quality, recharge groundwater, increase habitat diversity, encourage community engagement through voluntary incentive program
- 5 BMP practices employed: rain barrels, shade trees, rain gardens, BayScaping, permeable pavement/reducing impervious surfaces
- Co-pays range from \$50-\$100; tree co-pay waived in 2019
- 1,200 homeowner audits/year; current wait list of ~600; 6-12 month process from enrollment to installations
- Enrollment -> audit by DOEE staffer -> audit report w/recommendations -> homeowners choose preferences -> referrals to partners/contractors for installations
- Outreach via word of mouth, targeted outreach, including recent Casey Trees bus/WMATA campaigns
- Various funding sources including EPA Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant, local stormwater enterprise and bag bill funds, local Tree Fund

Ward 8 Outreach Initiatives not discussed due to lack of time; tabled for future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30pm