



Joint Clean Water Commission – Vancouver Urban Forestry Commission Special Meeting Summary

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 ~ 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

City of Vancouver, Birch Conference Room

I. ROLL CALL and INTRODUCTIONS

UFC Chair, Clif Barnes, called the meeting order at 6:05pm and each commissioner and staff from both jurisdictions introduced themselves.

UFC Members Present: Clif Barnes, Jamie Beyer, Ammaar Akhtar, Lauren Danner, Jess Durfee, and Hedi Mandler-Huff (v)

UFC Members Absent: Lucius Shields

CWC Members Present: Tracy Ceravolo, John Chatel (v), Glen DeWillie, Ted Gathe, and Emily Hess

CWC Members Absent: Alejandra Cortes, Rudy Salakory and Alison Schweitzer

Staff Present: Devan Rostorfer, Jenny Coker (v), and Alice Millward,

CoV Staff Present: Charles Ray, Jessica George

Public Present: Sunrise O'Mahoney

(v) indicates appeared via video conference

Approval Meeting Minutes: Since the CWC was invited to the UFC's regular meeting as guests, this is not a Clean Water Commission business meeting. Therefore, no CWC minutes approved, nor 'actions' taken. The City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry Commission approved their June meeting minutes.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Sunrise O'Mahoney, Executive Director for the Watershed Alliance of SW WA, gave a brief overview of their efforts to build canopy capacity in Clark county by planting 15,000 shrubs and trees annually. She is interested in future partnership opportunities with both organizations. She has been asked to come to a future UFC meeting to further discuss her program and potential canopy planting opportunities.



III. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry Program Presentation: (Jessica George)

Jessica gave a brief overview of the City of Vancouver's 20+ year old Urban Forestry Program and how they have mapped their canopy as well as programs they have in place to preserve, protect and increase their canopy. They have a three-pronged approach: maintain what they have, add to current inventory by planting 2,000 trees annually and creating stewardship opportunities and programs for residents to utilize.

There was additional explanation and discussion surrounding various urban forestry programs, the city's best management practices, their street tree program, their work with PlanitGeo to create their tree canopy assessment and mapping, volunteer opportunities with organizations such as Friends of Trees, Backyard Habitat, as well as the significant and varied benefits of trees for the community, wildlife, property values, area residents and as a tool to fight the effects of climate change.

Click link to see the [Urban Forestry Presentation](#).

For more information about the City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry Department and Commission, visit the following websites:

Link to www.cityofvancouver.us/urban-forestry

Link to the [City of Vancouver Urban Forestry FAQs](#)

Link to the [Urban Forestry Commission](#)

Clark County Clean Water Division and Commission Presentation: (Devan Rostorfer)

- Devan gave a brief overview of the Clean Water division's work and the mission, vision and role of the Clean Water Commission. She gave an overview of the CWC's 2024 Annual Report and the commission's 2025 priorities. One of which was the CWC meeting with other boards and commissions such as the CoV's Urban Forestry Commission.

Devan presented a high-level overview of the county's brand new Urban Tree Canopy Assessment for the area in unincorporated Clark County within the Urban Growth Boundary which was funded by a Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant. It creates a baseline assessment which future mapping efforts can be compared with. This report will be presented to county leadership in the coming months.

The Urban Tree Canopy Assessment report was created by PlanitGeo - the same company that City of Vancouver and other local municipalities have used for their tree canopy assessments. There was discussion and encouragement for the data to be combined from all into a shared map that encompasses all of the jurisdictions. Devan also reviewed the Minnehaha tree enhancement implementation pilot program which planted in parks and street right of ways and/or distributed to residents 2,000 trees in the Minnehaha area.

Click link for the [Clark County Clean Water Division and Commission Presentation](#).



Commissioner Discussions:

- Both commissions and staff eagerly discussed various ways of working together to achieve more overall tree canopy coverage, creating more diverse riparian planting areas, boosting the effects of biodiversity, and additional ways of mitigating the negative effects of climate change through trees.
- There was discussion about effects of increasing biodiversity and native species plantings and the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for these. Both commissions are interested in pursuing further communication and opportunities to work together towards increasing the canopy in the county. Both organizations are also interested in potentially creating more incentive programs, coordinated messaging and volunteer opportunities. There will be follow up discussions on how best to achieve the desired outcomes.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION / COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS:

- Various UFC commissioners highlighted what they have done in their subcommittees which included Outreach, Pollinator, Corridor, and Heritage Tree subcommittee. They also highlighted their efforts within the community. Most were actively involved volunteering at the June Vancouver's Bee Festival despite the bad weather in addition to many individual volunteer / outreach efforts. There was interest in creating a "mascot" who would be in costume and interact with the public at various events.
- UFC Commissioner Akhtar shared a research article from WSU Vancouver about the trees best suited for stormwater infiltration. He also reviewed the highlights from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) workshop. There are inoculations available which will help ash trees fight off EABs.
- UFC Commissioner Beyer discussed Tree Board University, and a webinar about thermal friendly trees as a form of climate resilience. She also highlighted a google map of "Heritage Trees".
- CWC Commissioner Ceravolo described her recent work as a certifier with Backyard Habitat, her activities on the Clark Conservation District's board and her passion for incorporating native vegetation into landscape design.
- CWC Commissioner Hess highlighted her family's experience at the Pollinator Festival, and recent involvement with the youth sailing regatta on Vancouver Lake.
- CWC Commissioner DeWillie discussed his volunteer work with the Camas Earth Day Society, the Living Laboratory at Prune Hill Elementary and plans to create higher level learning opportunities at Camas High School focused on regenerative farming and land management practices, the Youth Vermiculture Science Project, his stewardship efforts at Lacamas Lake, the potential PFAS contamination in Camas' drinking water supply, and his recent volunteer work with the tree planting activities with the Watershed Alliance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Audio/video recordings of this and most previous Clean Water Commission meetings are available through the county website at: <https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/clean-water-commission>.