

**SUFC Policy WG Call
1/13/12**

Participating: Gerry, Melinda, Carrie, Danielle, John, Jennifer, Christi

Summary of Meeting with Catie Lee, Ag Committee Staffer on urban forestry/Farm Bill, 1/10/12
Gerry, Melinda (Am Forests), Christi (TCIA) and Laura (NACD) participated.

- Group felt meeting overall was positive. Catie had JUST been assigned urban forestry issues formally the day prior to the meeting. Group was given good amount of meeting time and walked through FULL version of Farm Bill platform.
- Catie relayed that it is very likely for the draft bill from 2011 will be “split open and readdressed” in the weeks to come.
- Curious about SUFC overlap with Forest and Farm Bill Coalition.
- Appreciated the offer for an SUFC “witness” at future (nutrition, commodities and conservation) hearings but thought highly unlikely.
- Discussion @ possible SUFC/UF fit under both nutrition and conservation.
- **Recommended a specific ask; what do we want?**
- Expressed some interest in Vibrant Cities.

DECISIONS:

- Peel-off group to draft SUFC U&CF Budget Recommendations for review by full WG (Gerry, Jake, other?)
- Farm Bill Ad Hoc committee to re-group to narrow down specific ask, establish criteria for SUFC “success”
- SUFC host preliminary Advocacy Day prep Conf. Call – better prepares SUFC members AND their constituents for SUFC issues/vision and to be able to link their individual mission/work to the larger SUFC banner
- Reminder of SUFC Platform: Farm Bill; U&CF Budget; Vibrant Cities. Advocacy Day to follow past formula of AM de-brief by SUFC members on platform issues, 101 overview of meeting expectations/protocol, answer questions
- SUFC members should be de-briefed by their constituents at end of day in order to report back to SUFC on 8th
- ACT offered to help defray costs/sponsor of refreshments for March 7th participants
- Briefing and central meeting location for March 7th TBD. NASF or Hill conference room being explored.
- Future standing SUFC Policy WG calls will be slightly adjusted: **9:15 A.M vs. 9 A.M.** end time still 10 A.M.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Gerry and Jake** to connect on U&CF Budget draft recommendations; Jen to provide background materials
- **Gerry** to move onto Gillibrand’s office for SUFC Reception/Botanic Garden sponsorship if Moran’s office is non-responsive
- **Jen** to coordinate Farm Bill face-to-face meeting in DC within next week
- **Jen** will reach out to all SUFC members who committed to bringing their constituents to DC to partner with SUFC on March 7th

- **Jen** to set up SUFC Advocacy Prep Call in late February for incoming SUFC members and constituents (speakers, fact sheets, conf. registration invites/logistics etc.)
- **Jen and Melinda** to draft single-page (double-sided) fact sheets on all platform issues as content is available