

**Front Range Urban Forestry Council
Meeting Minutes, 1/17/08
Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, Wheat Ridge, CO**

Introductions – Dave Flaig, City of Littleton

A big thank you to the City of Wheat Ridge for providing a room to meet as well as breakfast and refreshments!

**Mile High Youth Corps and the City of Wheat Ridge Russian-Olive Project
Chris Reinhardt, MHYC Projects Coordinator
Margaret Paget, City of Wheat Ridge Open Space Coordinator**

Chris discussed various forestry projects the newly-formed MHYC sawyer crew was involved in this past summer. They spent four weeks in Jefferson county performing forest fuels reduction, treating a total of 15 acres of open space by removing and chipping over 800 trees. They also spent four weeks in Golden Gate Canyon State Park, working on clearing beetle kill trees from campgrounds and other forest fuels reduction projects. The crew also focused on invasive species mitigation, spending a week working alongside City of Wheat Ridge forestry, parks & open space staff removing Russian-olives along the greenway.

Sawyer crew members range in age from 18-24. They work 10 hour shifts Monday through Thursday in summer and fall. The sawyer crew is well trained and has the capability to do Russian-olive removals, tamarisk removals, beetle damaged tree removals, forest thinning and fuels reduction, snow fence construction, and outreach and education. They can also perform herbicide applications as long as a licensed applicator is available to mix the chemicals. A sawyer crew costs \$6,000 per 40-hour week and is comprised of one adult crew leader, four trained sawyers, up to seven additional corps members, four saws, fuel/oil, maintenance/sharpening equipment, safety equipment, and a 12-passenger van. In addition, MHYC provides full workers' compensation insurance for all crew members. In order to keep this program running, the sawyer crew needs to bring in 8-10 weeks of work in the Denver Metro area annually, and prefer to schedule work contracts in 1 week increments. For more information or to schedule a project, contact Shanda Vangas at 303-433-1206 ext 24 or shandav@mhyc.net. She is temporarily filling in as Projects Coordinator because Chris is leaving to pursue new opportunities.

Margaret spoke about their experience working with the sawyer crew from a sponsor standpoint. She was satisfied with the amount of work they accomplished in their two weeks on the greenbelt. The sawyer crew was well organized and efficient in keeping their tools marked, organized, clean, sharp, and ready to go. The ratio of sawyers to corps members helped maintain a productive work flow. Wheat Ridge parks, forestry, & open space staff worked alongside the sawyer crew and found that this setup worked quite well. Margaret liked that they got a well-trained crew with good supervision. It was a great way to get a project done that otherwise would have required much more time and staff resources.

Committee Reports

Insect and Disease – Ralph Zentz, City of Fort Collins

Nothing to report.

Select Tree – Tim Buchanan, City of Fort Collins

Nothing to report.

Hazard Tree – Bill Cassel, Independent Consultant

Nothing to report.

Program/Membership – Dave Flaig for Keith Wood, CSFS-Broomfield

An upcoming seminar in Brighton at the end of February will discuss carbon credits, a new concept that cities and special districts may find interesting.

C.T.C. – Dave Flaig for Mike Swanson, City and County of Denver

The 19th Annual Greely Winter Tree Care Workshop is fast approaching and registration deadline is February 8, 2008. Arbor Day will also be here before we know it, and the deadline to submit Colorado posters for the 2008 National Arbor Day poster contest is March 7, 2008. For those who are interested in learning more about this contest for 5th graders, you may contact Donna Davis, Poster Contest Coordinator at dodavis@lamar.colostate.edu or by phone at 719-384-9087. CTC is hoping to fund approximately 10 grants this year. The grant selection committee is still in the process of reviewing applications and should have an announcement soon! CTC will have a booth again this year at ProGreen Expo, so please stop by and visit!

I.S.A. – Dave Flaig for Scott Grimes, South Suburban Parks & Recreation

ProGreen is next week! There are a total of 42 classes providing ISA CEU's and some excellent speakers scheduled throughout the week. ISA will also have a booth at ProGreen Expo, so stop by and say hi to them too.

Reciprocal Licensing, ISA Certification and CEUs – Dave Flaig, City of Littleton

Right now there are 6 cities that have reciprocal licensing programs: Denver, Wheat Ridge, Lakewood, Aurora, Englewood and Littleton. Denver, Aurora, Wheat Ridge, and Lakewood all administer their own written & climbing tests, while Englewood and Littleton will both honor these tests. All cities will honor an ISA Arborist certification in lieu of the written test and an ISA Tree Worker certification in lieu of the climbing test. The goal of this program is to help build a professional image for the tree care industry, ensuring that tree care companies and independent arborists meet specific standards of job knowledge and experience before they can hold a license to work in these cities.

The Municipal Specialist certification will have its own study guide which should be ready by February. For those who need to earn ISA CEU's, you can check your current CEU status online at www.isa-arbor.com. You can also check the website for upcoming CEU opportunities and take online CEU credit quizzes from past issues of Arborist News.

A reminder for those planning to take certification exams this year, the next exam in Colorado will be at ProGreen with several more to follow throughout the year. Rocky Mountain ISA also aims to schedule 2 exam dates per year for residents in Montana, Wyoming, and New Mexico.

Community Reports

Boulder County Parks & Open Space

This is the first FRUFC meeting they have attended. Some of their staff is in the process of obtaining ISA tree worker certifications.

City of Arvada

Arvada is adding 3 new parks and has an open position for a full time maintenance technician.

City of Lakewood

Lakewood has utilized both staff and contractors the last few years for an aggressive Russian-olive removal program. They will have a full time parks position opening in the next few weeks.

Highlands Ranch Metro District

Slick road conditions around town have caused several accidents involving vehicles and roadside trees. Anybody have ideas for barriers, etc. that may help prevent this?

City & County of Broomfield

They have money in the budget for a new chipper, so if anybody has thoughts on good and/or bad options, please let them know. They will be visiting the vendors at ProGreen as well.

City of Erie

The snow removal is getting old! Thankfully, they have other things to keep them occupied, including revision of several ordinances and updating their tree inventory.

South Suburban Parks & Recreation

South Suburban is nearing completion of its tree inventory, at which point they will shift focus to utilizing collected data to perform defective tree evaluations and track tree management district wide. The forestry/horticulture department has two open positions for full time maintenance technicians.

City of Westminster

A new bond passed that increased their operating budget significantly, allowing the forestry department to expand its operations. They are also adding 2 new parks.

Cherry Hills Village

Heather joined Cherry Hills Village last June and is developing a tree care program from scratch. She is in the process of purchasing a chipper for their operations. They currently contract all tree planting, maintenance, and spraying to a local tree care company.

Gertie Grant, Trees Across Colorado

The delivery date for this year's order is April 15. Several new communities have ordered trees this year, with a grand total of 1950 trees. Gertie's goal for next year is 2000 trees.

Rick App, Crown Hill Cemetery

Crown Hill Cemetery recently achieved arboretum status with a diverse list of species, including 5 state champion trees.

Sara Davis, Million Trees Initiative

The Staples promotion brought in \$10,000 for partnering cities and the CTC! Sara is now in the process of masterminding a new theme for this year's tree plantings and Arbor Day celebration events, as part of the Million Trees Initiative. Contact Sara for more information and assistance with planning your local events. She may be able to help with funding, volunteers, giveaway items, etc. As you may know, the Democratic National Convention is coming to Denver this August, and Denver is planning a special tree planting event, with a total of 56 trees to symbolize each of the delegations that will be attending the convention. Two positions are currently open with the city.

City of Aurora

Arborist inspectors for City of Aurora recently prosecuted an unlicensed tree care worker with Bartlett. Forestry staff is working to convert the current tree inventory into a usable format. They have 2 open positions, 1 forestry technician and 1 forestry parks worker.

City of Englewood

They will be working on a Russian-olive removal program at Centennial Park.

Adjourn

Meeting Attendance

Disclaimer: If your name is missing or misspelled, it is because I could not read your writing.

Dave Flaig	City of Littleton
Rob Davis	City of Westminster
Rob Burdine	City of Westminster
Devon Bowers	City of Westminster
John Vanko	City of Westminster
Patrick Plummer	City of Arvada
Rich Cuellar	Highlands Ranch Metro District
Scott Nelson	Highlands Ranch Metro District
Kyle Sylvester	City of Brighton
Dave Kinser	City of Wheat Ridge
John Wesolowski	City of Aurora
Jacque Potter	City of Aurora
Heather Rasmussen	Cherry Hills Village
Daniel Lee	City of Lakewood
Bill Clark	City of Lakewood
Chris Archuleta	City of Lakewood
Ted Tompkins	City and County of Denver
Charlie Auner	City of Englewood
Michael Norris	City of Englewood
Mark Kottwitz	City of Englewood
Christy Ganese	Mile High Youth Corps
Gertie Grant	Trees Across Colorado
Rick App	Crown Hill Cemetery
Pete Zoschg	City and County of Denver
Sara Davis	City and County of Denver

Chad Street	Boulder County Parks & Open Space
Cathy Thiltgen	Boulder County Parks & Open Space
?	City of Arvada
John Djialo	City of Lakewood
Jason Kruegel	Highlands Ranch Metro District
Josh Theobald	Highlands Ranch Metro District
Mike McCron	Highlands Ranch Metro District
Jeremy Grinwald	Highlands Ranch Metro District
Rick Craig	Highlands Ranch Metro District
Andy Schlosberg	Colorado State Forest Service
Tom Wells	City and County of Broomfield
Chuck Gehringer	City and County of Broomfield
Mike McGill	Town of Erie
Chris Reinhardt	Mile High Youth Corps
Michelle Cadence	Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery
Greg Luper	City of Wheat Ridge
Jill Richeal	City of Wheat Ridge
Jennifer Hrobar	South Suburban Parks & Recreation
Joe Prante	South Suburban Parks & Recreation
Diana Selloy	Colorado State Forest Service
Greg Vowels	Jefferson County Road & Bridge

See you in March!