



National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

Virtual Council Business Meeting

March 20, 2018

10:30 AM – 4:30 PM Eastern

[FS Room [Matsutake \(3SW01\), Yates](#), Reservation # [1279169](#)]

APPROVED 5/23/2018

Council Members: Lisa Ortega- Interim Chair, Robert Ruano, Karen Firehock, Eli Suzukovich, Liam Kavanagh, Walt Warriner, Kamran Abdollahi, Bill Hubbard, Steve Goetz,

Excused: Claire Robinson, Sara Davis,

Forest Service Staff: Jan Davis, Lauren Marshall, Nancy Stremple

Presenters: Jen Cotting, University of Maryland, Environmental Finance Center (EFC)

Guests: Paul Ries, Sustainable Urban Forestry Coalition SUFC

Agenda and Minutes

10:30 - 10:45 **Introductions** (Roll Call – Nancy)

10:45 – 11:00 **Council Business (Nancy)**

Past Meeting Minutes – after break - motion and vote

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

- **Budget Updates**

Friday March 23 the current Continuing Resolution, CR expires.

The fire fix funding is moving forward. This would allow funding for other program including Urban and Community Forestry, UCF.

The 2019 president's budget still zeroed out for the UCF program. The House and Senate continue to discuss.

- **FS Leadership**

The Chief resigned and the Secretary appointed Vicki Christiansen, State & Private Forestry Deputy Chief as the interim Chief. She will continue implementing the former Chief's goals that align with USDA's priority areas.

Patti Hiram will be the acting Deputy Chief for State & Private Forestry.

The Natural Resources and Environment, NRE Under-Secretary position is pending.

FACA activities are still on hold, including the 2018 Grant Package.

- **Partnerships**

- The Arbor Day Foundation is proposing a Tree Hospital USA.
- The Baltimore impact-investing project is progressing and they hope to have a bond issued in the fall. The Baltimore Room & Board partnership will launch another line this spring and consider manufacturing in Baltimore. Current manufacturing is in PA, WV, and VA, strengthening regional wood economies.
- The Vibrant Cities Lab has 5000 users and growing.



- They are working with International Society of Arboriculture, ISA Caitlyn Pollihan, executive director and Bridget Oreck, Tree Care Association on a Round Table to address various UCF education paths.
- Society of American Foresters, SAF has a grant to increase the presence in Urban Forestry in their journal and their presence at the Partners in Community Forestry Conference.

Lauren to email Liam more information on social impact bonds.

11:15-11:45 SUFC Updates (Paul Ries, SUFC Co-Chair)

- Paul updates members on SUFC activities and mentions the Tree Care Industry Association as one of their new members
- SUFC is bringing together partners to see what they can do together. Current working groups include, such as Research, Diversifying Funding, Policy, and Outreach. At Annual Meetings, they also have “beehive sessions” where members weigh in on projects organized around a central theme. Last year it was Public Health, and this year it was Resilience.
- They are connecting with Forest Service Research to create an urban forestry research agenda.

11:45-12:15 Discuss Presence at 2018 Partners in Community Forestry Conference

Members and SUFC agreed to hold a post Partners Conference listening session. It should premise be by:

- Introduction: whom we are (what each has accomplished)
- Roles and responsibilities - needs to help differentiate
- Address any of the items discussed last year and, if applicable, how it was addressed
- Open it up around the topics presented at the Conference,
- Gather more feedback.

Lauren - receives consensus to have a joint listening session and will let Pete know.

12:15- 1:00 Brunch/Lunch Break can do 45 min 1230 could move later agenda up.

Agenda adjustment Team Reports – Ten Year Action Plan. Liam and Robert did not receive any additional information from Claire

Discussion around Bloomberg. Robert said he could definitely provide comments when he sees him on Sunday.

Lauren started year in review report and can share the draft. To be completed by March.

Lisa will contact Claire.

1:00-1:30 Presentation: Developing a National Urban Forestry Funding Assessment and Methodology (Jennifer Cotting) 2016 grant cycle Power Point

Grant Advisory Panel: NUCFAC Representative will be Karen Firehock

1:30– 2:00 National U&CF Action Plan team updates (Liam Kavanagh & Claire Robinson)

2:00 – 2:15 Reserved Public Comment – no public comments



2:15 – 2:45 **Annual Report to the Secretary of Agriculture** (Bill Hubbard & Karen Firehock; Lauren Marshall)

- The 2017 Report was sent to the Secretary.
- Karen provided a memo suggesting how to speed up the process for compiling and submitting the annual report. Spring compile report/summer complete/fall adopt report and submit. Discussed identifying a theme for the recommendations to the Secretary.
- Karen asked for comments on the jobs part. Communicating it with action plan to the grants category to the accomplishment report. Any with the (outreach).
- Karen suggests the job theme (ties to Goal 1 & 3). It can weave this throughout the accomplishments.
- Could include the Strike teams- mobilizing people on the ground in response to natural disasters.
- Note how the action plan, grants, annual report come together.
- Wood based economy jobs – impacts of regional wood economy.
- Disaster preparedness – be proactive and prepare for disasters and hire arborists.
- Collaborate with FEMA utilizing their standards. Have weave and explain up front what we are doing and how it connects.
- Karen will collect ideas and draft them to vet with the Council and share the vetted ideas at the July meeting. The Council will adopt the final report at the November meeting.
- Full Council is to submit their ideas to Karen by April 15.

Patti arrives-and welcomes the Council members and thanks them for their patience. Members congratulate her on her new interim position.

Council reviews past meeting minutes and moves to approve (Steve), second (Karen), Vote: all approve

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

3:00 – 3:30 **Council Member Terms & Leadership Updates** (Lisa & Lauren)

- Updated on members status and asked if anyone needs to roll off.
- Email Lisa, Lauren, or Nancy to let them know. November to make a decision.

3:30- 4:15 **National UCF Challenge Cost Share Grants**

Updates:

- 2018 Status Recommended – FS Accepted the recommendation of funding the four grants. All subject to the availability of funding. Grant package is on hold until further notice of CR and having a budget
- 2019 Request for proposals are due Monday April 30
- 2020 can include two categories, one that is tied to the Action Plan grant category, the jobs theme (category 1 and/or 3), and
- 2020 grants will include an innovation category that has sideboards, like SUFC's Beehive projects or funding a social impact bond work.

Motion to add an innovation grant category for 2020 grant cycle. Walt motion, Robert second



Any opposed-0 Vote: Approved motion

4:15 - 4:30 **Next Meeting, Action Items**

- Next meeting
 - Propose week of July 16, 2018 in Washington, D.C.
 - General Format
 - Tuesday: travel
 - Meet Wednesday and a half day on Thursday leave Thursday afternoon / Friday morning

Nancy to contact Claire, Sara, Kamran to see if they can make those dates.

- Key actions for work teams between now and July
 - Bill will assist with the annual report.
 - Action Plan Team will reconnect and share documents Year in Review
 - Annual report comments to Karen to compile and send to Council to vet.
 - Lisa and team to address the 2020 Action Plan category before July and innovation category to have draft for July meeting.

Action Items

- Lauren to email Liam more information on social impact bonds
- Nancy to contact Claire, Sara, Kamran Abdollahi to see if they can make the proposed July 17,18, 19 NUCFAC meeting dates
- Lauren will contact Pete with Arbor Day to let him know that NUCFAC/SUFC will do a joint listening session at the Partners Conference
- Lauren to provide Robert a draft of the Year in Review for his upcoming Sunday meeting.
- Lisa will follow up with Claire for any additional information
- Full Council is to submit their ideas for the annual report/recommendations to Karen by April 15
- Bill Hubbard's team will assist Karen Firehock on the draft and final of the Annual Accomplishment Report. Keep to a common theme related to the Action Plan and grant category. Recommendations should focus around the Secretary's priorities/outreach.
- Council members are to contact Nancy, Lisa or Lauren if their term has expired and they wish to roll off.

Adjourn 2:30 PM

ATTACHMENTS: Power point presentation, accomplishment report memo, past meeting minutes