

Board of Directors

Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee

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| **Executive Leadership** | **Board Position** | **In Attendance** |
| Karen Zumach | President | X |
| Jim Vaughan | Vice-President | X |
| **Long-Term Designated Position** |  |  |
| Gary Michael | MN DNR | X |
| Mark Abrahamson | MDA | X |
| Dave Hanson | MnDOT | X |
| Mike Kilgore | University of Minnesota |  |
| VACANT | Agriculture Extension Service |  |
| Gordon Hanson | Tree Care Advisor |  |
| Ian Vaughan | MSA | X |
| Steve Roos | ASLA (MN Chapter) | X |
| Kevin McDonald | MPCA |  |
| Mike Reinikainen | SAF (MN Chapter) | X |
| Mike McNamara | MNLA |  |
| Anne Oldakowski | MN SWCD | X |
| Gina Hugo | MFA | X |
| Craig Johnson | League of MN Cities |  |
| **Short-Term Non-Designated Position** |  |  |
| James Burks | Municipal Forester-Arborist 1 |  |
| Dustin Ellis | Municipal Forester-Arborist 2 | X |
| Steve Nicholson | Consulting Forester/Arborist | X |
| Patrick Nelson | Utility Forester |  |
| Emily Mumford | Local Tree Board Member | X |
| Dana Slade | Non-profit | X |
| Gail Nozal | Minnesota Corporation |  |
| Sue Granger | At Large Region 1 | Via phone |
| James Lemmerman | At Large Region 2 |  |
| VACANT | At Large Region 3 |  |
| Taylor Stockert | University of MN Student |  |
| **Ex-Officio** |  |  |
| Jill Johnson | U.S. Forest Service |  |
| Valerie McClannahan | MN DNR | X |
| Gary Johnson | University of Minnesota |  |
| Ken Simons | Parliamentarian |  |
| Ryan Murphy | University of Minnesota | X |
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Meeting Agenda

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| **Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2019  **Time:** 8:00 – 10:00 am  **Location:** *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155 – Lobby Conference Room*  **Before meeting**: Review agenda and associated reports; For questions, contact Lisa Loots, DNR Forestry [lisa.loots@state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.loots@state.mn.us)  **Contact**: Karen Zumach, President; 952-767-3886, [karenz@treetrust.org](mailto:karenz@treetrust.org) | **Meeting Purpose:** Governance of  MnSTAC including advising the president, organizing sub-committees, and approving reports, studies and position papers.  **Our mission:** To be the leading advocate for Minnesota’s community forests and to empower and educate Minnesota’s citizens to maximize the coverage, health, quality, function, and future of our community forests. |

1. Call to Order & Welcome – President Karen Zumach – Meeting began at 8:10am. Karen introduced Taylor Stockert, who is the new University of MN student representative.
2. Adopt Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions): Karen proposed an addition to the New Business section of the agenda regarding an Executive Committee Vacancy*.* Steve Nicholson made a motion to approve the addition to the agenda and Steve Roos seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**
3. Consent Agenda
   1. Next BOD meeting October 11, 2019, Joint Council Meeting in Winona, MN, from 9:00 am-3:00 pm (travel accommodations to be announced): Currently, representatives from Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota will all be participating in this year’s joint meeting. The location space is still being finalized, however, carpooling options will be available.
   2. Approve March meeting minutes: No changes suggested. Motion to approve from Dave Hanson and then seconded by Steve Nicholson. **Motion approved.**
4. New Business (in order of priority-those issues not attended to during this discussion will be added to January agenda):
   1. Jim Vaughan is stepping down from his Vice Presidency role and will be leaving the Board as well. His last meeting will be 6/20/19. There will now be a vacancy on the Executive Committee, as well as a Vice-President vacancy. Karen thanked Jim for all of his hard work. Jim, in turn, thanked the Board for their help and support over the years.
   2. Member survey: The member survey was sent out through an email blast. Of the 542 members that received the email, only 27 have currently responded. Ryan Murphy said that about 33% of members have opened the survey email. Karen said that the objective of the email was to receive feedback on the forum sessions. Currently, the forums have been lightly attended, so they hoped to gather more input on the meetings, to assess if it was a good use of time. Karen went on to say that of the people who responded to the survey, their main expectations of MNSTAC are to provide more education about urban and community forestry, and professional development and networking.

She then went on to say that surprisingly, continuing education credits did not seem to be important to those who responded to the survey. In the past, MNSTAC had placed more emphasis on the CEU’s, so it was surprising to see that the preliminary results said otherwise. She also commented that respondents were not interested in attending forum meetings in the evenings or the weekends. Karen also suggested that maybe MNSTAC shift some focus to more educational opportunities for the public.

Steve Nicholson wondered if offering CEU’s had an effect on people’s decision to attend the forums. Karen said that most people who responded to the survey either were on top of their credits, or knew of a variety of other ways to obtain those credits. Steve Roos said that it would depend on what CEU’s were offered and for what criteria was being met. He went on to say that CEU’s need to be broadly applicable in order to count as credit. This generated a brief discussion about CEU credits and how credits could meet different criteria for those seeking to obtain those credits.

Gary Michael then asked if there were people attending the forums who were not members. Karen said that there wasn’t a definitive way to know if people were receiving the emails and then attending, or attending without receiving emails.

Steve Roos asked how long the survey was going to be posted for, and Karen replied that it would be up through the end of the summer. This dovetailed into Steve Nicholson asking about the potential to shift the forum date and time. He suggested that the forum be moved to the end of the workweek, since having the forum in the middle of a workday creates a long day for most people, especially those who don’t live near a forum event location. This created a dialog around travel time, and the group was reminded to keep travel time into consideration - since many of the forum locations are metro specific, but the attendees may not be.

Karen said that there was talk about having six forum meeting per year: two would be directly after Board meetings, two in greater Minnesota, one in December and one as a field day. Dustin Ellis reminded the Board that the spring and fall seasons were very busy times for several forestry professionals, and asked that that could be taken into consideration when planning the forum meetings. Ryan Murphy suggested that the forums could be topic-driven, and therefore people could engage more with a specific topic and would perhaps be more inclined to attend a forum that is located further away.

1. Tree Planting for Diversity Publication: Jim Vaughan and Karen Zumach talked with Ken Simons, the MNSTAC Parliamentarian, about creating a document for communities for planting for diversity. There was a discussion about people in public works positions needing to be aware of EAB and how to manage it – especially in rural areas. Valerie McClannahan had been working with Gary Johnson on a related document. Valerie said that she would reach out to both Gary and Ken to see if there is an opportunity for collaboration.
2. Nomination of vice president: Karen asked those on the Board to consider stepping into a vice presidency role. She went onto explain the additional commitment – which would be once a month meetings. Steve Roos thought that somewhere in the MNSTAC constitution there was a procedure on electing a new vice president. Karen said that she would follow-up with Ken Simons to see what the proper procedure would be.
3. Old Business
4. MDA-EAB Federal Quarantine update: Mark Abrahamson said that the USDA is still processing the comments they received and have stated that there will be an eventual deregulation process. Mark said that there isn’t a timeline for the deregulation process yet.

Karen asked if there was still funding available during the interim process. Mark said that there hasn’t been funding for individual states in several years. Gina Hugo said that she was glad to see that MDA wouldn’t change how they handle EAB, even if the USDA did decide to put deregulation measures in place.

Jim asked Mark if there was any change to how MDA handles the transportation of hardwood firewood. Mark said that there wasn’t an external change – just some minor internal changes in paperwork. Karen then asked Mark if there was anything MNSTAC could do to help with that enforcement. Mark suggested communicating the message to outreach partners and natural resource professionals. He emphasized the need to get the message out to people and said that he was open to suggestions on how to get those messages out to the public. The group then discussed the different penalties and fines associated with moving firewood. Mark said that the fine could be a maximum of $7,500 per day.

Karen encouraged Board members to add quarantine information in their affiliated newsletters.

1. Website Review and Discussion (Please review [www.mnstac.org](http://www.mnstac.org) ahead of the meeting in order to provide feedback): - *Did not discuss.*
2. Legislative update for 2019 session-Craig Johnson/Karen Zumach – *Did not discuss. Presented as part of the MN DNR presentation*
3. Native tree restriction-discussion/motion- *Did not discuss.*
4. EQB white paper update:

Valerie McClannahan said that the white paper was still under revision – last time she counted, she was on the 16th revision of the document. The document has been scaled down to 20 pages in length (previously it was 50 pages). Mike Reinikainen said that the non-urban forested information has been removed from the document.

There was a group discussion on the length of the document, intended audience and the messages of the white paper. Valerie clarified that the target audience would be the public and the legislature, which created more discussion about the length of the document and different ways that this information could be distributed.

Karen asked if there was anything that MNSTAC could help with and Valerie said that she would let Karen know.

1. Tree Care Registry:

Mark Abrahamson said despite attempts to work with legislators, nothing resulted from it. He thinks that the tree care registry might be a topic to bring back up during the 2020 legislative budget session. As it stands presently, the tree care registry requires anyone who provides tree work to pay a $25 registration fee. However, there is a push for the registry to also serve as a certification program, including providing proof of liability insurance and invasive species training. The problem is that there needs to be funding to help establish this addition to the registry.

Gina Hugo asked if the MNSTAC Executive Committee could help bring this topic to legislators’ attention. Mark answered yes, and he said that the intent is for the registry to become a sustainable fee-driven way to provide money for outreach opportunities.

Karen asked Mark to provide some talking points about the registry, so that MNSTAC could help get the word out.

1. Joint Wisconsin/MN meeting-October, 2019: Karen said that she is hoping that Leslie Brandt, from the US Forest Service, will come talk about climate change. Wisconsin hasn’t been able to talk about climate change for several years, and are excited about the opportunity to discuss it in depth. Another topic for discussion would be the arborist apprenticeship that Wisconsin has.
2. Monthly Forum ideas: Discussed earlier (see above). Topics or ways to engage the public should be forwarded to Ryan Murphy.
3. Financial update: Jim Vaughan said that there is currently $556.41 in the MNSTAC budget.
4. General Board member updates-issues/concerns to share:

Karen briefly talked about an email she received about a concerned St. Paul citizen, who wanted to help prevent a silver maple tree from being cut down by way of a new house being built.

Anne Oldakowski said that it had been 9 years since a tornado went through Wadena. She said that Steve Roos helped the city of Wadena with their tree inventory in the aftermath of the tornado. She also said that she believed that more education and information is needed in the small towns throughout the state.

Steve Nicholson said that there are two things that the city of Minneapolis have been talking about with the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission: 1) Tree equity: What parts of town are getting new tree plantings and are those trees getting distributed well? In addition, for the future, how are trees being replaced without meeting a tree quota for the year? 2) There has been conversations about the possibility of creating a tree preservation ordinance. Karen asked that the ordinance could be provided to MNSTAC to post on the MNSTAC website.

Dustin Ellis shared that Hennepin County made the Healthy Tree Canopy Grant available. He said that some restrictions to the grant have been changed and some of the language surrounding schools have been changed as well. There was also a change on the allowance of treatment. Dustin said he had more information available for those who were interested.

Sue Granger had three updates to share: 1) She emphasized the need for more education for small towns. She said that many small towns don’t understand that trees are essential to city infrastructure. Sue also said that more education needs to be provided to city councils and administrators, who are making decisions about the trees in their communities. She then told the Board about what she called the “March Massacre”, in the City of Morris. The City cut down 81 trees during a winter when there wasn’t a lot of snow on the ground. She said that if the city had been more educated, that the decision to cut down those trees wouldn’t have been made. 2) The City of Morris struggles to get sources to help diversify the tree planting within the city. 3) Sue also said that Morris is struggling with the issue of solar panels vs. tree competition. The City is concerned that people who will cut down their trees in place of solar panels on their properties. The City is trying to gather data that would prove that trees, in fact, outlast solar panels.

The Board then discussed the pros and cons of solar panels versus trees. Karen said that she would reach out to her contacts on the West Coast to see if she could gather more information about solar panels. Gina suggested that this topic could be a good topic to present at a future forum meeting.

1. Agency Updates/Requests (please consider only sharing issues that might benefit from a resolution/letter of support from MNSTAC)

* DNR: Valerie McClannahan passed out a quick summary document of what is happening at the DNR, including Legislative and LCCMR updates. The DNR received $300,000 from the LCCMR FY2019 to provide planting grants to communities to replace ash due to EAB, and received an appropriation of $700,000 for grants also related to community ash management due to EAB. Valerie also gave a quick overview of the 2020 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the U.S. Forest Service Core Grants, reporting requirements. She also provided a summary the hiring process for the Urban & Community Forestry Planner position.
* MDA: Mark Abrahamson talked briefly about a study done in Sauk Centre on EAB larvae and how a large number of EAB have been killed off, however, there will continue to be EAB in the area. Bases on finding in Sauk Centre, the brutally cold winter killed 99% of EAB but, there are still 1% that is alive and not going away. He also said that MDA are continuing to kill Gypsy Moth and Viburnum Leaf Beetle.
* U of MN – *did not discuss.*
* MNDOT: Dave Hanson provided a handout that reviewed MNDOT’s work with trees along transportation corridors, field walks prior to construction, and roadside tree safety.
* MPCA: LCCMR rejected theproposal on carbon credits, but are considering looking into the National Accelerator Program, through The Nature Conservancy.

1. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:55am.