



DATE: October 23, 2009

LOCATION: Broomfield City Building
1 Descombs Dr, Zang Spur Conference Room
Broomfield, CO 80020

TIME: 10:00 – 2:30

MINUTES

I. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions – Tom Wells

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 by President Tom Wells. Attendees briefly introduced themselves. In attendance were: Ralph Campbell, CSFS; Neal Bamesberger, Independent; Mike McGill, Town of Erie; Gertie Grant, Independent/Trees Across Colorado; Kamie Long, CSFS; Keith Wood, CSFS; Sara Davis, City and County of Denver, Mile High Million; Vince Urbina, CSFS; Dan Odell, TC Woods/FRUFC Rep (2010); Becky Lamphear, City of Colorado Springs/FRUFC Rep (2010); Marion Jones, Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery; Scott Grimes, South Suburban Parks and Recreation; Becky Wegner, Mountain High Tree Care; Mike Swanson, City and County of Denver; Tom Wells, City and County of Broomfield; Karen Scopel, City of Greeley; Donna Davis, CSFS.

II. Time Distribution Reports – Ralph Campbell (PLEASE fill out the time report and return it electronically to rcampbl@lamar.colostate.edu)

III. Acceptance of 1-23-2009 Meeting Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes of the January 23, 2009 meeting was made by Gertie Grant, second by Ralph Campbell.

IV. Acceptance of Treasurer Report – Becky Wegner

Becky Wegner, Treasurer distributed and reviewed the budget. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Gertie Grant, second by Neal.

V. New Business

A. Outlook for the 2010 Grants Program – Keith Wood/Vince Urbina/Sara Davis
Sara Davis with Mile High Million gave a report on a proposal to partner with CTC to provide grants. The proposal is for an annually renewable contract with a flat administrative fee of \$2500 paid to CTC. The grant funds would be paid to CTC and passed through to the grant recipients. A CTC representative would sit on the grant review panel. Awarded projects would be co-branded as CTC/MHM. CTC would send

out and collect the applications. Becky Wegner said she'd like to talk to our accountant to see what impact this pass through would do to our taxes and accountant fees. Mike McGill said it would be good to sit down with the CTC grants committee and evaluate how this could be handled in relation to CTC's normal grant program. Tom Wells felt it would be beneficial to offer the grant programs concurrently so applications could be directed to the appropriate fund.

Keith Wood said it appears that there will be \$7500 or less available for regular CTC grants again this year based on federal funding. Mike McGill noted that applicants have to go through more work to get less money for the CTC grants than what would happen with MHM.

Motion by Ralph Campbell to have our grants committee work with Sara Davis to determine if there should be two separate applications or one combined form, to have Becky Wegner check with the accountants on any financial issues and have Sara provide a draft agreement from MHM for the executive committee to review. Second by Vince Urbina. Motion carried.

B. Strategic Plan Update for 2010 and Beyond – Tom Wells/Executive Committee

The executive committee decided to shelve the current strategic plan since it expires soon and there have been a lot of changes affecting the organization making that plan very outdated. It was recommended that a new plan be developed. It could/should encompass the viable goals that are in the current plan with new dates and include new developments. It was suggested that the new executive committee undertake this and bring a draft strategic plan to the entire board some time next year.

C. Poster Guides and Judging – Donna Davis

Donna reported on the 2010 poster contest. About 1400 post cards have been sent out. The national deadline was pushed back making for a pretty tight time frame for judging, notifying the winner and sending the winning poster to Nebraska for the national contest. She asked for a date for the judging – should it be at a FRUFC meeting or an evening event? It was decided that she should pick the date/time that works best. She showed a framed poster of this year's winner that will be given to the new CSU president next week.

D. Items needed for the 2009 Report to the State Forester – Tom Wells

Keith will let Tom know when it is due. Tom needs photos and captions. Ralph thought it should be done the first week of January so it is ready for ProGreen. Tom will work on getting it prepared using last year's format.

E. 2010 Budget Items Needed – Becky Wegner

Becky needs 2010 budget requests by December. Heads of committees need to get their requests in or risk getting a zero budget.

F. CNGA/GreenCO Partnership – Scott Grimes

CNGA and GreenCO are interested in partnering to encourage better tree selections such as had been done previously through the Select Tree committee which is no longer active. There was discussion about what role CTC would play and what they expect to come out of the effort. Tom recommended a standardized evaluation form if species are to be tested and evaluated. Becky Wegner suggested that species recommendations to the public could be similar to Plant Select with a “CTC Select” logo on endorsed trees. Scott will continue discussions with these groups.

G. PO Box – Ralph Campbell

Ralph relayed some recurring problems with the Fort Collins post office and made a motion to move the PO Box from Ft Collins to Broomfield. The motion was amended to keep the Ft Collins box for a year to get through the transition since that address is on the new calendars but go ahead and get a new box in Broomfield. Second by Scott Grimes. Motion carried.

H. Fundraising/Public Education – Marion Jones introduced herself. She is interested in promoting tree planting with the public for environmental benefits such as with bumper stickers and other venues. The group liked her enthusiasm and felt there could be some opportunities for that with CTC. She also wants to pursue better standards for tree growing, especially related to root systems. The board suggested that other organizations such as ISA, CAN, etc would be a better venue for that pursuit.

VI. Old Business

A. Champion Tree Classic Bike Ride – Scott Grimes

Thanks to volunteers and New Belgium Brewery it was very successful with 36 riders. Over \$2000 was raised which will be split with ISA. However, there were significant costs for insurance. After costs there will only be about \$600 per organization. Marion Jones wants to continue working on this event to get it to grow into a larger fund raiser. It was recommended to keep the event in Ft Collins given the large cycling community in northern Colorado. New Belgium offered to host the event again in 2010. Discussion about the partnership with ISA, especially in light that New Belgium prefers to support non-profits. Scott will talk with Steve Geist to see what he feels about the partnership and what options might exist. This is important as Steve was the original founder of the event and has been actively involved with it over the years.

B. ECCFC/WCCFC – Mike McGill/Keith Wood/Vince Urbina

Mike McGill reported that the Eastern CO Community Forestry Conference in March went well. Participants were interested in finding a way to communicate with each other throughout the year. The event raised about \$930 for CTC due to sponsorship and support from the Erie Tree Board and the Town of Erie. The 2010 conference is February 25th in Springfield.

Vince reported on the Western Conference held in Carbondale in September. Next year will be the 20th annual conference. It will probably be held in New Castle. Vince hopes to bring back some of the presenters from the first conference.

VII. Strategic Planning Committees

A. Board Development – Scott Grimes/Michael Swanson

Nothing to report.

B. Marketing and Outreach – Ralph Campbell

Nothing to report.

C. Program Development – Mike McGill

Mike stressed that it's important for direction to be set so that progress can be made. There needs to be better communication among the group. He feels we need to do a better job of marketing our organization.

VIII. Program Reports

A. Grants – Keith Wood and David Flaig will have the applications on the CTC website in November. They will be due in December. Criteria will be the same as this year.

B. Champion Tree – Neal Bamesberger

Neal reported that there have been 5 or 6 new nominations. He is still working on getting photos to the web master to get a cost estimate for posting them to the web site at least for the #1 trees. Neal currently has about 135 photos. He noted he will be doing the notable tree talk at ProGreen this year.

C. Notable Tree Calendar – Becky Wegner

The 2010 calendar was out in time for ISA. The committee needs more help securing sponsorships for the 2011 calendar and photos. Neal submitted application packets to Barnes and Noble and REI but did not get a response for carrying the calendars at their stores.

D. Membership – Keith distributed the membership report from Phil. Kristen will be sending out membership renewal notices. Membership is down. Phil wonders if it's due to the electronic newsletter. It was noted that each member gets a free calendar.

E. Awards – Keith reported for Phil. There was no award program this year. Phil does not want to continue running that program and is open to offers to take it over.

F. Trees Across Colorado – Gertie Grant reported that the 2009 program expanded significantly. 26 groups received 2720 trees compared to 18 groups getting 1952 trees in 2008. After costs, CTC received \$17,518 up from \$12,616 in 2008. She feels the numbers will not be that high in 2010 since much of the increase was due to disaster programs in Ordway and Windsor and with the current state of the economy. She expressed high praise for Donna Davis and Shelly Van L for organizing communities in SE Colorado.

New for 2010 will be the ability for ordering and credit card payments via the web site. She has ordered 3156 trees and 1199 have already been reserved by 7 groups. Costs remain the same as last year. There are 38 varieties in both bare root and B&B. Gertie would really appreciate help especially with press releases and other tasks.

G. Website – Kamie Long reported that she does updates about once per month. Get updates to her by the end of the month for posting the following month. She wants to update the site significantly and include pages for each program as several are combined on one page. She needs to hear from the chairs of the different programs with what they want on the site and get her the information including documents. She is looking into setting up a forum on the website for on-line discussions and communications. This kind of service will require some commitment for administration.

I. CTT/ReForest Colorado – Ralph reported that ReForest Colorado maintained partnerships with several businesses. He receives regular inquiries from other businesses and feels there is a lot of potential for more partnerships if someone could pursue them.

Donna reported that Ordway is really appreciative of the assistance they were given this year. Several committee members shared experiences from the tree planting event that touched them. Ordway is requesting another \$1300 to help continue the replanting for families that were not able to participate. Ralph made a motion, second by Gertie to fund Phase II of the Ordway project for \$1300 out of the ReForest Colorado fund. Motion carried.

IX. Chapter Reports

FRUFC only active chapter.

X. Other Business

A. Election of Officers – Michael Swanson

Ballot distributed. Mike Swanson made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented and to elect them by acclamation. Ralph seconded. Motion carried.

2010 officers are:

Scott Grimes, President

Mike McGill, Vice President

Karen Scopel, Secretary

Becky Wegner, Treasurer

Neal Bamesberger, At Large

Gertie Grant, At Large

Tom Wells, Immediate Past President

B. Meeting Dates for 2010

Ralph Campbell expressed that only having 2 meetings a year seems to have led to lack of focus and effort and urged that we have quarterly meetings. The feeling is that the majority of the board is on the Front Range so most meetings should be held there. Many in the group still like the idea of one meeting with an activity such as a tree planting or grant tour. The first meeting of 2010 will be January 22nd – Denver metro. The other meetings will be in Apr-May; July; and October – exact dates and locations to be determined.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

