



# National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

Winter Virtual Council Business Meeting  
Thursday, February 9, 2017  
10:30 AM – 5:00 PM Eastern

## 10:30 - 10:45 Introductions

**Council Members:** Lance Davisson, Claire Robinson, Eli Suzukovich, Steve Goetz, Bill Hubbard, Karen Firehock, Lisa Ortega, Kamran Abdollahi, Scott Josiah, Liam Kavanagh, Patti Hiram,

**Forest Service Staff:** Jan Davis, Lauren Marshall, Nancy, Sara Comas, Sonny Ng and Zoe Need.

**Not Present:** Robert Ruano, Vacant State Agency, position, Walt Warriner, Sara Davis

**Guests:** Julie Tucker-FS, Melissa Jenkins-FS, Liam Leahy- American Forests, Kathy Wolf- UWA, and Paul Ries-SUFC

Lance provided a summary- of past year accomplishments:

- 2015 Nation unified vision for the future of urban and community forestry around the National Ten Year Urban Forestry Action Plan, (Action Plan) launched at the National Partners in Community Forestry Conference, Denver, Colorado
- 2016 Alignment of the Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program and partners
- 2017 Continue building our national partnerships, alignment of programs and engaging with our Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) constituents throughout the year through various venues and at the National Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma

Council members should continue with a clear unified national vision that aligns with the Action Plan.

## Key goals:

- Continue to cultivate effective Forest Service (FS) partnerships and growth of a relevant & impactful Council
- Align with the USDA's Secretary's Office and key national partners, such as, the Sustainable Urban Forestry Coalition SUFC, Arbor Day Foundation ADF, Society of Municipal Arborists SMA, and, National Association of State Foresters NASF
- Continue to serve our constituents
- Cultivate a strong and active leadership among Council members:
  - o Enrich relationships
  - o Engage in key partnerships to steward the implementation of the TYUFAP
  - o Work team to keep engaged with the goals
- Produce high quality Council outputs and network effectively on:



- Annual Report
- Stewardship of the Action Plan
- National Urban Forestry Challenge Grants
- Council Membership
- Continue to educate and cultivate strong relationships with local and state elected leaders

#### **10:45 – 11:00 Council Business**

- Past Meeting Minutes: Motion Lisa, Second Bill, vote approved with a quorum of eight

#### **11:00 – 11:15 Forest Service Updates (Patti, Jan & Lauren)**

- Leadership transition and impact on Council activities:
  - FACA Committee nomination packages have been placed on hold
  - Secretary Nominee Sonny Perdue may be in place by Mid-March
  - Monica Lear and Beth Larry have been promoted to new positions, Vicki Christensen is the new Deputy Chief
  - A Continuing Resolution, CR is in place until April 28
  - Forest Service summarized their advancement of the National Ten Year Urban Forestry Action Plan
- 2018 Farm Bill:
  - Forest Farm Bill Coalition- Becky Turner with American Forests and Steve Koehn-FS have lead roles
  - Steve Koehn encourages Council representatives to engage with the Farm Bill Coalition

**Completed Action:** Steve sent Council Chair Farm Bill Coalition meeting information

#### **11:15-11:45 National U&CF Action Plan team updates (Liam Kavanagh & Claire Robinson)**

- Suggest the team use the FS word document for the “Year in Review” to track the accomplishments
- Liam will present the TYUFAP webinar Feb. 22 to the City Parks Alliance
- The implementation scorecard that Robert Ruano is developing was not discussed

**Action:** Liam will Share an invite to City Parks Alliance Webinar

- NYC parks is working with nonprofits to organize around a tree agenda focused on the TYUFAP
- A good example of how Council members can steward the TYUFAP through partners

**Completed Action:**

The Forest Service and Lance will upload presentations.

**TYUFAP presentations uploaded under the Workspace Tab → Presentations.**



**11:45-12:15 Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition (SUFC) Updates (Paul Ries, SUFC Co-Chair)**

- Goal to help implement the National Action Plan and communicate Council items to a larger audience
- SUFC transition memo will be used to engage in the Forest in the Farm Bill Coalition
- The SUFC Annual Meeting will kick off a yearlong networking theme - A” Beehive Conversation” group discussions around important topics- presentation deadline is February 17
- SUFC reception is March 23, -FS to host SUFC’s annual meeting at their headquarters
- Gerry Gray is now co-chair, searching for a permanent convener

Completed Action: Nancy sent Council the GI and Human Health RFP.

**12:15- 1:00 Lunch Break**

**1:00 – 2:00 Wood Innovations: Wood in Building & Wood Energy (Presentation Attached)**

- Julie Tucker, Melissa Jenkins – US Forest Service

**Q:** How can we address the loss of millions of trees lost due to Emerald Ash Borer?

**A:** They are creating industrial matting for industrial machinery, Nebraska has a wood energy team, and, Bio-char is also an emerging market.

**Q:** Are there any resources around facilitating with artisans?

**A:** American Forests is presently mapping urban wood utilization.

**Completed Action:** Lauren and Julie shared resources and website links and posted to the Council website.

**2:00 – 2:15 Reserved Public Comment - Kathy Wolf**

- Encourage FS Research to follow “Action Plan - National Research Needs”
- [Green Cities Good Health website \(http://www.greenhealth.washington.edu\)](http://www.greenhealth.washington.edu) –next steps to address gaps and receive input
- There has been a surge of public interest in nature and human health, the research will help local communities implement findings by creating a toolkit
- Preliminary steps – we are looking at 4 domains of health
  - o Physical health activity
  - o Mental health, reduction of disorders
  - o Social cohesion, strong social connections and
  - o Recovery, reduce environmental risk
- Will identify topic pilot projects and measure the effectiveness of health outcomes



- Kathy was encouraged to submit a proposal for SUFC's "beehive conversation" presentation during the Annual Meeting on March 23.

### **2:15 – 2:45 Annual Report to the Secretary of Agriculture (Bill Hubbard) - Status**

- The 2016 Annual Report has been presented to the USFS in early January and is awaiting delivery to the Secretary's Office USFS will let the Council know when it is sent to the Dept. At that time the USFS will announce the report through their various Networks and the Council members will as well
- Presented a summary of the future format / process / due date for finalizing the 2017 Annual Report
- Engage a broader UCF community to solicit accomplishments in 2017
  - o Through Federal UCF Coordinators and their State networks
  - o Meet with the new Under Secretary and Deputy Secretary
  - o Use social media.
  - o Council presentations
- Final draft of annual accomplishment report to be completed by November

### **2:45-3:00 Break**

### **3:00 – 3:30 Council Member Terms & Leadership Updates**

- Discussion on nomination process and delays
- Expired Positions- Existing members may serve until new members are appointed
- Identify who will be the SUFC liaison after March 2017
- Eli interested in as second term
- Council Members are to recruit new members for expiring positions in 2017

#### **Action:**

1. Council members send Nancy potential nominees. Applications are posted to the website. Candidates may submit their applications to [nucfac@fs.fed.us](mailto:nucfac@fs.fed.us).
2. Lauren sent a recruitment to SUFC for their outreach materials & included an announcement on the USFS UCF Program & NUCFAC websites.

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### **3:30- 4:15 National UCF Challenge Cost Share Grants - Lisa Ortega & Nancy**

- 2017 Grant Proposals & new process information, 2018 RFP to be advertised
- Provide the graphic of where we are in the process
- Grant Team Lead- needs to be engaged in the whole review process

Action: Nancy to provide a graphic where we are in the process – Completed on website.

#### **Grant Impact Analysis - Release July 2017**

- The processes helps support grant products and outputs



- Initiated last July to cover 2010-2015 grants –Locating the principal contacts was a challenge
- The final draft is expected to be completed by the July meeting
- A two page summary, info-graphic, and case studies of some of the grants will be produced & ready for distribution at the Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Tulsa, OK
- Survey questions are posted to the web workspace folder

Action: Present at Partners Conference- Bill to submit the abstract to Arbor Day by the March 31  
Deadline: Have the final draft ready for the July meeting. Completed

#### **4:15-4:45            Presentation on Vibrant Cities Web Platform (Ian Leahy)**

- American Forests and partners integrated their resources into a website for communities
- Each entity may have different objectives, but were able to send the same message
- Twelve points of the Vibrant Cities process were used and tied to the Ten Year Urban Forestry Action Plan
- A tool kit will showcase what a city manager can do with this information
- A May launch is planned of a consortium of curated urban forestry information
- The term “Vibrant City” created confusion with the past “Vibrant City” document The Council recommends the Vibrant Cities planning team outreach to key partners to make sure the name of this project has buy-in and appropriately engages all communities
- There is an opportunity through this venue to raise awareness about the Council and their role in serving urban and community forestry
- Lauren to investigate the best way to link and circulate ideas with the Council as this portion is developed

Action: The Council requests a copy of the presentation when the details are finalized. USFS will engage the Council to determine the best opportunity to use this venue to raise awareness about the Council activities to the users of the site.

#### **4:45 - 5:00            Next Meeting, Action Items**

- Next meeting in New York, NY, Monday, July 17 – Friday, July 21, 2017
- General Format - Mon: travel, Tues – (Thursday mid-day) meet, including field tour and Urban Connections presentation, Thurs pm – Friday am: travel

#### **Key Actions**

- Goals for 2017 and timing plan ahead with FS Regional UF coordinators.
- Engage with partners, SUFC connections
- Presentations – collect and file, Council members to present National Action Plan to key constituents

**Adjourn 5:00 PM**