



**Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Nokomis Recreation Center
2401 East Minnehaha Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55417
December 15, 2005 – 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.**

Attendees:

Andenas, Kirsten	Tree Trust	Hermann, James	Minneapolis Parks & Rec. Bd.
Bacon, Bruce	City of Ramsey	Holman, Ken	MN DNR Metro Forestry
Barbeau, Emily	City of Minnetonka	Johnson, Gary	University of Minnesota
Baughman, Tom	MN DNR	Kyhl, John	USDA Forest Service
Brown, Kirk	Tree Trust	Kytonen, Kameron	City of Andover
Buck, Paul	City of Plymouth	Larson, Janet	EcoDesign & Consulting
Burban, Lisa	USDA Forest Service	Max, Michael	EnvionMentor Systems
Burks, James	Cities of Crystal/ Robbinsdale	Nicholson, Stephen	Kunde Company Inc.
Burks, Sue	MN DNR Metro Forestry	Nozal, Gail	Tree Trust
Cervenka, Val	MN Dept. of Agriculture	Rodenberg, Dianne	City of Hutchinson
Cordes, Jeff	City of Eden Prairie	Schnobrich, Mark	Minneapolis Parks & Rec. Bd.
Dehn, Donald		Sievert, Ralph	Heritage Shade Tree Consul.
Edwardson, Paul	City of Bloomington	Simons, Ken	City of Chanhassen
Goebel, Nathan		Sinclair, Jill	MN DOT Office of Env. Serv.
Gurban, Jon	Minneapolis Parks & Rec. Bd.	Walvatne, Paul	Anoka County Extension
Hacker, Jan	Resource Analytics	Weicherding, Patrick	MN For. Res. Council
Hanson, Dave	University of Minnesota	Zumeta, Dave	

BUSINESS SECTION:

Call to Order & Introductions

President Simons called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. After everyone introduced themselves, Gurban welcomed the group to the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board's Nokomis Recreation Center.

Review and Motion to Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Following review and several suggested corrections of the November 17, 2005 meeting minutes, motion by Holman, second by Brown to approve the November meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Nominations of New Members

Simons asked for nominations for new members of the MnSTAC. Motion by Nozal, second by Brown nominating Andenas. Motion carried. Motion by Schnobrich, second by Cordes nominating Rodenberg. Motion carried. Both nominees thanked those in attendance and accepted membership.

Committee and Partner Reports

- Holman discussed the Festival of Trees and asked for volunteers to nominate this event for a National Arbor Day Foundation award.
- Johnson asked for articles for the “Advocate”. He also reported that the University will be planting disease resistant elms at the state fair grounds next Arbor Day and requested volunteer assistance and help in attracting media for this event and other events during Arbor month.
- Sievert informed the group that Minneapolis would be hosting the ISA international conference in seven months.
- Buck reported on the up-coming green expo conference to be held in early January.
- Burban stated that a webcast would be held on January 10 at noon on the USFS iTree suite of inventory and analysis software. Software training on the iTree network will be held November 14-17, 2006 in Minneapolis. Also, for the March 16, 2006 MnSTAC meeting, Katie Armstrong, EAB Specialist in the USDA Forest Service in Detroit, MI will provide a detailed update on the EAB situation. Contact Holman if interested in the details of either of these opportunities.
- It was also reported that the National Urban Forestry Advisory Council would be meeting in Minnesota for three days in June.

Simons stated that the Board of Directors would be working on development of a strategic plan in January or February. He anticipates it will be a four hour session and welcomed anyone who was interested to participate. As part of this process, a Constitutional Amendment Committee will be formed as needed.

Board of Directors Nominations

Max moved that since there are only two candidates, the non-designated members present at this meeting cast a confirming unanimous vote for Emily Barbeau and Kameron Kytonen to serve as members of the MnSTAC Board of Directors for the 2006-2007 two-year terms of office. Second by Nicholson. Motion carried.

Schnobrich moved that by this motion the membership of MnSTAC expresses its appreciation to Brown and Hermann for their dedicated service as members of the Board of Directors. Second by Bacon. Motion carried.

Hacker moved, that since there is only one candidate, the MnSTAC members present at this meeting cast a unanimous verbal ballot electing Mike Max to serve as Vice president for the 2006 one-year term of office, seconded by Schnobrich. Motion carried.

Forum Presentations

MN Department of Natural Resources

Holman introduced Tom Bauman. Bauman notified the group that the new State Forester is Dave Epperly who was previously the St. Louis County Land Commissioner. He thanked the group for helping address the urban problems we face. Bauman reported that the budget situation has been grim. The DNR lost approximately \$3 million and has had to cut assistance to private land and community forestry. To correct this situation in the future we all have to work to demonstrate the value of urban forestry programs. Public agencies can quantify (economically) the contribution of their urban programs to the private sector. To date, 300 communities have benefited from urban forestry grants through the Mn ReLeaf Program.

Bauman stated he was cautiously optimistic. The DNR was able to hire 15 new foresters – three FTE's of these new hires are being devoted to the community and private lands program. This is in addition to the 21 FTE's currently devoted to the private forestry program – down from a high of 37 in

previous years. Services are delivered locally with St. Paul people being contact people for the field foresters. The DNR will be granted FSC & SFI certification in January. They also continue to work with the Dept. of Ag. on invasive species and remain dependent on partnerships to maintain focus on urban forestry issues.

University of Minnesota

Johnson noted less and less use of the term “urban forestry” and more “urban horticulture” or “landscape management” to describe the field, to the point that Universities probably won’t have any more degrees in “urban forestry”. They are fighting to maintain the Department of Forest Resources and the TRE nursery which they envision will become self-sustaining and may begin selling retail as part of a long-range plan. Ongoing research includes varietal trials, why trees fail in storms, and the effects of planting depths. New research in 2005 included long-term effects of root pruning pot-bound trees and effects of sudden exposure of bark of previously buried nursery stock. New 2006 research will focus on adapting the gravel bed system to MN.

Johnson reported that 825 people had gone through the Shade Tree Short Course. He also said the Tree Care Advisor Program is very strong because it is a state program and has been expanded. In contrast, the Master Gardener Program is a county supported program and support has eroded significantly. This program will probably be converted to a regional, as opposed to a county based program, in 2006 according to Patrick Weicherding.

MN Department of Transportation

Walvatne discussed his experiences with differing valuation methods for urban trees. The basal area replacement formula is used in New York and yields significantly higher appraisal values (citing a value of \$450,000 for 12 trees at a project site adjacent to Hwy. 36).

Walvatne also reported that DOT no longer allows burial of trees by DOT contractors. Local DOT units are also being encouraged to prepare forestry plans for projects involving significant impacts to trees and other vegetation. Ongoing DOT programs include the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Program, DED control, EAB trap tree work, biological weed and invasive species control, roadside pine thinning, the Living Snow Fence Program, and the Community Roadside Landscape Partnership Program.

The MnDOT also sponsors training of various sorts including Certified Landscape Specialist Training, Pesticide Application License Recertification, and Environmental School, and internal training with a “Roadsides for Wildlife” component. Walvatne also brought copies of the tentative agenda for a MnDOT Landscape Inspection & Contractor Certification School” on February 9 in Arden Hills.

MN Forest Resources Council

Dave Zumeta brought copies of the Council’s 2004 annual report for those that were interested. He stated that the Landscape plans were done for all but the Metro & Prairie regions. Simons, Janette Monear and others have been meeting with the Council’s Landscape Committee concerning the Metro region which the committee voted not to pursue. The Council has commissioned a compilation of public plans in 6 of the 8 regions and could do that for the metro area.

USDA Forest Service

Burban and Kyle brought a number of information publications for participants. Burban reported that the Forest Service’s budget is also under pressure with the 2006 budget reduced 18% from 2005 levels. Several years ago, the Community Forestry budget was \$36 million. Within the 2006 budget it is \$28 million with MN’s allocation being \$224,000.

Kyle gave an update on oak wilt, EAB, and Gypsy Moth. MN, WI and MI are receiving federal funding to implement Cooperative Oak Wilt Suppression Programs. Guidelines for these programs are currently under development. Emerald ash borer continues to spread in MI with new finds recorded in areas of OH, IN and Ontario. Gypsy Moth is still not permanently established in MN and eradication treatments continued in Tower, MN and Cook County in an effort to control any spread. Several other publications that had recently been updated were also discussed.

Tree Trust

Brown reviewed several 2005 highlights. The SE Asian Initiative works with Asian community groups to increase their understanding of and participation in urban and community forestry. The Plymouth Avenue project is creating a model community forestry program in North Minneapolis. ReLeaf is a continuing focus of Tree Trust to provide technical assistance to communities on tree planting, assessment, forest health, and to build capacity in communities. Our Town Trees is a five station exhibit to demonstrate the benefits of the urban forest. Working with the Home Depot Foundation, Tree Trust awarded eight community grants totaling \$17,100. Tree Trust staff remained active in the Firewise Community Program, the Invasive Species Outreach Session, and 12 school planting projects.

MN Department of Agriculture

Cervanka reported that the Dept. had moved from their old facilities on Plato Blvd. to Robert St. N. into a brand new building and lab with room for expansion. New units were also added to their division. Emerald Ash Borer surveys were a big focus this last year with (thankfully) none found. The MN Invasive Species Advisory Committee was active and held a conference attended by 70 people to review the strategic plan and complete implementation tables. The Governor declared October as invasive species month. A buckthorn removal event was also held.

Motion by Max, second by Cervanka to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan J. Hacker