

# NAASF Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Committee

## Proposed FY10 Work Plan and Budget

### Primary Committee Work Issue:

1. Renew formal UCF Committee meeting in New York in May, 2010.

#### Background:

Due to budgetary and travel restrictions during 2009 the annual face-to-face UCF Committee meeting, scheduled for Cincinnati, Ohio, was canceled. However, to ensure continued Committee dialogue and business, a full Committee webinar, hosted by OH DNR and USFS, was held on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

This format proved successful and achieved its goals with 31 participants representing 19 states, DC, NAASF and USFS staff. However, due to the shortened timeframe and lack of face-to-face interaction, the meeting was limited to abbreviated updates and critical business issues and lacked the annual peer-to-peer interaction necessary to sustain productive committee member relations. Consequently, it is deemed a high priority to return to the rotating schedule of meetings in 2010, with the host state being New York.

#### Actions:

##### *Committee Leadership Team will:*

- encourage Committee members to begin planning/budgeting for travel to 2010 meeting
- keep committee membership updated on relevant dates, deadlines, expenses etc.
- assist host state in developing meeting agenda, budget, registration etc.
- identify meaningful pre-work and intended outcomes to justify member travel and participation
- provide post-meeting summary and reporting to full Committee as needed

##### *Host State will:*

- identify and announce dates, location(s) and other logistic issues related to meeting
- work with Committee Leadership Team to develop agenda, budget, registration etc.
- work with NAASF to handle all financial issues and related meeting expenses
- invite the UCF Southern Region Chair or representative to attend this meeting

**Primary Contact:** Mary Kramarchyk (NY)

### Additional Committee Work Issues:

2. Develop strategies and plan for NAASF to consider for urging greater focus and funding for research and technology transfer in the area of "Urban Natural Resources Stewardship" by USDA Forest Service Research and Development mission area.

#### Background:

National, State and local UCF programs have benefited tremendously from the existing Forest Service research efforts in Urban Natural Resources Stewardship. The results of these efforts are incorporated and visible in cutting edge technology (e.g. i-Tree software), science-

based reports (e.g. carbon sequestration and urban trees) as well as through various educational materials (e.g. Natural Inquirer).

The audiences served by State and Private Forestry need this research and technology transfer now more than ever to justify their continued commitment to maintaining the ecosystem services provided by trees and urban forests during these tough economic times. Therefore, it is critical for State Foresters to identify research priorities and support expanded funding for USDA Forest Service Research and Development in Urban Natural Resources Stewardship. These investments will help to advance our influence with decision-makers in urban and community environments, where the vast majority of the American public live and work.

Action(s):

- identify and promote high priority research and replicable tools and technology that complement and strengthen the delivery of State and Private Forestry in urban and community environments
- prepare plan and strategies which support NAASF consideration and NASF action in promoting an expanded focus on Urban Natural Resource Stewardship within the USDA Forest Service Research and Development mission area
- engage state forestry agency partners to create a unified message and strategy of support for an expanded focus on research and technology transfer in Urban Natural Resource Stewardship by the USDA Forest Service

**Primary Contact(s):** Danielle Fitzko (VT), Richard Rideout (WI)

3. Compile and share state-specific assessments related to *Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies* targeted toward urban and community areas within NA.

Background:

State Forestry agencies must complete their forest resource assessments and strategies by the end of 2010. Each will develop unique actions and strategies appropriate to best achieve results on the ground and across the continuum of land uses from urban to rural environments. This effort will compile and share these strategies/actions with committee membership to advance peer-to-peer learning and spur discussion for the 2010 committee meeting.

Action(s):

- compile state specific assessments and related resources from individual states
- host region-wide webinar by January, 2010 to share/review assessments and related strategies/actions with committee membership

**Primary Contact(s):** Danielle Fitzko (VT), Mary Kramarchyk (NY)

4. Assist the Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) in effort to pilot test the new online Tree City USA application review process.

Background:

The NASF UCF Committee in partnership with the ADF has identified the need to test a new software tool that will facilitate enrollment, tracking and reporting of annual Tree City USA applications.

Action(s):

- provide committee membership with details of new process from ADF
- identify two states committee representatives willing to represent NAASF in the testing of this new software; preference is for one large and one small state.
- representatives will participate in the trial and report back to committee

**Primary Contact:** Drew Todd (OH)

5. Host an initial NA-wide webinar (fall 09) for 'state sharing' as a means to communicate state/region specific activities and encourage peer-to-peer learning with counterparts across the region. Additional quarterly webinars to follow on an as-needed basis.

Background:

Annual meetings of the UCF Committee have been used as the only opportunity for state coordinators to share unique projects, processes, and lesson's learned with their peers. Coordinators meet quarterly lead by some NA field offices, but that is limited to their seven state service areas. The use of new web-based technology will enable sharing across boundaries and catalyze fresh replication and cross state/region communication.

Action(s):

- establish webinar agenda, structure and process for efficient state sharing
- coordinate with NA region Tech Transfer Center staff to host webinar
- gauge need/desire for additional webinars and schedule as needed
- post relevant notes and resources to NAASF UCF committee website

**Primary Contact:** Leadership Committee

6. Encourage state participation in federal Urban Forest Strike Team training.

Background:

An ever increasing number of catastrophic events are striking our region, from ice storms to hurricanes, tornados, and flooding. The Northeastern Area is ramping up training to develop a cadre of state professionals willing and able to respond to crisis when it happens. Focused on survey and assessment, the team training will build on shared expertise to help communities identify hazards using FEMA approved forms/processes so communities can do the required work of removal and replacement with a high probability of reimbursement.

Action(s):

- request state foresters to allow staff participation in training
- request state foresters to encourage USFS to allocate funds necessary to support this effort and participant travel expenses
- identify 5-10 committee members or state staff to attend training and report to full committee

**Primary Contact:** Leadership Committee

7. Involvement in developing the Urban Forest Health Information Center (UFORHIC)

Background:

NAASF has reviewed and approved development of UFORHIC, which will compile tree survey and inventory data together with pest signs and symptoms data to support early detection and rapid response efforts in the urban environment. A Technical Work Group (TWG) is being formed to support project development and implementation. The UCF Committee will assign a representative.

Action(s):

- identify a state committee representative and support their engagement with TWG
- provide background information to committee representative

**Primary Contact:** Committee member *tbd*

**Urban and Community Forestry Committee: Proposed FY10 Budget**

	Estimated	Paid by NAASF
<b>Total Estimated Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,400.00</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>

	Costs	Revenue
<b>Annual Meeting</b>		
Room rental for meeting	\$1,000.00	
Speaker allowance	\$1,000.00	
Meals, breaks, etc.	\$4,000.00	
Travel for field trip	\$2,000.00	
Other expenses	\$1,400.00	
Existing balance		\$400.00
Registration income		\$9,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,400.00</b>	<b>\$9,400.00</b>

	Costs	NAASF
<b>NAASF Summer Meeting</b>		
Travel & lodging costs for UCF Committee Chair to attend meeting	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
<b>NAASF UCF Committee Meeting</b>		
Travel & lodging costs for State Forester liaison to attend meeting	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>

**FY 09 Urban and Community Forestry Committee Leadership Team:**

Kevin Sayers, Chair (Michigan)  
 Danielle Fitzko, Vice-Chair (Vermont)  
 Rachel Billingham, Secretary (Pennsylvania)