

District of Columbia Urban Forestry Advisory Council meeting minutes

MEETING Jim Woodworth email: james.woodworth@dc.gov phone: 202.535.2244

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MEETING **UFAC Fall Meeting, Web-Ex**

Call to order: 2:30PM, Wednesday, December 1, 2020

Council Members (* if in attendance):

*Steve Saari, DOEE	* Patrick Campbell, 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.
*Angela Scott, DGS	*Mark Buscaino, Casey Trees	*Brenda Richardson, comm. rep.

Invited guests (present or on phone):

Stephanie Free, NCPC	*Kasey Yturalde, DDOT	Robert Corletta, DDOT
*Stephen Gyor, OP	*Matt Weber, DOEE	*Jess Sanders, Casey Trees
*Maureen Alonso, GSA	*Russell Clark, GSA	*Rob Shaut, Casey Trees
*Sally Claggett, USFS	*Julie Mawhorter, USFS	*Phillip Rodbell, USFS
*Deborah Shapley, RMA	Cameron Washington, DGS	Peter Norden, DPR
Jack Rosacker, community	*Leah Harnish, Casey Trees	*Harris Trobman, UDC

Quorum: YES

UFAC Meeting Notes

1. Welcome, Introductions & Updates – Jim Woodworth, DOEE (15 min)
2. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Shared Stewardship Agreement, Earl Eutsler
 - Agreement between USFS and states of the Ches. Bay
 - Spirit of partnership btwn public
 - Prior focus of western states/fire
 - Region 9 refocus to make applicable to eastern lands
 - Memorialize update to Ches. Forest restoration strategy
 - Oct 8, 2020
 - Document shared w/group

- Implement forest restoration strategies across bay region
 - Planting in urban areas
 - Forest health minimizing stressors (pests, disease, invasives)
 - Implement Climate resilient projects to mitigate climate change
 - Updates with current best practices, new research e.g. urban heat island effects
 - Planting and Impervious surface removal
 - Resilience and climate adaptation work dovetail nicely with this
3. FY20 planting report out for MS4 & Ches. Bay Program – Jim Woodworth
- Year 2 of 5-year permit, 2019-2023
 - Reporting year: July 1 – June 30
 - Net tree planting; assumption of 5% mortality rate
 - MS4 ~ outer 2/3rds of the District's separated sewer system
 - Goal/benchmark is 6,705
 - 2018-2019 ~9,285 trees
 - 2019-2020 8,918 (13,653 District-wide)
 - Ches. Bay Program is EPA-led effort
 - Goal is to clean up bay to level that is no longer impaired
 - Impaired for N, P, sediment
 - District is consistently on target for meeting pollution reduction targets:
 - DCWater LTCP and Blue Plains – halfway thru effort; majority of progress
 - Regulated Redevelopment is other significant factor in pollution capture/stormwater runoff
 - Voluntary retrofits including RiverSmart, tree planting and other activities
4. State Forest Action Plan updates – Earl Eutsler, DDOT-UFD
- Required by farm bill; first plan 2010. Update required 2020.
 - Create road-map for federal investment in state and private forestry
 - A lot has changed since 2010 w/r to partners, activities
 - Description of conditions, trends, threats
 - Identify priority areas, including multi-state areas of regional priority (e.g. Ches. Bay)
 - Casey Trees grant agreement w/USFS to do this and update Urban Forest Master Plan to be presented at later date. (thanks to Jess Sanders for all her efforts; last day at Casey Trees; heading to Sacramento Tree Foundation/Trust – congratulations Jess!)
 - Incorporates or references many other plans (transportation, zero waste, etc.)
 - Process included survey effort to connect people to trees
 - In-person (at metro stations)
 - Create buy-in, sense of place, place-making
 - Equitable, inclusive, accessible
 - Human interaction, context
 - Forest health and community forestry grants have to have nexus with this action plan
 - New priorities expand on air and water quality objectives to include:
 - Urban heat island and vulnerability
 - Soil health
 - Urban wood reuse/zero waste
 - Biochar
 - Using urban forestry to increase Human Resiliency for the human population

- E.g. mitigating heat island, flooding, climate change
- Benefits that a well-managed forest provide
- Managing the forest resource itself to increase its resiliency
 - E.g. Diversity, pest vulnerability
 - Steps that practitioners apply to ensure resiliency
- Ensuring programs are equitable, inclusive, accessible
 - Food forest programs
 - Urban wood reuse for school yards, parks
 - Educational, outreach, awareness activities in schools
 - Ask an Arborist videos
 - Presence in schools from pre-k to technical education
 - Where opportunities are greatest v. where demand is greatest
 - Elevated board walk thru area of forest
- Draft distributed; comments solicited by google doc link to share feedback
- Indicators tracked, required
 - Landcover assessments 2006, 2011, 2015, 2020
 - Diversification, Pest vulnerability Index
 - Stocking levels ~99% citywide
 - I-tree eco to Urban FIA

5. Update on forest stewardship of Langdon Park – Delores Bushong, UFAC community rep, Mary Pat Rowan

- Langdon Park forest patch 2.2 acres
- ~2 city blocks along Franklin St NE btwn 20th-24th streets
- Brief update:
 - Thank you for developing draft signage unveiled
 - GIS inventory mapping of existing trees
 - Spring 2021 replanting planned for area that was cleared
 - Ideas of how to appreciate it, how to use it, how to access it
 1. Friendly place v. dangerous place
 2. Outreach to adjacent neighbors with flyer “welcome to your new neighbors”
 3. Cleared area for possible bench to sit at edge
 4. Future tree walks w/ANC, civic association, Greater Brookland Garden club
 - Long term management plan required
 - Nancy Sonti, USFS is a resource for additional forest patch efforts
 - Kasey Y. and Brenda – pop-up arboretum trials:
 1. Highlight trees in Oxon Run Park, December;
 2. trial signs with Capitol Experience Lab;
 3. some signs in Spanish;
 4. Replicate in other parks;
- Other areas of DPR forest patch areas:
 - Pope Branch Park – Ward 7
 - Linnean park stream restoration – Ward 4
 - Branch Ave stream restoration in SE
 - Spring Valley – Ward 3
- MEWE – meaningful watershed experience for 5th graders

- Pivoting to connect schools to nature based learning near schools
6. UDC Bertie Backus Campus Green Infrastructure retro-fit project – Harris Trobman, UDC Comp
- Community college and workforce development campus near Fort Totten metro
 - Retrofit of ½ acre parking lot and adjoining landscape area
 - Poor soils, failing cherry trees and spotty turf grass
 - Utilize stormwater to irrigate new tree plantings
 1. Bioretention system to treat stormwater
 2. Underdrain to underground cisterns 2 x 1,300 gallons of storage
 3. Drip irrigation to distribute water to landscaping
 - Utilizing native plants from UDC native plant nursery
 - Utilized diverter ‘speed’ bump rather than a trench drain to divert water into bioretention
 - Soil amended with DCWater Bloom biosolids and trenching
 - Planted with bald cypress, which is planted along ROW, in bioretention and amended, irrigated landscape.
 - Monitoring equipment for water quality and hydrology/soil moisture/Evapotranspiration
 - Similar cistern installation in Parkside utilized to water trees.
7. Toast to Jess Sanders as she wraps up here in DC at Casey Trees and takes over Sacramento Tree Trust!
8. Meeting adjourned: