

Memorandum of Understanding
Alaska Urban and Community Forest Council
and
Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection

The Alaska Urban & Community Forest Council (Council) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DNR) renew this MOU for the purpose of revising and continuing the established framework for a relationship within which the Council and DNR will cooperate in areas of mutual concern and benefit. The Council and the DNR acknowledge and support the commitment each has to the enhancement of Alaskan communities through the planting, management and care of community trees and forests.

Role of the Council

The mission of the Council is "promoting the benefits of local trees and forests to improve Alaskan communities." Partnerships with volunteers, professionals and local governments assist the Council in achieving its mission. It is a nonprofit corporation composed of private citizens, business representatives and government officials. The Council was formed in 1991 in response to the federal requirements in the Urban and Community Forestry Section of the 1990 Farm Bill. The federal government requires that states must meet four core program performance requirements to receive federal funding; 1) urban and community forestry program coordinator; 2) a volunteer/partnership coordinator; 3) an urban and community forestry council and, 4) state program strategic planning. The requirements are to assist the DNR in meeting the Urban and Community Forestry National Program Standards and the Alaska Community Forestry Program goals. The Council shall:

- a. Function as the advisory "Community Forestry Council" to the State Forester for the Alaska Community Forestry Program in accordance with current national program standards.
- b. Meet regularly to provide comprehensive and consistent advice and counsel on the Alaska Community Forestry Program.
- c. Advise the State Forester on appropriate ways to define, develop, direct and deliver a community forestry program to Alaskan communities and provide feedback on the effectiveness of implementation efforts.
- d. Assist the State Forester to develop the Alaska Forest Action Plan Strategy (five-year plan).
- e. Advise the State Forester on program emphasis and priorities for statewide effectiveness.
- f. Review and recommend the criteria and guidelines for community forestry grant programs administered by the Division of Forestry.
- g. Review community forestry grant applications and recommend projects for funding to the State Forester.
- h. Encourage and support outreach into Alaska's communities and neighborhoods to ensure that the Program is sensitive and responsive to cultural, economic and geographic diversity.

- i. Encourage participation by Council members in local community forestry activities and events.
- j. In recognition of Alaska's unique mix of physical environments, native peoples and remote communities, encourage the highest possible level of funding support for the Alaska Community Forestry Program by the United States Forest Service and other potential funding sources.

Role of the Department of Natural Resources

The mission of the Alaska Community Forestry Program is "to help communities build effective, self-sustaining community forestry and tree care programs with strong local support."

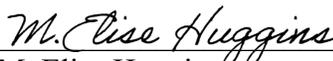
To achieve its mission and in support of the Council, the DNR agrees to:

- a. Maintain relationship with Council as an advisory body on a statewide representative basis.
- b. Maintain contact and participation with the Council and have at least one program staff member present at each advisory meeting.
- c. Co-sponsor Council public workshops and conferences when appropriate.
- d. Coordinate and assist, as appropriate, with communications between Council committees, Council members and program staff concerning matters of mutual interest.
- e. Maintain a record of Council advisory meeting minutes, public notices and other council records related to its state advisory role as appropriate.
- f. Furnish necessary materials and information on agenda items and issues on which the Council is asked to advise the State Forester.
- g. Assist with appropriate public notice of Council vacancies and open seats in accordance with Council bylaws to assist with recruitment of new members.
- h. Make travel arrangements for voting members to attend advisory meetings and reimburse travel expenses in accordance with State travel regulations.

Duration

The duration of this MOU shall be from the latest date of the approving signatures until terminated by 60 days written notice from either party to the other. Both parties will review the MOU each May and may modify its terms and conditions, at any time, by mutual agreement.

(Revised, May 2001 and August 2023 with no significant changes)



M. Elise Huggins

August 4, 2023
Date



8/4/2023

Helge Eng
State Forester

Date