



## **Research and Education Committee Report**

**Prepared by: George Hudler, Chair**

**Date Submitted: 26 November 2018**

### **MEETINGS:**

**Date & time of meeting:** November 15, 2018 9am Central Time via conference call

**Attending:** George Hudler, Chair; Beau Brodbeck; Chip Brown; Hallie Dozier; Sharon Lilly; Dan Struve, Jim Urban; Robert Vanderhoof

### **Kimmel Research Grant for International Research (2 at \$10,000)**

From a cohort of 15 proposals that passed requirements for applicability to TREE Fund research mandates in the call for proposals, the Committee agreed to recommend awards to:

Benoit St-Onge – University of Quebec at Montreal, “Automated mapping and spatial analysis of the urban forest using LIDAR to improve management”

... and ...

Brandon Winfrey – Monash Univ., Clayton VIC, “Enhancing tree health in water sensitive urban design: role of mycorrhizae”

Several others were also in strong contention and authors of those unsuccessful proposals will be invited to submit again with some suggested modifications that might strengthen their submissions.

### **Duling Research Grant Program (1 at \$25,000)**

Here we had a cohort of 20 applications that passed the “eligibility cut” and were passed on to the review committee. After extensive written review and a lengthy phone call conference, the committee winnowed the group down to five proposals that were *extremely* closely ranked. After a reconsideration and second vote on the final five, the following proposal was chosen:

Jeanne Romero-Severson – University of Notre Dame, “A Three Pronged Approach to understanding the defensive mechanisms in Green Ash (*Fraxinus. pennsylvanica*) resistant to EAB (*Agrilus planipennis*)”

### **Other Pending Grants**

**Utility Arborists Association Grant:** The UAA grants committee reviewed one proposal and agreed that it was not only appropriate but with high potential for the profession. Thus the following recommendation goes forward to the TREE Fund Board of Trustees:

J.M. Sparkman Jr. - Environmental Consultants, LLC d.b.a. ECI, "Development of a regional research approach to modeling tree failure risk probability affecting distribution overhead lines" for \$49,730

### **Interim/final reports approved**

Kathleen Wolf – "Urban forests for human health – a focused economic evaluation" 2017 Hyland Johns Grant Interim Report

Brian Kane – "Arboricultural safety around the world" 2017 Safe Arborists Techniques Fund Interim Report

Mitchell Pavao-Zuckerman - "Innovative practices to enhance soil quality for vacant lot afforestation" 2016 Research Fellowship Interim Report

Columbus State Community College – "The Columbus State Arboriculture Education Expansion and Tree Care Academy Project, 2017 Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grant Final Report

### **Changes In Contract Terms**

The following changes in contract terms were approved and recorded with the Naperville staff:

Susan Day – with a project intended to look at urban tree plantings as mediators for storm water runoff terminated with Dr. Day's relocation from West Virginia University to the University of British Columbia, unspent funds will be returned to the Fund with some indication that Dr. Day would be reapplying with a similar, but different, project and new proposal once she was fully situated in Vancouver.

Mitchell Pavao-Zuckerman – was granted a contract extension (time only, no \$\$\$) in view of unexpected changes in site location due to deteriorating safety conditions at the original study site.

Kathleen Wolf – was granted a contract extension because of unexpected changes in technical/student assistance.