

Policy Working Group Conference Call
Monday, December 6, 2010
11:30-12:30

[Meeting Summary \(EPA Rulemaking, U&CF Budget Recs and SUFC Advocacy Day\)](#)

Attending: Christi Layman (TCIA), Alice Ewen and Leland (ACT), Phil Rodbell (FS), Don Winsett (ISA), Greg Lewis (NE/MW), Gerry Gray (AmF), Derek Brockbank (NWF), Yenie Tran (NACD), Jack McCabe (Davey), Becky Hammer (NRDC), and Jen Hinrichs (SUFC)

EPA Rulemaking

- WG identified one of the *best* advocacy opportunities for SUFC is EPA's National Rulemaking Standards on Post Construction Stormwater Management (*EPA's commitment to substantially improve its national stormwater regulations has the potential to curtail and prevent this major and growing source of water pollution. The rule change presents a major opportunity to advance and institutionalize green infrastructure approaches, presenting a unique opportunity for those in industries that design and create green infrastructure BMP's to influence the rule making process*).
- Gary Belan, American Rivers, provided a summary on specific points of interest to his organization and potentially SUFC members. American Rivers' platform statement is due out this week and will be distributed to all SUFC Policy WG members for review. NRDC, American Rivers and others have been closely tracking this issue and developed a joint platform.
- EPA on tight timeline: SUFC has two significant windows of opportunity to influence this rulemaking process re: stormwater management and use of green infrastructure/UF. This opportunity is two-fold: Step 1 - Now until March (EPA wants an internal version finalized by end of March) and Step 2 - Formal comments in September when EPA releases rulemaking draft for external comments.
- **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Collecting scientific and economic data @ UF is key; will help justify new permitting requirements both to EPA and later OMB (justifying economic burden or/and justifying need/importance of green infrastructure in rulemaking standards);
2. Reviewing American River's platform (*pending release*) for potentially total or partial endorsement; and
3. Consider 1-1 meetings with key EPA staff - coordinated with other engaged advocates.

U & CF Budget 2012 Recommendations

- **ACTION ITEM:** Alice/ACT and Jake Donnay (NASF) will meet on Dec. 21st to draft some initial recommendations for Work Group.
- The biggest tactical challenge is the current economic climate (story telling and other strategies should be considered in this advocacy effort).

SUFC Advocacy Day, Spring 2011

- WG members confirmed interest in hosting another SUFC Advocacy Day preceding the annual SUFC meeting in DC. Date TBD (late March, early to mid-April).
- Discussed pros/cons of combining with other organizational advocacy day efforts but WG's experience; decided to host SUFC solo but discuss how to effectively recruit interested SUFC members' constituency (if interest is there) to increase Hill presence and scope.
- Congressional (House) calendar now out (<http://republicanwhip.house.gov/Calendar/112th1stSessionCalendar.pdf>), Committee Chair assignments may be out this week and all committees should be confirmed by end of the month. Congress re-convenes on Jan. 5th.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Jen to convene planning subcommittee for initial outline of Advocacy Day prior to next full Policy WG call.

SUFC Sub Committee for Advocacy Day:

- Don Winsett
- Gerry Gray/Rebecca Turner
- Jennifer Hinrichs
- Alice Ewen
- Christi Layman
- Gary Belan

(additional support offered by Derek Brockbank/NWF and Greg Lewis/NE MW Institute and others)

Next Policy WG meeting will be scheduled for mid-January.