

Front Range Urban Forestry Council

January 20, 2011

Introductions – David Flaig, City of Littleton

Committee Reports

Insect and Disease – Ralph Zentz, City of Fort Collins

It has been a pretty quiet winter. The EPIC subgroup has met a few times, brochure for thousand cankers is out. Let Ralph know if you need copies. Pest group meetings will start up again in May.

Select Tree – Tim Buchanan, City of Fort Collins

Select Tree evaluation program will happen again this year: Sensation Boxelder, a male selection with some fall color, is the experimental tree this year. Three communities are needed to evaluate trees, contact Tim if you're interested. The Front Range Recommended Trees brochure will be unveiled at upcoming ProGreen in February! A lot of time has gone into making this list a reality so please come to the panel discussion. See ProGreen schedule for more information.

Tree Risk – Bill Cassel, City & County of Denver

The next FRUFC meeting is in Brighton, a similar extended meeting like today: topic will be tree risk assessment, both locally and nationally with new ISA ANSI standards. This training will give everyone a feel for where things are going in the field of tree risk assessment. There is a new certificate program through ISA.

Program/Membership – Keith Wood, CSFS

Thanks to the City of Golden and Dave High. Great program and great location, this is a huge turnout, especially for a snow day! Next meeting is March 10 in Brighton. CEU sign in sheet going around.

C.T.C – Dave Flaig for Scott Grimes, SSPR

Colorado Arbor Day poster contest is on the website (www.coloradotrees.org), please distribute information to your local contacts in the community! 2011 calendars are available for sale on site. Find CTC on Facebook, www.facebook.com/coloradotreecoalition. Gertie Grant: TAC drop off will be April 12 in Denver and April 13 in Colorado Springs. Trying out tree form Gambel oaks for the first time this year!

I.S.A – Bill Cassel for Rob Davis, City of Westminster

Annual ISA-RMC conference and Tree Climbing Championship will be somewhere in south Denver this fall. Pesticide workshop is back in Denver this year. Think Trees conference coming up in NM. Greely Tree Care workshop February 18, Keith will email an agenda to everyone. CEU opportunities: 32 at ProGreen alone. Check out ISA website (www.isarmc.org) for more events/CEU opportunities.

Community Reports

Golden & IES – collaborated to apply for and received a tree grant through Xcel energy to plant trees at a local elementary school. Pilot program with goal of creating planted buffer (40+ trees) between school and Hwy 93. Volunteer planting day this spring, contact IES to get on email list and stay posted on this event!

Break

Urban Forestry Management Using TREEpaQ Dave High and Quint Pertzsch, City of Golden

Original city tree inventory for Golden was contracted through CSFS and updated on an annual basis for 10 years with a annual budget of \$5000. It was paper-based with addresses (but not geospatially reference). In 2007/2008, Golden contracted with IES to study and identify makeup of community forest and determine measurable benefits (carbon sequestration, stormwater runoff, etc.) There are an estimated 102,000 trees in Golden but not nearly this many are in the actual inventory. After the study, Golden began transitioning from contracted inventory with CSFS to doing it internally. They looked at various vendors of tree inventory software and finally chose TreepaQ (AGL). Application was designed and initial software training provided by company. Then, staff were sent out with Trimble GeoXH and Trimble Juno handheld mapping grade GPS units to collect data. Fields include: date, tree ID (populated by database), tree species (both scientific and common, select from library), planting date (if known), height, DBH, address, XY coordinates (use GPS), \$ value (formula based on species and DBH), defect evaluations, notes (mechanical damage, disease, etc.) and photos (taken with Juno device.) It is easy to organize and rename or add fields when needed. Golden now has almost 8000 trees (and growing) in their current inventory.. Any specific tree can have multiple data collection 'events': initial inventory then further visits to update changes in size, condition and collect additional notes as needed. The goal of a tree inventory is to manage trees as assets, and trees are one of the only assets to increase in value over their lifetime. Events can track growth and changing valuation of a specific tree over its lifespan. They can use collected data and select or query specific fields to answer questions like "What is the total value of all trees located in Lion's Park?" \$850,000. This inventory is quickly proving that trees are one of the most valuable assets owned and maintained by the city. Assigning a \$ figure to assets the forestry department manages is very valuable to getting others on board (city council and budgeting.) Challenges to building a similar program in other cities or organizations? (1)Fear of technology/reluctance to change, (2)Training (3)Time (4)Keep it simple but useful.

i-Tree v. 3.0 Overview/Urban Forestry Data Standards/Statewide Inventory

Kamie Long/Keith Wood/Vince Urbina, CSFS

Kamie Long

*Handout posted to CTC website

V.3.0 is on the market now and v.4.0 will be available very soon. i-Tree is a FREE suite of software developed by USDA Forest Service to help assess and manage the structure, function and value of urban tree populations. It is available at www.itreetools.org. i-Streets software assesses structure, function (energy, air pollution, stormwater, carbon sequestration, property value), value, and management needs for street trees only, not the entire urban forest..

Software is downloadable to PDA or other handheld device for collection or can print off and collect on paper. You can use i-Streets to inventory everything or just a sample. The resulting data helps justify and leverage funds, highlight benefits of trees to the public, and plan/prioritize/budget. There is no GIS component but it is a good basic management tool, answering the question, "Do accrued benefits of trees outweigh the cost of their management"? Manuals are also downloadable from website. i-Eco is much more in depth than i-Streets. It requires more field data input than i-Streets and provides a broad picture of the entire urban forest.

Keith Wood

The Urban Forestry Data Standards Initiative document (www.unri.org/standards) will be finalized March 15, 2011. Final draft version will be available February 1, 2011 and open to comments until March 11, 2011. The goal of this document is to provide standards to get everyone on same page re: collection/analyzing/reporting data on natural resources. Consistent standards will allow for more even comparisons across a wider region. Standards will benefit those who currently utilize inventories and especially those who are in the process of developing inventories. Document will include suggestions on what to collect, why and how. Ex: what is the standard for measuring DBH of a multi-stem tree? This document will tell you.

Vince Urbina

CSFS applied for and received a federal grant to inventory ash trees starting this summer in Eastern Colorado. They are trying to be proactive and figure out what we have in the way of #'s of ash to prepare for what many see as an inevitable EAB invasion. If you have tree inventories of any ash species, please share them with Vince.

LUNCH BREAK

Urban Forest for Better Metro Denver: An Urban Forest Assessment and Mitigation Project

Eric Huetig, Mile High Million

This project will identify urban tree canopy cover across the Denver Metro area. MHM is partnering with USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station, who will be doing a lot of the mapping work. Project coverage spans a big chunk of the Denver metro area. Urban heat island mapping, tree canopy mapping, potential tree planting site identification, GIS analysis (to assist with identifying "hot spots" for tree plantings based on land use), and ecosystem service assessment (energy, carbon, air quality, etc.) are all included in the assessment. The final report will be presented to Denver and made available to participating communities. If you have questions, contact Sara Davis at 720-913-0631 or sara.davis@denvergov.org.

Attendance

Allen Rogers
Andy Schlosberg
Jim McGannon
Glenn Honaman
Michael Till
Jeff Roberts
Kamie Long
Shelly Simmons
Neal Barnesberger

Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro District
CSFS
Consultant
Colorado State Parks – Chatfield (formerly)
CSFS
South Suburban Parks & Recreation
CSFS – Grand Junction
CSFS – LaJunta
Hudson Gardens

Tim Buchanan	City of Fort Collins
Zac Hall	City of Fort Collins
Brian Sereduke	City of Fort Collins
Ralph Zentz	City of Fort Collins
Diana Selby	CSFS – Fort Collins
Devon Bowers	City of Westminster
Becky Lamphear	City of Colorado Springs
Patrick Ford	City of Colorado Springs
Michelle Cadena	Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery
Michael Apps	Hyland Hills
John Vanco	City of Westminster
Rob Burdine	City of Westminster
Alfred Ledesma	City of Westminster
Steven Geist	Swingle Tree
Dave Flaig	City of Littleton
Jennifer Hrobar	South Suburban Parks & Recreation
Margaret Paget	City of Wheat Ridge
John Kasza	City of Westminster
Ben Walker	Supertrees, Inc.
Brant Walker	Supertrees, Inc.
Jim Myer	City of Denver
Kim Yuan-Farrell	The Park People (Denver Digs Trees)
Bill Cassel	City & County of Denver
Eric Huetig	City & County of Denver/Longmont
Vince Urbina	CSFS – Grand Junction
Keith Wood	CSFS
Tom Wells	City & County of Broomfield
Louis Linn	Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery
Robert Bond	Student
Kyle Sylvester	City of Brighton
Patrick McLaughlin	CSFS – Golden
Lawton Gringer	CSFS – Golden
Collin Wassink	CSFS – Golden
Aaron Wykhuis	CSFS – Golden
Greg Zausen	CSFS – Fort Collins
Matt Forbis	City of Brighton
Patrick Plummer	City of Golden
Jeff Davidson	Jeffco Road & Bridge
Mike McGill	Town of Erie
Gary Hegner	Erie Parks & Recreation
John Kaltenbach	Colorado Department of Agriculture
Scot Sanders	Davey Tree
Ben Zomer	Independent
Gary Ramos	Foothills Parks
Sean Kitners	Foothills Parks
Kendra Nash	City of Boulder
Kathleen Alexander	City of Boulder
Renita Baskin	Unaffiliated
Hollie Kikel	City of Aurora
John Wesolowski	City of Aurora
Gertie Grant	CTC – Trees Across Colorado

Ken Wicklund
Andy Koepel
Nick Mott
John Goreski
John Kohring
Craig Hillegass
Mike McCann
Lynn Lathrop
David Wallace
DeNae Cameron
Josh Theobald
Caleb Palmer
Laura Smies
D.G. Hinckley
Chad Stued

City of Longmont
City of Longmont
City of Longmont
Town of Berthoud
City of Englewood
City of Arvada
Highlands Ranch Metro District
City of Thornton
City of Fort Collins
City of Fort Collins
Highlands Ranch Metro District
Highlands Ranch Metro District
Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro District
Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro District
Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro District

See you in March!