

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL URBAN FORESTS COUNCIL MINTUES  
**February 1, 2012**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Mike Palat at 11:05 a.m. at the CA Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE), San Diego, CA. Welcoming and introductions took place.

**Presentation:**

Robin Rivet, Urban Forester & Administrator for CCSE presented the “San Diego Trees Urban Mapping Project”. Members were able to get a perspective into the creation of how the tree map website was developed. The presentation included the history and timeline of what was done to prepare for the official launching of the website to the public anticipated for March 1, 2012. Tree inventories for street trees in 12 cities and several campuses have already been compiled. It provides a way for municipalities, businesses, schools and individuals to enter new data into the map and calculate the return on investment their trees provide, from conserving water and cleaning the air to saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. To access the website go to [www.sandiegotrees.org](http://www.sandiegotrees.org). Check out the video <http://vimeo.com/11129193> and [www.urbanforest.treemap](http://www.urbanforest.treemap). If one does not know what type of tree is being inventoried they can access the link <http://www.urbantreekey.org> to help key out the different types of trees, provided by the Center for Urban Forestry Research.

Robin thanked Mike and West Coast Arborist for allowing access of the many tree inventories for most of the cities in San Diego County.

Robin spoke about the Advice & Technical Assistance Center for Urban Forestry which was made possible by a Cal Fire grant, “Innovative” grant award. The grant has allowed for a new library reference center, the display board at the CCSE, and websites linking to other resources.

Mike and other members commended and thanked Robin on the outstanding job, dedication, and devotion of time towards the San Diego Trees Urban Mapping Project and the many other endeavors and projects that she has created and successfully accomplished.

**Business Meeting:**

**Executive Committee Update**

- Mike spoke about the Executive Board meetings on renovating the display board and the recent changes in our mission statement, vision statement, and who we are,
- The US Dept of Forestry has donated five scholarships to attend the Smart Growth Conference in San Diego. Those attending will be Mike, Delia, Anne Fage, Ty Sterns, and Vince Mikulanis.
- Delia and Mike spoke about the mentorship program that MiraCosta College would like to implement and have the members act as mentors to the students. If interested please contact Mike. A sign-up sheet will be distributed for volunteers.

**Three Trees Presentation**

- Marv Lyons, Vision 2000 encouraged members if there are new born infants or any other celebration they will give 3 new trees to plant as a memorable event.

**Arbor Day Events**

- Mike encouraged all to notify him of any Arbor Day events. The events will be posted on the CaUFC, SDRUFC and Arbor Day Foundation websites.
  - April 28 – City of Coronado
  - March 17 – SanTree Fest
  - May 5 – Santee Lakes

### **Cal Fire Grant Program**

- Lynnette Short updated members about the fall proposals, in mid Dec. decisions were made to invite the final participants for consideration. End of March will announce the final recipients
- Six proposals for San Diego County are moving forward
- Received 18 million grant monies, 4.5 million to spend
- Applications are getting more and more competitive
- Unsure of next fiscal year due to lack of additional funding
- Encourage advocacy of urban forests programs by show casing why everyone can benefit

### **CaUFC Update**

- Fausto Palafox, Board Member of CaUFC informed members that CaUFC contracted with a lobbyist firm to have a stronger voice in Sacramento
- CaUFC main goal for this year is to solicit businesses, regions, and organizations for funding by visiting the “Invest From the Ground Up” website
- Nancy Hughes, Executive Director can customize posters/banners for regional councils or special events
- Work is being done with the California Cap & Trade
- Mike announced that the first Leadership Workshop will be held in Los Angeles in February

### **SDG&E Update**

- Dan Bohnett spoke about the “Energy Innovation Center”, 47<sup>th</sup> St. in Claremont Blvd.,
- Funding for CCSE is closing out at the end of the year
- Bruce Taylor, SDG&E Forester gave an update concerning work in his area
- Jimmie Webb submitted to the Arbor Day Foundation the various Arbor Day events that were held by SDG&E and was awarded an “Arbor Day Award”
- SDG&E has held the status for “Tree Lined USA” for 4 years
- Funding for certain programs are under scrutiny with education being the main reason that funding occurs
- Looking into seeing if CCSE link can be on SDG&E’s website

### **Regional Updates**

- Danielle Campbell announced that their projects are coming to an end such as the moving of firewood and GSOB website
- Mike informed us that WCA was doing a lot of preserving and reserving of existing trees
- Sergio Arias, Davey Trees is working with SDG&E on fire control under the utility lines
- Mike Marika has been growing 15 species of Ficus trees which have been successful
- Drew Potocki, City of S.D. is working underground utilities and has saved 3 to 4 thousand of trees. The city is offering a \$50,000 prize to develop an app

- Anne Fage gave a summary of the SD Children in Nature project made possible by a Cal Fire grant which will develop new school curriculum, outdoor nature program, and tree inventory data collection with youth. SDRUFC will be helping with instructing the teachers about urban forestry and collecting tree inventory data
- Andrea Cook, CCSE has been working on quantifications of the benefits of tree/costs
- Mark Wisniewski spoke about adaptation and mitigation and climate credit exchange, he mentioned every 30 years climate is re-evaluated. San Diego County is getting drier. He has been working on specifications for homeowner associations and annual management plans
- City of Coronado announced that they have been a Tree City USA for the last 27 years. Martin Morales is recognized as a Master Climber throughout the industry
- Tim Crothers is a new employee with West Coast Arborists and attended the regional council for the first time
- Robin Rivet notified members that this Sunday the Del Cero “Birthday of Trees” celebration is being held. She mentioned sometime before Feb. 13 she will be giving a presentation to the San Diego Horticultural Society titled “All About Trees” to 1500 members
- Mike announced that there will be a two-day Tree Risk Assessment Certified Exam (T.R.A.C.E.) workshop given on March 19 – 20 at the San Diego Botanical Garden. Delia mentioned that next year the test and qualifications will become more difficult and will be changed to Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (T.R.A.Q.)

**Next Meeting and Adjournment:**

Next meeting will be held on April 4, 2012. Venue to be determined.

---

End of Minutes