

Front Range Urban Forestry Council
Meeting Minutes, 5/17/07
Golden Community Center

Introductions – Keith Wood (CSFS) for David Flaig (City of Littleton)

Mile High Youth Corps Sawyer Crews

Christopher Reinhardt, Projects Coordinator

The mission of Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) is to serve young people ages 16-25 in the Denver-metro area, providing a way for them to participate in conservation, community improvement, and stewardship while connecting them to the land. Although the Youth Corps program has been a presence in Colorado for some time, this will be the first year that they will be forming sawyer crews in the state. These crews can be utilized for projects such as removal of Russian-olive and Tamarisk, fuels reduction, installation of landscaping on public property, and other similar projects. The MHYC is based on the concept of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and can be very cost-effective; using these groups as resources can stretch your GOCO and state trails grant dollars, there is very little time required from local staff to oversee their work, and crews come with their own supervisors. The crews will be hired and trained this year, but will be available for project work next summer. There are 11 different Youth Corps chapters around the state; not all of them will be forming sawyer crews, so contact Chris to find out if your local chapter will have one available. Chris can be reached at chris@mhyc.net or by phone at 303.433.1206 x43.

All sawyer crews will be trained to National Wildland Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards; they will attend NWCG course S-212, which includes field exercises. Sawyer crews will be “self-sufficient”, meaning that the cost for utilizing them includes 4-8 people, worker’s compensation, liability coverage, 2-3 saws with fuel and oil, all safety equipment, and a 12-passenger van for transport. They can work four 10-hour days per week at a cost of \$6,000 (the cost is \$5,200 per week for non-specialized, maintenance-type crews), but the catch is that they MUST return to their point of origin after the day’s work – they cannot spike out on-site. Although crews will be trained internally for specialized purposes, Chris stressed the importance of having someone from your agency or department train a crew on the technicalities and expectations of your project if you are using them to accomplish a specific, detailed task.

Chris mentioned that there is a new law awaiting state legislative approval that will require considering utilizing MHYC crews for cutting mountain pine beetle-infested trees along the Front Range. He mentioned that crews can be especially effective and efficient when used for projects in low-income neighborhoods; a non-specialized crew recently installed a low-water garden near the York St. entrance to the Denver Botanic Gardens. They will also be working this summer with the Pike/San Isabel National Forests to help the USFS complete their seasonal work, as the Forests were not able to fill all of their available seasonal positions. For more information about both the non-specialized and the

sawyer crews, please visit the Colorado Youth Conservation Association website at www.cyca.org.

BREAK

Tree Canopy Mapping

Mike Swanson, City/County of Denver

Ian Hanou, Native Communities Development Corporation (NCDC)

Kevin Reidy, City of Aurora

Mike Swanson: It was important to map Denver's canopy, as the current conditions of the canopy were unknown and there were no detailed reports available for past or present information. The previous inventory had used 30-meter satellite resolution, which was not detailed enough to allow for species identification. Together with NCDC, the city and county mapped 120 square miles, using 2 meter resolution; this encompassed 76 of Denver's 77 neighborhoods. From the data, they estimated canopy cover to be about 10.8%, far better than they had assumed. Of this 10.8%, coniferous species made up 42%, deciduous trees made up 57%, and another 1% was too small to be identified/classified. NCDC produced a large wall map for the city, which illustrated mapping results by neighborhood. The city also received a final project summary and analysis reports from NCDC, using CITYgreen software.

Mike feels that the reports, mapping and analysis are not being used to their full potential, and is exploring ways to get the other city departments to take advantage of the data. During the mapping process, it became apparent to him that partnerships between agencies and between departments are not as consistent as they should be, and that communication needs to be improved. Mike recommends that if other cities or agencies are considering doing a similar project, that they take the time to do some pre-planning with all of the involved groups; find out what information you will need to start with, such as how the data can be utilized to its full potential, how other departments or cooperating agencies might benefit from (and thus help pay for) the resulting maps and reports, and how all of the involved groups can be a part of the process (providing input, feedback, planning for monitoring opportunities, etc.). Lastly, Mike stressed the importance of updating your old tree inventories; a new update can help provide data for updating management plans, and provides the opportunity to bring other people and departments to the table early in the update process.

Ian Hanou: Ian echoed support of what Mike discussed, and added that NCDC can take GPS point locations for trees and orthorectify them by merging the GPS point data with aerial photo imagery. This helps "ground truth" the point so that it shows up on the map where it truly belongs. Ian explained the differences between the iTree software and the CITYgreen software; they are similar tools, but you need to choose carefully, as they have different applications and one will be more appropriate to use than the other

depending on what your objective is. These differences were shown in a comparative table that Ian displayed as part of his powerpoint presentation; his presentation is also available online, and can be accessed via the link that you can find in the attachments to these notes. CITYgreen can be purchased for \$1,000; you can purchase a “package deal” that includes the software and expenses for 2 software experts to train your organization/group for \$3,500. CITYgreen can be used in commercial/industrial areas as well, as you can tweak it to focus on any objective. For example, another application of the software is to alternatively estimate the loss of open space/undeveloped property when planning for new home construction or other development. You can also prioritize areas for storm water control, as well as estimate erosion and water loss.

Kevin Reidy: Kevin found the data and products from NCDC to be extremely valuable in regard to being able to use it for multiple purposes. The City of Aurora wants to use it to help determine water budgets and create standards for wise-use lawn irrigation. The city can only enforce front-yard maintenance; because they cannot see backyard vegetation, they can't see where things are in disrepair or haven't been kept up. Kevin stated that it has been very difficult for them to determine what the “normal” level of water usage should be, due to the on-going drought and yo-yoing restrictions and usage. He is beginning a project for long-term monitoring and usage planning; Aurora needs to address HOA usage and find out where usage is high, what is needed for each area, and how much water is being used given what the actual needs are. Many HOAs do not monitor their water usage!

Kevin feels that gathering this data would result in providing better public service and education to residents of Aurora, as well as help conserve water by making use more efficient. This would make a huge impact, as Aurora is the third-largest utility in the state. Ideally, the project would identify heavy users of water; quantify demand and impact on facilities and capital projects; and provide land cover statistics. Being more water-conscious would prevent or delay the building of new water-treatment or reservoir facilities, which would also save residents a lot of construction and system costs. New city ordinances are in effect which address new developments, watering regulations, and low-water landscaping composition.

You can access and download Ian's powerpoint presentation by opening the link in the attachments sent with these notes. The powerpoint includes the table showing the differences between iTree and CITYgreen, as well as the canopy analysis reports for the Highland neighborhood and Denver as a whole. You can also download sample data and listen to a recorded presentation from the City of Denver at www.milliondollartrees.com. For more information about NCDC, contact Ian Hanou at 719.579.9276, or email him at ihanou@ncdcimaging.com.

Committee Reports

Insect and Disease: Ralph Zentz, City of Fort Collins

-Please see the attachment from Ralph on the Pest Group meeting.

Select Tree: Tim Buchanan, City of Fort Collins

-No Report

Hazard Tree: Bill Cassel, Independent Consultant

-No Report

FRUFC Program/Membership: Keith Wood, CSFS-Broomfield

A big thanks to Dave High and the City of Golden for hosting us at the Golden Community Center! Dave and the City of Golden also paid for the refreshments, which were greatly appreciated. The next FRUFC meeting will be on July 19 in Thornton; this meeting will also act as one of the three planned Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) workshops, so be sure to register if you plan to attend! Registration materials are attached. Several EAB workshops are planned along the Front Range; there will be one held in Colorado Springs on 7/18/07, one in Thornton (which will also double as our FRUFC meeting) on 7/19/07, and one in Fort Collins on 7/17/07. Folks from Michigan will be flying out to lead the workshops, and will bring (sterilized) samples for some hands-on excitement. Encourage representatives from all of your municipalities to attend! Registration is free, but you need to sign up in order to be assured a place at the workshops. Registration forms are due to Lisa Peraino (lisa.j.peraino@aphis.usda.gov) NO LATER THAN June 26, 2007. You can find the registration form as an attachment to these notes.

Lisa Peraino added that she needs pieces of wood from municipalities who have recently cut down trees that were infested with borers for use at the workshops. Please contact her and let her know if she can pick up your dead borer trees! She also asked that all of you please forward the registration form to anyone you know who might be interested. Regarding the EAB, Lisa said that APHIS is currently working on developing a lure for EAB using dead ash wood. She cautioned us to pay attention to where our ash trees are coming from, if you are ordering them to be planted in your city landscapes. She said that populations of EAB continue to spread to new states, so it is very important to remain vigilant.

Reciprocal Licensing/Test Update: Keith Wood for David Flaig

Kiki Romero, from the City/County of Denver, has been the main contact for putting the test and license requirements together. The unified test is currently being reviewed by the Reciprocal Licensing committee, and the final edited version should be out by the end of June. Stay tuned.

CTC: Mike Swanson, City/County of Denver

The May meeting was cancelled due to low availability for members to attend; instead, they held an electronic meeting. The National Arbor Day Foundation (NADF) poster winner was presented at the state capitol building on April 30th. Representatives from the state senate and house were present to celebrate the event and congratulate the winner S.N.E. Whiteley from Parachute, CO. The CTC planting/tree selection guide has been revised for Front Range communities; more information has been included on proper watering and pruning techniques. The guide is available for \$2 apiece for bulk orders. Contact Keith Wood at Keith.Wood@Colostate.edu for more information.

The Town of Holly was devastated by a tornado in April, and the CTC has considered donating funds towards replanting trees out of the Community Forestry Disaster Fund. However, because the event is a FEMA-declared disaster, and both the state government and FEMA have stated their intentions of providing funds to the community, CTC will wait to donate funds until it is known how much FEMA and the State of Colorado will be contributing.

Trees Across Colorado: Gertie Grant, TAC

On April 17, TAC delivered 1,854 trees to various locations. 18 groups participated in the program this year, with 8 of these groups being new to the program. The largest delivery was in Arvada, with 460 trees delivered. Gertie reported that there were problems with transport to places in southeast Colorado, such as La Junta; apparently several of the trees arrived in poor condition to those areas. Efforts are being made to ensure this does not happen again next year.

ISA: Keith Wood for Scott Grimes

The Plant Health Care workshop is coming up in early June! Please go to the ISA website at www.isarmc.org for more details, and to register.

Community Reports

Town of Parker

A new position is open for a Forestry and Open Space Supervisor. A detailed position description was sent out from Keith to the FRUFC email list regarding this position in early May. Please contact Betsy Mercer at the Town of Parker (bmercer@ci.parker.co.us) to find out more if you are interested.

Million Tree Initiative

12,529 trees were planted during the 7 days between Earth Day and Arbor Day; the goal, as many of you know, was to plant 7,000 trees during that period, which was far surpassed! Thanks to everyone who helped make this first project a reality. The next

focus for the Initiative is to work with communities in the Denver-metro and Front Range areas, and cooperatively plan some tree plantings in community-owned open space areas.

City of Broomfield

A position is open with the City of Broomfield as well; contact Tom Wells or Chuck Gehringer at 303-464-5651 to find out more details. Broomfield coordinated a special project during Arbor Day week with the Earth Science class at one of the local high schools; Broomfield matched funds that were raised by the students to help them buy 100 cottonwoods, which were then planted around the water treatment plant. A wonderful collaborative project, which they hope to do again!

Institute for Environmental Solutions

Kristen Gray is looking for volunteers to help collect data for “The Tree Project: Integrated Urban Environmental Improvement Through Tree Selection and Management”. If you are interested in learning more about i-Tree, getting a chance to use it, and network with other tree fans, this is the event for you! Please contact Kristen Gray (Kristen@I4ES.org) or Carol Lyons (Carol@I4ES.org) for more information or to sign up for this workshop. Also, please see the attachments to these notes for more information.

Meeting Attendance

Sean Flynn	City of Longmont
Ken Wicklund	City of Longmont
Mike Swanson	City and County of Denver
Wendy McCartney	CSFS
John Wesolowski	City of Brighton
Ian Hanou	NCDC
Kevin Reidy	Aurora Water
Sara Jungblut	Denver Parks and Recreation
Gertie Grant	Trees Across Colorado
Joel Szymanski	City of Northglenn
Kyle Newmyer	Jefferson County
Chuck Gehringer	City of Broomfield
Bill Cassel	TLC

Lisa Peraino	USDA APHIS
Rob MacDonald	Loveland Parks
Allen Gallamore	CSFS-Golden
John Vanko	City of Westminster
Devon Bowers	City of Westminster
Rob Davis	City of Westminster
Susan Ford	USFS
David S. High	City of Golden
Dave Farmer	CSFS
Bob Stem	City of Aurora
Betsy Mercer	Town of Parker
Jacque Potter	City of Aurora
George Faber	City of Aurora
Ellie Bussi-Sottile	City of Boulder
Keith Wood	CSFS

See you in July!