

Front Range Urban Forestry Council
Erie
May 21, 2009

Introductions – David Flaig, City of Littleton

Committee Reports

Insect and Disease – Dave Flaig (City of Littleton), Bill Cassel (City & County of Denver)

Dave Flaig has noticed 30+ year old ponderosa pine “desiccation” worsening in Littleton. Is this environmental or I&D related? Salt issue (reclaimed water), etc.?

Ralph Zentz has started the Northern Colorado pest group meetings, which meet once per month May-September. There has been some interest in developing a Denver/Longmont area pest group meeting, to meet and relay the information from the Northern Colorado meetings, but to also discuss what is happening in the Metro area. Bill Cassel proposed the idea to schedule it a week or so after the Northern Colorado group meets. If you are interested in attending this please let us know and we'll sort out the details for this group to meet.

Select Tree – Tim Buchanan (City of Fort Collins)

No Report

Hazard Tree – Bill Cassel (City and County of Denver)

Bill attended the International Tree Failure Database (ITFD) meeting held recently in Fort Collins. Currently, there is not much use of the ITFD. Governmental immunity is not something we can fall back on, defective trees need to be managed appropriately, and management strategies can come from documenting how trees fail. There have been 5,685 documented failures since the database was started in 2002, 3700 of those from California.

ISA is coming out with new BMP and ANSI standard for tree risk assessment. Bill is helping plan workshops in Denver and Aurora, then maybe an open workshop for CTC/FRUFC on these standards.

Bill passed out a flyer from the University of Georgia on the Bugwood program (www.bugwood.org). The site contains over 100,000 images and will open an urban/community forestry (UCF) site, so check it out and submit your UCF-based photos for public use or sale on the site.

Program/Membership – Keith Wood (CSFS-Broomfield)

Thanks to Mike McGill and the Town of Erie for hosting the May meeting. Especially in light of the great job the Town of Erie did in hosting this year's Eastern Colorado Community Forestry Conference last March. Next meeting is July 16, 2009, location and topic to be decided. If you have ideas for meeting topics or would like to host a FRUFC meeting, contact Keith or Dave.

CTC – Tom Wells (City and County of Broomfield)

Join CTC/ISA on June 28, 2009 for the Champion Tree Classic Bike Ride. This year's ride features a new sponsor, New Belgium brewing company. The route will start and end at New Belgium in Fort Collins, traveling along a relatively flat route along the Poudre River from Fort Collins to the Greeley/Windsor area and back. Refreshments provided at the finish line!

Registration fees should be around \$50-\$60 per person depending on how many team/family members register.

The 2010 Notable Trees of Colorado calendar is almost ready to go to print. Please consider sponsoring this project next time around as several municipalities have done this in the past. You will receive calendars for sponsoring and these can make great PR contacts for your City Administration/Council.

ISA – Dave Flaig (City of Littleton), Bill Cassel (City and County of Denver)

There will no longer be domains on the Certified Arborist test, test-takers will have to get an overall score of 72% to become certified. June 25 will be the next exam at the Littleton library. On July 11 there will be a Tree Worker exam in Centennial, several folks from New Mexico are planning to attend to help get that program started in New Mexico. Computer center testing is available throughout the chapter, contact Dave Flaig, chapter certification liaison for more information.

There is a two-day tree appraisal workshop being planned for August somewhere in the Denver Metro area.

This year's annual ISA-RMC conference will be held October 1-2 with John Ball as guest speaker at the Larimer County Fairgrounds. There will be additional talks on keeping your business and trees sustainable in these challenging economic times and developing partnerships. There are sponsorships available from CTC to attend, email Ralph Campbell (rcampbl@lamar.colostate.edu) with your request.

Community Reports/Other Business

Mile High Million Tree Planting Initiative – Sara Davis (City and County of Denver)

Sara reported the initiative is running out of places to take larger volunteer groups in Denver park projects, let Sara know if you have a site and she can help with funding tree purchases, coordinating logistics. The advisory council has been formed and is working on fundraising/strategic plan. Sara has a container tree stock bid process in place, contact her for more information.

Erie – Mike McGill (Town of Erie)

Mike reported that they have a newly certified arborist on staff, Scott Rehfeld. Congratulations to Scott and the Town of Erie! They have been working with Boulder County Parks and Open Space to get trees from the old Cherry Creek Tree Farms nursery in the Lafayette area.

Institute for Environmental Solutions – Ryan Moore

The educational brochure [The Secret Life of Trees](#) funded by Plant-It 2020 and produced by IES staff was unveiled. This brochure highlights planting the right tree in the right place for environmental improvement in Colorado's Front Range. There was discussion on recommendations of how best to distribute this brochure.

The Colorado Urban Forestry Climate Coalition and carbon credit program continues to grow. IES is currently developing a tutorial for the carbon credit program to help answer frequently asked questions. An Excel sheet is now available to help calculate the carbon credit \$ value of your trees! In order to utilize the spreadsheet, you need an updated tree inventory including number and species of trees planted since 1990. Contact Ryan at 303.388.5211 or ryan@i4es.org for more information.

Colorado State Forest Service – Keith Wood

On May 8, the Denver Post reported that Colorado will receive \$12.3 million in economic stimulus funds for hazardous fuels reduction projects, and that \$10.3 million will be focused specifically on projects in El Paso and Gilpin counties. The article has generated much speculation and numerous questions, so we wanted to provide you with an update on what we know at this time.

Ralph Campbell, Community Forestry Division Supervisor for the Colorado State Forest Service, has been in contact with the U.S. Forest Service regarding direction, guidance, and reporting requirements for economic stimulus projects. Ralph received the following update (please note that all information has been conveyed verbally; we have not yet received written confirmation about direction or guidelines):

- We do not anticipate receiving direction and guidance for another several weeks.
- After we receive direction and guidance, the Colorado State Forest Service will be required to develop and submit a narrative similar to those for Consolidated Payment Grants (CPGs).
- Other counties can be written into the narrative; projects and funding are not limited to El Paso and Gilpin counties, which were specifically listed because they are the leading economic indicator counties.

City & County of Denver – Bill Cassel

Watch the “fly-by-nighter” scams for various home improvement services, including tree work, during these tough economic times. There are some indicators for these scammers; out of state, newer truck, certain services offered, etc. to watch for. ISA will be working on information about this and getting it out to the public.

Budget Cuts – Tom Wells (City and County of Broomfield), Mike McGill (Town of Erie), Michael Swanson (City and County of Denver)

Broomfield-3% cutback on top of 10% from last year.

Erie-looking ok for now, but not hiring people.

Denver-taking furlough days, looking at 10% budget cut, no new positions/equipment.

Break

Program-Quantifying and Utilizing Urban Forest Residues

Kendra Nash (Colorado State University Graduate Student)

Kendra Nash conducted research in the Loveland, Fort Collins, Greeley areas to look at municipal solid waste yard trimmings, which includes wood chips, branches, logs, leaves and grass clippings. She worked at quantifying amounts, where they were going, and how they could be diverted and used. She worked with both the public and private sector of tree care operations, including city forestry units, tree care companies, and wood recyclers. In her research she there are 27,000 tons of yard trimmings produced annually by 33 participating tree care companies. This was projected out to 48 total tree companies, for 36,000 tons produced annually.

Kendra then presented the objectives, conclusions and recommendations of the study:

Tree care operations studied have the willingness to dispose of urban forest wastes in other places than landfills (97% of companies are willing to take urban forest wood wastes to other places than landfills). A recommendation from this part of the study would be banning these materials from landfills but issues with that include how to deal with associated insect/diseases that can occur in this wood, markets for products, curbside pickups, and economic incentives.

There can be better awareness within the industry regarding biomass utilization. 60% of these wastes are being utilized, of the other 40% being thrown away most could be utilized as well. Recommendations for value added markets include mulch/compost, sawing urban timber, bio-energy plants.

Will urban forest residues (UFRs) decrease in land-fills? UFRs will decrease through sort yard/collection site development, biomass emergency plans that deal with storm debris, and education and outreach on biomass utilization programs.

Kurt Mackes (Research Scientist, Colorado State Forest Service)

Kurt's presentation covered these topics:

Building with Colorado Wood-follows sustainable practices, promotes local economies, improves forest health. Truss systems, timber frame construction, log homes can use Colorado wood. Typical log homes are expensive though, from \$250,000 to \$350,000 in Colorado. Outdoor structures and fencing products are other uses of local woods.

Designing with Blue-Stain Wood-beetle kill wood used for structures can be greatly reduced in value (sometimes up to 2/3) due to the blue stain fungi the beetle vectors to the tree. However, non-structural blue stain products can actually command a premium price.

Furnishing with Wood-Desks and cabinets are good examples of products we can make and market from Colorado wood. One piñon desk sold for over \$2,000!

Heating with Wood-This can be an economical use for Colorado wood, there are clean and easy systems on the market now and this is a renewable energy source. Pellet furnaces and stoves, gasification systems, wood burners for large facilities, etc. are part of the new, clean burning systems available now.

Fueling Around with Wood-Cellulosic ethanol and Bio Oils (pyrolysis) are examples, these become more competitive as fossil fuel prices rise.

Other Uses for Urban Forest Residues-Benches, craft wood, cutting boards, novelties and toys, signs, etc. are examples. There are countless ways we use wood products, big question is why aren't we using local (urban) woods?

- Economics-low value products
- High collection and sorting costs
- Inconsistency of resource
- Lack of entrepreneurs that understand urban forest residue business
- Need for market development

Assistance Programs

- Peak to Peak Wood-5 county effort along Front Range to create markets for products.

-Colorado Forest Products-branding program started in 2004, intended for producers to obtain 50% of their material from Colorado lands. Producers are listed on the Colorado Forest Products website.

-Colorado Wood Utilization and Marketing Program is helping with marketing assistance and product utilization-Kurt helps with this program.

(www.colostate.edu/programs/cowood).

Meeting Adjourned

Attendance

Dave Flaig	City of Littleton
Keith Wood	CSFS-Broomfield
Tom Wells	City & County of Broomfield
Ryan Moore	Institute for Environmental Solutions
Chuck Gehringer	City & County of Broomfield
Bill Cassel	City and County of Denver
Gertie Grant	CTC/Trees Across Colorado
Andy Schlosberg	CSFS
Lisa Peraino	USDA Aphis PPQ
Phil Hofer	Retired CSFS
Michael Swanson	City and County of Denver
Kim Yuan-Farrell	The Park People
Adam Pena	Xcel Energy
Kendra Nash	Colorado State University
Kurt Mackes	CSFS
Robert Bond	Independent
Sara Davis	City and County of Denver
Mike McGill	Town of Erie
Scott Rehfeld	Town of Erie
Dan Odell	TC Woods/Tree Recycling, Inc.

See you in July!