Biogaian Mtg 2/26/19

Present: Douglas L, Douglas R, Anita, Brian, Mary, Laura, Elizabeth!!!, Helen, Brent

Facilitating: Brent

Scribe: Anita

**Forester Walk/ Forest Report**

Mary: invasives along utility easement, selective thinning importance for long term forest health, looking at different species to bring in diversity, holistic health for whole forest vs. individual tree health.

Brian: Upper portion of woods has lots of alder that is aging out and broken. Need planting of evergreens close together to shade out invasives along edge.

Brent: how much thinning?

Brian: 30-40 at a time. We will be losing moisture up on the ridge more quickly and so he suggests planting many seedlings, more than we think will survive. Looking at varieties that are drought tolerant based on change in water availability over the next 30 yrs. Cedar is resistant to fungal infections, but not drought tolerant.

Mary: Cedar is shade tolerant as a young tree so it has a better shot at being established in shaded areas. One of the other things the forester talked about was the big trees along the parking area. We are undermining their root structure support by parking on them. ¾ of the big ones right along the parking area are looking ill. Safety as an objective.

Brian: We should be a little cautious about getting much in return for selling lumber because the income in the past didn’t cover the expense of removing.

Douglas L: I have experience in choosing foresters. Owned 60 acres. For 40 trees it’s unlikely we will get much money for the trees.

Mary: I had my own saw mill in the 70’s. It was suggested that we use a small local sawmiller.

Brian: There was a dream with jean group for forest health, will now be considered a subcommittee of the Biogaians.

**Rose report**

Laura: Knowledgeable teacher John Harmelling demystified rose pruning for us. We have several different kinds. Lots of pruning happened and more to come! Some roses will not have blooms this season but will the next. We caught it at a good time. When we do our water system he recommended starting the water from UP slope rather than DOWN slope. None of them were dead! Rose and John will come out for a visit. John will be back in spring to help us identify varieties.

**Pear tree in loop**

Mary: I’d like to prune the tree in the loop and remove cattle panels. Can I prune it? Is there a different process because it’s in the loop?

Doug: If there is any problem with it, it will be outside the biogaians

Brian: We need to announce that the biogaians have made the decision to prune the pear tree for the health of the tree.

Mary: Mary will announce it at Saturday breakfast, Monday dinner

Brian: Brian will send email now

**SongCrest Food forest Report**

Douglas R: Patrick, Scotty, and I are creating a section map of SongCrest food forest for planning purposes. Reflectors for irrigation stand pipes to protect them from cars.

**Garden Steward Report**

Stats from 2010 onward passed on. 2018: lots of fruit, not many veggies. Not enough water and weed competition were behind that. Lots of variation year to year. This year lots of pruning of fruit trees, which will produce less volume but have better quality fruit hopefully. Almost finished with food forests, then will go behind Units 2-5.

Intern report: have been doing interviews, have chosen FLower Star and Kelly from Susie’s dietician program. Also Kati who lives locally but will probably tent. Kati and Kelly interested in teaching children how to grow food, will start in July. Flower Star arrives in May, will be residential. Ian has application, will be interviewed about current goals. Interviewed Destry, but did not offer a position as he was interested in the community but not so much really about permaculture and garden.

**Garden Steward Contract:**

Brian: Biogaians commissioned a subgroup to do assessment with Anita, talk about end of year questions concerns hopes dreams. 3 year contract instead of single year, updating language, thinking about edge work that Patricia did as garden steward that may not need to be done by this person. So we looked at changing those. I put out a draft to the subgroup made changes, then sent it out to the biogaians, got feedback that we needed some alterations on the language (Maybe we went too far on softening), building in specific points of feedback throughout the year. Still some work that needs to be done to get to consensus. Another draft can be made with another subgroup. Moving things forward quickly would be preferable.

Helen: Should be a smaller group this time for ease of scheduling.

Contract SUBGROUP: Anita, Helen, Mary (with feedback from Susie)-- Helen will send an email to schedule this.

Brian: The biogaians make a suggestion to the G2T group, and the G2T officers approve it.

**Weed wrench:**

Helen: Hayra has obtained 3 weed wrenches. Needs to return by the 11th of March. Encouraging people to try them out before discussion friday 1st or after circle on sat 2nd. Depends on soil and root size, so trying it at a variety of places is good idea. Also from Hayra: got a voucher for up to 2 tons of noxious weed removal in king county. Brian, Brent, Douglas R, Anita and Mary will be trying them out.

**Storm Damage Summary**

Helen: Mary and I have inventoried all the trees that need attention. We’ve compiled our options. INSERT DOCUMENT. We are going to blow through our budget. In terms of things that have timeliness to them, the two at LSC along the driveway have priority. No one at LSC is strong enough to do it. Marilyn says they’re ready to hire an arborist, and maybe we should say go ahead, but the urgent pieces can be done by us.

Mary: Do we want to reduce the brush piles or increase the brush piles?

Doug R: Burn permits?

Brian: It’s hard to match up burning times with non-burn ban times.

Elizabeth: On bainbridge it was limited by size. We just had an all-day campfire.

Mary: last we knew it was 3x3, which means we’d have to cut them down a lot.

Helen: Three of the lines on document are existing brushpiles, all the rest are storm damage.

Laura: Let’s take care of existing piles and new piles at once!

Helen: Our options are chipping and hauling. IF it’s chipping, we only have a tiny chipper. You can rent a bigger chipper or hire a tree service (prices on document).

Mary: WHere do we want chip piles located?

Laura: Some of the trees where branches have come down need work on the trees.

Helen: NES will need to have an arborist for certain trees.

Doug L: I propose that we tell LSC to hire the arborist to care for their trees.

Mary: it might be cheaper to have us all go in together and collaborate.

Laura: we could get it done under the GN with arborwell.

Helen: HOw much at Songaia requires an arborist?

Mary: Not sure I’m prepared to answer. Not sure everything needs to have a clean cut. Trees expect to have limbs fall. I don’t necessarily think of those as critical.

Helen: Should we get a bid of trees at Songaia?

Mary: For landscape plants, no. In the forest, maybe but not right now, that’s a different piece.

Helen: in addition to chipping, there’s the “haul it away” option. We currently have a 2 yd weekly bin, which isn’t even keeping up with pruning. We could get bigger dumpsters for 1x drop off and pickup if we wanted to do the work to fill it. All these will cost money beyond our budget. And more labor. Maybe hire Ian, Jacob, Jack. Are there any other funds?

Doug L: Songaia has a landscape maintenance reserve line item.

Brian: There are contingency monies in all the budgets, would be better to use those later in the year. If we had a 1x event, we could look at the reserves. We could plan to do another big removal at the beginning of next year. For now we could do one big removal, create piles, remove throughout the year, then incorporate another big removal next year into the budget.

Mary: Where do you think things could be staged?

Brian: Where truck can back in at end of lost lake rd.

Laura: I’m thinking we need more labor.

Douglas R.: Small garden tractor goes a long way. Do we have one?

Brain: Yes, but it’s lightweight…

Brian: big chippers are dangerous. Not for volunteers.

Helen: Where do we go from here? LSC work needs to happen soon. I need to write Marilyn an email tonight about our decision. She’d be willing to pay someone here.

Douglas R, Brent, and Brian will do the LSC work this weekend.

Brian: It would be prudent to get some bids from Arborwell.

Mary: The Cedar Grove dumpster has only been used for ongoing pruning, so another question that’s related is do we want to rethink the dumpster size we’re getting?? If we’re not trying to do a big push of getting a chipper in here, getting a bigger size would give us a somewhat more gradual approach. Big stuff could be left for firewood.

Resounding yes to get a 3 cu yd weekly dumpster-- Mary will update service

Brian: Does anyone have a come-along?