



Nevada Shade Tree Council Board Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2011
0900 – 1200 hrs

Statewide Teleconference

In Attendance:

Molly Sinnott, President
Lisa Ortega, Past President
Bill Bowers, Treasurer
Forest Schafer, Secretary
Tammi Gaudet, Executive Secretary
John Crandell
Bill Carlos
Dick Post
Cleto Arceo
Mike Verchik
Matty Haro
ML Robinson

Bill Wolf
Joe Carr
Sue Sturtevant

GUESTS AND EX-OFFICIO

Susan Stead, Ex-officio – NDF
Adria DeCorte – NDF, Las Vegas Office
John Copeland – NDF, Eastlake Office
Ryan Shane – NDF, Elko Office
Andi Kemmerer – NDF, Elko Office
Laura Eisenberg – NDF, Las Vegas Office

“→” indicates agenda items taken out of order at the discretion of the NSTC President or Nevada Division of Forestry.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Molly Sinnott called the meeting to order at 0915 hrs. Quorum established with 15 members present.

II. USFS Reporting and Discussions

Margie Ewing, USFS Urban and Community Forestry Program Liaison, was not present. Susan Stead noted that the House of Representatives has recommended a 2 million dollar reduction in urban forestry spending for FY 2012.

III. NDF Urban and Community Forestry State Coordinator Report

In the upcoming budget cycle NDF and NSTC will no longer be able to match federal grant funds with county money allocated to fire suppression, and therefore must be more thorough in accounting for match from other sources. Match should be reported to Bill Bowers, and must be supported by receipts or equivalent documentation. Labor can be matched at the federal volunteer rate. Hourly, fully-burdened rates may be used if documentation of the rate is also provided.

Susan Stead introduced Adria DeCorte, Ryan Shane and John Copeland, NDF Resource Management Officers for the southern, northern, and western regions, respectively. Current projects in the southern region include tree planting, Project Learning Tree facilitation, Christmas tree recycling and seed collection. Davey Tree was awarded a contract to complete a tree inventory for the Clark County Inventory Project.

Western region projects include rehabilitation and tree planting in the Caughlin Fire area in Reno. NDF is working with communities and colleges on Tree City USA and Tree Campus programs statewide.

IV. NEVADA SHADE TREE COUNCIL ITEMS

IV.A. Approve August 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The August 12 meeting minutes were corrected to display the correct date. *Mike Verchik made a motion to approve the August 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes as corrected. Bill Carlos seconded. Motion approved unanimously.*

IV.B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

IV.B.1. Treasurer's Report

Bill Bowers reported that ~\$14,000 is available in the NSTC account. A ~\$2000 reimbursement claim has been filed with NDF, including \$500 for bumper sticker costs. Grant match of ~\$29,000 has been reported. ~\$19,700 will remain in the federal grant following reimbursement.

IV.B.3. 5 Year Plan

Dick Post emailed members in mid-2011 to obtain commitments from members to achieve goals for the 5-Year Strategic Plan. In order to update the commitments, *Tammi Gaudet will send an updated email list to all board members, and Dick will resend the plan. Members will respond within 5 working days to clarify assignments.*

IV.B.4. Education

Tony Dietz was not present to report on arborist training sessions. Bill Carlos reported that the October session in Reno had ~50 attendees. An arborist certification class is scheduled for February 28 – March 1 in Henderson.

i-Tree is a software suite used to estimate environmental benefits, report on urban forests, and determine costs. It is generally used in conjunction with other tree inventory systems. There is interest in hosting i-Tree and inventory training in northern Nevada.

IV.B.5. Northern, Southern and Western Area Reports

Washoe County hosted a tree planting for Nevada Shade Tree Week. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Southern Region is planning multi-lingual arborist classes for

February, 2012. The City of Ely is creating a tree utility list that will include species recommendations for planting trees.

IV.C OLD BUSINESS

IV.C.1 Bumper Stickers

5000 bumper stickers have been printed and are in Las Vegas. Susan will deliver some to the western region in time for the Nevada Landscape Association Conference on February 15, 2012. The Southern Nevada Arborist Group will submit its donation and Bill Bowers will modify the reimbursement request to the NSTC grant to include it.

IV.C.2. Desk Guide

The Desk Guide and By-law review committees will be combined. The new committee includes Lisa Ortega, Tony Dietz, Greg Deuley, Forest Schafer and Susan Stead.

IV.C.3. Email Address

Forest Schafer will create an email address <info@nevadashadetrees.org> that forwards to Tammi Gaudet. The address will replace all other email addresses on the website.

IV.C.4. Newsletter

Members must submit items for inclusion in the newsletter to Tina McKeand by February 1st. This should include any Arbor Day events.

IV.C.5. Website

Forest Schafer will create a test version of a managed content website.

IV.D NEW BUSINESS

IV.D.1. Grant Awards and Possibilities

Lisa Ortega reported a federal grant available through the Alliance for Community Trees, which provides funding for planting fruit trees, nut trees, shade and screening at community gardens. Applicants must be a member of ACT. Nevada groups and communities may apply through NSTC, which is a member.

Dick Post moved to approve \$210 for Lisa Ortega's per-diem for the Community Forestry Conference. ML Robinson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

James Urban is the author of *Up By Roots*, which discusses the relationships between soil and successful tree planting. Members showed interest in hosting an Up By Roots workshop in partnership with the western chapter of the International Society of Arborists. The workshop could take place in the second week of September prior to the September NSTC meeting. *ML Robinson moved to create a cost estimate and begin planning for the workshop. Dick Post seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Lisa Ortega will begin planning and create a cost estimate.*

IV.D.2. Conference Updates

Desert Green 2012 will take place at the end of October. The 2011 conference was a success. Molly Sinnott is planning a Hazard Tree Assessment Class for June in Tahoe, to be funded by NDF's SNPLMA grants allocated to Lake Tahoe. The Nevada Landscape Association conference is on February 15 at the Reno Convention Center. *Dick Post moved to approve \$287.50 to purchase a shared booth with NDF at the NLA conference. Lisa Ortega seconded. Motion approved unanimously.*

IV.D.3. PayPal

Forest Schafer will work with Bill Bowers to explore online payment processing options for the NSTC website.

IV.D.4. Arbor Day 2010

Discussion on this item was deferred to the February meeting.

IV.D.5. Membership Nominations

Gerald Fassett, Certified Arborist and Vegetation Management Administrator for NV Energy was nominated for membership by Cleto Arceo. *John Crandell moved to approved Gerald Basset for membership. Mike Verchik seconded. Motion approved unanimously.*

IV.D.6. Other Items Brought to the Table by Members

Lisa Ortega noted that few Nevada Shade Tree Week projects were implemented in 2011, and stressed the need to implement more in 2012. Waste Management is proposing single stream recycling in Nevada because of increased response rate. This may impact local group needs for mulch/green waste. In October, the Alliance for Community Trees can provide \$500 per project for tree work through the Home Depot Neighborhoods mini grants.

V. Public Comment Period

No items were brought forward.

VI. Next Meeting Date and Location

A video conference meeting was set for February 7, 2012, 0900-1200 hrs. Molly Sinnott will arrange for video conferencing with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

VII. Adjournment

Molly Sinnott adjourned the meeting at 1130 hrs.

Submitted by Forest Schafer.