

## DNR UCF Updates

Date: 10/20/2022

### Staff Updates

- Emma Schultz, Community Forest Project Specialist, came back from parental leave on September 1, 2022.
- We are currently waiting for DNR's Human Resources review for a 3 year project specialist position to assist with the LCCMR Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB.
- Gary Michael will be stepping back from his role on the MnSTAC Board and Valerie McClannahan will be stepping in to take his place.

### Grant Updates

- Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB (LCCMR):
  - Contracts with partners and competitive grant applicants have been fully executed.
- 2022 Preparing for EAB received 22 application totaling \$1.8 million in requests. A total of 21 application were funded.
  - Contracts with competitive grant applicants have been fully executed.
- A competitive grant from the Forest Service was awarded for \$489,000 to assist in public and private tree planting with a focus on underserved communities.
- The UCF team is being awarded funds from the Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Act for:
  - Environmental Justice
  - Urban Wood Utilization
  - EAB Assistance to the new finds in NE Minnesota
- A Request for Applications is being developed for the ongoing state funding. This round incorporates the significant reduction in funding from \$1.7 million to \$400,000.

### Legislative Updates

- The Urban and Community Forestry team submitted a change level request for additional funding around MN Releaf (statute 88.82) with an emphasis on emerald ash borer management.

### Program Updates

- Due to lack of staffing within our Communications Unit, DNR will not be producing an official Arbor Month campaign. UCF staff will still be obtaining the Arbor Day and Arbor Month Governor's Proclamation.
- Emma Schultz has begun working on a community management survey and will be looking to garner management information required by the Forest Service as well as information on wood waste and utilization.
- Our newly-hired Community Environmental Justice Coordinator made contact with a number of different individuals from community organizations and NGOs as well as the municipal

jurisdictions in Minneapolis and St. Paul to introduce the DNR UCF position and gather information on community work related to greening initiatives, with the goal of building relationships and connecting resources to their efforts. She has also made an effort to regularly connect with other tree equity specialists from across the country. They will be speaking at the 50 States Meeting at the Partners in Community Forestry conference in November.

- Scholarships for ISA Certified Arborist for under-represented arborists has restarted with MSA. Under-represented arborists include: Black, Indigenous, People of Color; LGBTQI; Disability status; Veteran; Low-income; Woman; Living outside of 7-county metro. Scholarships will fund: exam fee; computer testing fee; and Arborists' Certification Study Guide. <http://msa-live.org/isa-certified-arborist-scholarship>
- Tree City USA applications are being accepted now through December 31.