

SUFC Policy Working Group Call January 11, 2013

Participating: Cara Boucher & Jake Donnay/NASF; Rebecca Arvin/WEF; Rebecca Turner/AmF; Kevin O'Hara/ASLA; Carrie Gallagher/ACTrees; John Barnwell/SAF; Danielle Dills/NACD; Jennifer Hinrichs/SUFC

WG Decisions & Framing SUFC Advocacy Day on the Hill (Feb. 27):

- Due to large and looming budget issues – SUFC will focus on 2014 vs. 2013. The President's budget will be released later this year (March) and an even later Forest Service response/justification – all of which impacts SUFC's ability to discuss specific U&CF budget recommendations.
- There is still a strong need to have SUFC presence in DC and be "in the door." There may also be more time and attention available now to discuss SUFC issues than after the budget is released.
- Platform/Framework: Hill visits provide an opportunity to broadly show who SUFC is and what we care about:
 1. Talk about who & what SUFC is
 2. How we engage on Appropriations & the Farm Bill (SUFC top-line priorities & other issues SUFC tracks)
 3. What & how do these issues tie back to YOUR community (from members from X districts/states)
 4. Consider SUFC as a resource in the future

ACTION: Jake and Cara will draft a single-doubled sided leave behind that addresses these points and basic talking points (internal) for SUFC members use on the Hill. Jen to fine-tune/layout.

NOTE: If there appears "a shining light of clarity" re: budget, SUFC can slightly adjust its platform approach. This is also a good opportunity to educate Congress about our issues and interests – although there are less freshmen members this year, there are numerous committee changes etc.

- There is concern that many Members of Congress (or their staff) really do not "get" UF benefits at a depth that influences their decision-making abilities. A UF 101 factsheet will also be reviewed and updated for an additional leave-behind.

ACTION: Carrie will provide document/publication that may be useful to Hill visits; Jen to identify educational SUFC factsheet used in past.

- Strategy on Hill audience is a combination of who is confirmed for SUFC Advocacy Day (districts and members on key cmtes etc. from ACTrees community) AND identifying key offices and their district representatives in an effort to recruit members from those areas to join SUFC in DC or follow-up locally.
- SUFC POLICY WEBINAR: **February 21, 2013 at 1 PM** (Eastern). Jake D., John B., Rebecca T., Kevin O., and Carrie G. will be represent SUFC and serve on panel. Gerry Gray to chair.

- Webinar will target both those coming to SUFC Advocacy Day to help familiarize them with SUFC platform and current DC policy climate AND UF champions to set up local field office meetings in their districts.
- All-family Forest Service call on FS Budget hosted by SUFC will be postponed until after SUFC meetings (early-mid March).

ACTION: Jen to set up webinar and distribute invitations/coordinate with ACTrees whose members are coming to DC.

ISSUES FOR POLICY WG TO ADDRESS:

- 1) How do we reach out to other SUFC members and friends to hear their perspectives and get their voices represented if they are NOT on the SUFC Policy WG? From invasives/funding for Forest Service Health Program to water/green infrastructure issues.
- 2) How do we continue to tie-in green infrastructure (GI) and urban forestry (UF) to policy discussions. There are a couple of bills that may come up again this spring i.e., Clean Water for GI sponsored by Rep. Donna Edwards (MD) and Udall; Urban Parks bill etc.
- 3) Looking towards remainder of 2013, if Congress doesn't give any more attention to our issues of interest, SUFC may want to reshuffle its priorities to make further inroads to other areas. This could include re-focusing on federal agencies (EPA Nat'l Stormwater Rule – summer comment period) and other flagged interests of SUFC (see #1...)

ACTION: Jen to craft Survey Monkey tool to capture some of the larger interests within SUFC – can also be addressed (in a limited capacity) at the SUFC Annual Mtg. on Feb. 28th.

ACTION: Kevin O'Hara will forward potential bills of interest to SUFC around green infrastructure – also see attachment from NRDC and a number of groups put together on sequester effects on environmental and conservation issues, including the effects on National Forest.

ACTION: Next SUFC Policy WG call will be 11:30 Eastern with invited Urban Research Cmte members.

ACTION: Jan. 25th SUFC Policy WG call will return to normal 9 AM Eastern time and will focus on review Hill teams (Jennifer developing spreadsheet of RSVP'ed participants) and meld strategy.