

SUFC Policy Working Group

June 6, 2014 2 pm Eastern

Participating: Becky (AF), Jen (SUFC), Gerry (ACTrees), Brenna (NACWA), Gordon (ASCA), Chuck (ACTrees/CARELeaf), Nick (APA), Brent (NASF), Danielle (SAF), Leighton (ASLA), and Faith (TNC)

1. Summer call time

- a. Due to conflicts with summer scheduling, we will be moving our Policy Working Group calls to an early day in the week.

Action Item: Look out for scheduling poll from Becky soon.

2. Strategic Agency meetings

- a. Office of Management and Budget: We will be setting up a meeting for later this summer with Barbara Johnson (budget examiner) at OMB to discuss FY16 appropriations for key programs and urban forests generally. Barbara is relatively new to this position, but not to OMB. (Role previously held by Jake Reilly.)
NB: Talking points will emphasize multiple urban forestry benefits from human health to carbon capture, R&D etc. (links to Administration focus areas). Since they are now formulating 2016 budget, timing is good.

Action Item: Becky will reach out to schedule meeting. Jen will reach out to Jan to loop her in.

- b. Deputy Secretary Harden: To continue our outreach, NACD suggested we set up a meeting with Deputy Secretary Harden. They offered to help with access. Krysta Harden had attended one of the first SUFC annual meetings, but we need to update her on our activities and where the coalition is now. We want to make sure this is a productive and substantive meeting. We will also be discussing the overlay with APHIS and urban forestry.

Action Item: Jen will work with Peter from NACD to set-up meeting, and alert Jan to the meeting. Once scheduled, we will further discuss the agenda.

- c. Others: Working group members discussed meeting with Deputy Undersecretary Ann Mills (Butch Blazer's counterpoint overseeing NRCS).

Action Item: Gerry is reaching out to EPA Office of Water to discuss coordination of research activities between EPA and FS, and including trees in their Green Infrastructure and Smart Growth activities.

3. Policy Fact Sheet

- a. As discussed before, having an SUFC policy priorities “leave behind” that other groups can co-brand and use during their own advocacy efforts would be advantageous.

Action Item: Becky, working with Peter from NACD, will be drafting the first “leave behind.” We will be circulating it among working group members for input.

4. Next Fly-out targets

- a. Jen will be working with our California-based partners to organize a “fly-out” with Congressman Valadao, a freshman representative on the Appropriations Committee.
- b. Other suggestions include: Rep. Ami Berra from CA. The new chairperson of House Natural Resources committee after Rep. Hastings’ retirement.

Action items: Jen will contact Chuck, Gordon, and Nancy Hughes regarding Valadao fly-out and talk with Nick/APA re: his suggestion of [Rep. Sarbanes](#).

5. Other

- a. Representative Moran’s “thank you reception” hosted by conservation and environmental groups is Wednesday, June 11 from 6-8 pm at the Mott House. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.