

## **Joint Minnesota-Wisconsin Council Meeting**

October 13, 2017

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

### **PURPOSES OF JOINT MEETINGS:**

- Learn how others operate.
- Determine how to develop a shared voice for greater impact at the state and national levels.

## **Facilitated conversation: How can state councils most effectively and efficiently collaborate and share resources?**

### **SHARED VOICE**

1. How can Councils develop a shared voice for greater impact at the state and national levels?
  - Create similar talking points
  - Communicate regarding specific topics
  - Understand what problems each other have knowing some similarities/differences
  - Engage on national level like SUFC, ACT, SAF, NUCFAC, ISA
  - Perhaps create a regional/Midwest UF Council
  - Talk about funding trends at national level.
  - Hard to have shared voice for greater impact
  - Identify what could jointly advocate for. As unified voice say we want more funding for ... Grow the pie.
  - Include State Foresters in meetings because they have impact at national level

### **COUNCIL/STATE STAFF ROLES**

2. What roles can councils play to strengthen state urban forestry programs? Focus on what is currently lacking.
  - Maintain dialogue with State Forester
  - Bring issues from issue group they represent back and forth to Council to help daylight what issues partners have
  - Promote work that state agencies are doing. Ask if you don't know what they are doing.
  - Stronger participation in reviewing/updating SFAP. Urban representatives get drowned out by greater numbers of other program/topic representatives. Urban is a good connection between people and forests.
  - Establish priorities for external partners and build the task force that needs to tackle the issue (e.g., MI oak wilt)
  - Restructure meetings so less agency update and more listening to issues raised by Council members. Each council members share what is going on in pre-meeting work. Or adjust if too much in the opposite direction. Finding the balance is difficult in daylong meeting.
  - Time meetings to follow monthly educational forums.

- Figure out how benefits from UF can affect all forestry programs/activities to help/inform cooperative forestry leaders (e.g., water quality, invasive species).
  - Ensure that council represents diversity of communities/population.
  - Advocate with state legislators.
  - Think about adding regulatory agencies as representatives on councils.
  - After prioritization of talking points have articles for media for population with council named.
  - Weekly email.
  - Develop a “SWAT TEAM” that can be available to go to committee meeting.
3. What roles can state staff play to strengthen state councils? Focus on what is currently lacking.
- Strengthen the brand of the state DNR in terms of urban forestry...shows partnership.
  - Provide guidance on roles of state councils in working with the legislature (e.g., non-profit?). If you can't find a workaround. Work together to set up educational opportunities.
  - Have talking points and designated people to be at committee meetings ready to speak.
  - Be patient with council. Council members do not always understand each other's roles as volunteers...don't necessarily know processes...and are volunteers.
  - Help councils understand state budget processes and staff with legislative responsibilities.
  - Provide funding to help support council member's attendance at development/training.
  - Counsel council on NAASF Sub-Committees and products...and leverage council input to NAASF UCF Committee.
  - Support council with funding to help meet goals.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS/DIALOGUE**

4. How? Where? When? Frequency?
- Council chairs on Midwest conference call, either on own (promising to report back to state) or with State Coordinators.
  - Base information compiled and shared about structure and funding sources. Perhaps Forest Service could complete.
  - Talk about way to get Council chairs to NAASF UCF meeting or Partners Conference for annual meeting. Utilize scholarships to facilitate council participation. Explore Forest Service's ability to support. Determine purpose of meeting.
  - Increase communication between states regarding meetings/topics/locations/conferences so council member from neighboring state can attend.
  - Tech transfer/sharing of each other's products/issue groups—communication channels.
  - Attend each other's councils meetings...council members and/or staff.
  - One state hosting a council meeting and invites council members from other states..annually. Benefit in having all council members not just exec leadership.

5. What are the highest priority topics for discussion?

- Funding at the federal level
- SFAP
- Midwest urban wood network
- EAB Response..how states are responding
- Data management, assessment, goal setting
- Regional educational opportunities/sharing of them especially on border
- Creative funding
- LSR and other grant opportunities
- Stormwater progress
- Urban forest strike team
- Changes in regulatory status of all invasive species (what's coming down the pike), wood movement and use
- Bats
- Conversations on successes with legislators
- Ways to increase council member participation, recruitment, retention, termination
- How to get people off your board