



New Jersey Community Forestry Council  
Meeting Minutes  
In-Person and Virtual Meeting, Forest Resource Education Center  
July 11, 2024; 10:00 AM

The July bi-monthly meeting of the New Jersey Community Forestry Council (“Council”) was called to order by Vice Chairperson Pam Zipse at 10am and the Open Public Meetings Act notice was read. The notice was also available in the meeting packet. The roll call was taken by David DeCredico.

Members Present: Kristin Ace, Mark Beamish, Neil Blitz (late), Steve Chisholm (late), Barry Emens, Dr. Jason Grabosky, Joseph M. Greipp, Lori Jenssen, Dr. Mathew Olsen, Lisa Simms, Michael Martini, Tim Ifill

Excused: Carl Bowles, Vinh Lang, Dr. Melanie McDermott

NJ Forest Service Present: State Forester Todd Wyckoff, Terri Slack, Patricia Shapella, Gail Harrje, Ryan Bellinger, Cara Escalona, David DeCredico, Rachael Vannatta, Michael Hart, and Delysse Leonard. Quorum was met upon completion of the roll call.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from 5/9/2024 Meeting**

Pam Zipse called attention to the March meeting minutes. Neil Blitz moved to approve, seconded by Barry Emens. The vote to approve was unanimous. Steve Chisholm abstained.

**State Forester’s Report**

State Forester Todd Wyckoff welcomed Tim Ifill as a new council member from Collingswood. Mr. Wyckoff announced two new hires in Ryan Bellinger with the UCF program and Anthony Burgos with the Private Lands program but to also help the UCF program. There are two others as well, and two more coming soon. The UCF program has also hired Delysse Leonard as a grant assistant with Pat Shapella. Staff and guidelines committee have been working on putting together a consultants outreach meeting. Program is looking for nominations for program awards, due by August 30. Mr. Wyckoff gave an overview of recent staff participation in NMSFA and NASF meetings. Green Communities grant is currently in testing and should be available soon.

**Chairperson’s Report**

Ms. Zipse welcomed Tim Ifill. Ms. Zipse stated that the guidelines committee is excited for guidelines rollout. Ms. Zipse congratulated NJFS for new hires.

**New Business****Fiscal Report**

Patricia Shapella reported on the fiscal state of the program, which was provided in the packet.

**Program Report**

Ryan Bellinger provided the program report, also included in the packet. Ryan and Rachael Vannatta discussed total accreditation numbers and missing AARs.

**Legislative Issues**

Ms. Slack provided the legislative report, also included in the packet. Discussion ensued surrounding current legislation.

**Subcommittee Reports**

Pam Zipse noted that the CFMP Review committee had no new plans for review, but is anxiously waiting for Green Communities grant to open for new plans to come in for review.

Dr. Grabosky noted Guidelines Subcommittee is working on rollout and also mentioned the potential for new plans to come in soon, along with adding new members to CFMP review committee.

No Net Loss Subcommittee noted that there was no update.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**Public Comment**

Kristin Ace asked if there was any information available regarding a municipalities lack of stormwater ordinance and enforcement measures.

Ms. Zipse reminded the council that the NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference will be held October 17 & 18 in Atlantic City.