

**SAN DIEGO REGIONAL URBAN FORESTS COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**February 2, 2011**

**Welcome and Introduction:**

Meeting commenced at 11:00 a.m. at the Urban Corps of San Diego Community Room. Sam Lopez - U.C. Mgr. of Operations and Mike Palat – President of SDRUFC welcomed all and introductions took place. Sam awarded Mike with a trophy for recognition of outstanding services and volunteerism towards urban forestry.

**Presentation:**

Sam Olundunfe, Facilities Mgmt. Assist. Superintendent for UC San Diego presented “Sampling of Retrofit Parking Lot Designs for Shade Trees”, a recap of Dave Dockter’s talk at the 2010 CaUFC Conference.

Several slides depicted installation of new construction as well as retrofit work to improve existing parking lots with saw-cut swales, pervious sectional areas and various surface materials and treatment. Utilizing CU Soils (engineered structural type soil mix consisting of a sandy loam, gravel and a polymer) were shown in various types of applications. Other aspects of work showed ways to help bio-filtrate storm water run-off by installing Silva Cells with light compaction fill. Trees grow best when drainage is allowed to infiltrate at  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch per hour after completion of compaction.

Members asked about problems with “perched water table” and CU Soils. Many times problems will form later, soil below becomes super saturated which justify for extra drainage systems.

By using 1,200 cu. ft. of structural-type soil per mix, an urban tree will be allowed to grow more vigorously to reach maturity in 40 years.

Landscape architectural plans need good specifications and plans as well as a city landscape manual and street design manual enforcing the concept of good best management practices.

**Business Meeting:**

Mike announced if you would like to be part of the Executive Board, please show up at 10:00 a.m. before the general meeting.

Discussion took place on how to use our \$2000 fund given each year from the state to regional councils, among the suggestions were:

- offer a scholarship grant to attend a conference and present to council
- sponsor a city or entity that does not have Tree City USA status with an arbor day event or other type of planting event
- help a college campus that does not have Tree Campus USA with an arbor day event or other type of planting event
- help a non-profit organization plant trees at their facility

**Action needed:** email Mike Palat at [mikepalat@aol.com](mailto:mikepalat@aol.com) with your nomination.

### **Regional Updates:**

- CAL FIRE update: Lynnette Short
  - 8 million dollars allocated towards different types of urban forestry grant categories for: tree planting; reaching out; innovative; u.f. mgmt; and u.f. inventory.
  - Only organizations with 501.C3 status are qualified applicants.
  - Final proposals were collected; in Feb. recipients will be posted in the web site.
  - Among this year applicants were Urban Corp, City of Chula Vista and City of San Marcos.
  - Next year's program will be deferred until July when the state budget is approved.
  - Grants are normally funded but due to economic restraints not sure if the politicians will support future grants. The "greening" concept is popular with the politicians so hopefully funding will continue.
- CaUFC update: Mike Palat
  - Mike and Robin Rivet attended last meeting
  - Reorganization is taking place with emphasizes on fund raising, policy changes and promoting advocacy in Sacramento
- WCISA update: Mike Palat
  - This year conference will be held May 11 – 13 at the La Jolla Hyatt Hotel.
  - Those that would like to volunteer their time to help with the conference should contact Mike at [mikepalat@aol.com](mailto:mikepalat@aol.com).
  - Delia added that a mentoring program is being worked on and perhaps partnering with CaUFC in the near future.

### **Open Discussions:**

- Larry O'Leary announced that Dri-Water received a ReLeaf grant and is offering tubes that could be distributed for Arbor Day if sites did not have available water.
- Adrienne Lovejoy now works for ECOtality, a company that constructs electrical car charging units called "Blink" chargers made possible through the Dept. of Energy Stimulus grant.
- Dan Bohnett - SDG&E announced that they would like to work more with cities and in particular during Arbor Day where trees can be given to residents. Get to know your area forester.
- Danielle Campbell – Resource Conservation District announced that they have a couple of thousand pine plugs/seedlings available. Contact her at 619.749.4232 if you are interested.
- Eric Wolff – U.C. is working with SDG&E on a couple of sites; community row project; environmental enhancement in Spring Valley and four more projects coming up; have 1800 new trees to be planted.
- Annette Saul – City of Santee is going to be celebrating Arbor Fest Day on March 5 everyone is welcome
- Anne Fege – Museum of Natural History is working on a program to help connect children with nature and outdoors, they are looking for opportunities for an in/after school program.

- City of San Diego is giving rebates for turf replacement.
- Robin Rivet – is managing the CCSE urban forestry program. They have been awarded a Cal Fire grant for this program. March 2, all are welcome to attend the “Grand Opening” from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The “Landscape Sustainability 101” along with a refreshment hour is being offered from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. She is currently working on developing a web site where anyone can join their link; “lending library’ display and other urban forestry exhibits. If you would like to contribute to the lending library or exhibits, please contact Robin at 858.634.4741.

**Next Meeting and Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. and members were able to tour U.C. new facility and the “roof top garden”.

The next meeting date and place is to be announced at a later date.

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End of Minutes

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