

MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE URBAN FOREST REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF
ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, AND WASHBURN
HELD AT WASHBURN PUBLIC WORKS BLDG ON JANUARY 28, 2013 AT 10:00 AM

IN ATTENDANCE: Mike Decur - Washburn; Dan Maderich - Ashland; Art Ode, Howard Paap, Jane Edward, and Dionne Johnston - Bayfield

The ad hoc committee discussed their tree inventories, budgets, general operations and challenges as follows:

All three cities had Kelli Tuttle of Bluestem Forestry, conduct a tree inventory survey of their community and provided each community with an excel spreadsheet data base of the inventories so data sharing and comparison of programs should be easy.

All the communities expressed concern that their budgets were inadequate to maintain their urban forests, and grant opportunities are needed but difficult to obtain.

Bayfield and Ashland have Tree Boards, Washburn does not. All agreed that better public relations and understanding of tree issues is a challenge.

All entities are aware of the need for street and park tree diversity and are attempting to reach the DNR's goals for diversity.

Each community does some of the tree work with the municipal work force but relies on professional arborist contractors for dangerous or complicated tree work, including planting and removal. In general the contractors can be obtained but there is a question of whether all contract work should be done by a certified arborist. With that in mind we will all exchange our tree ordinances with each other.

Joint grant opportunities should be explored by the three communities, for tree maintenance, planting and maintaining proper tree inventories and diversity. One very attractive opportunity might be to improve the urban forest in the communities along the recently adopted State Hwy 13 Scenic Byway, even though it does not include the City of Ashland. Art Ode will explore this idea with Bayfield's Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce Director and report back.

The ad hoc committee agreed to meet again in the near future to continue a dialogue.