

**SUFC Policy Working Group Call  
December 3, 2011**

**Participating:** Gerry Gray (Chair), Jake Donnay (NASF), Phil Rodbell (FS), Alice Ewen (FS), Rich Dolesh (NRPA), Carrie Gallagher (ACT), Melina Householder (AmF), Gary Belan (Am Rivers), Jen Hinrichs, John Barnwell (SAF), Christi Layman (TCIA)

**SUMMARY NOTES/DECISIONS:**

- **Farm Bill (FB):** Since the FB is not going to be moving through the Super Committee, the immediate way forward is not clear. It is possible it could be drafted from scratch (Ranking: Roberts) but it appears that the current version may remain as the starting point (Chairwoman: Stabenow). This version has not been released.
- After the hearings at the first of the year, SUFC should look to go through “regular order” to advance SUFC platform (open and transparent once again).
- SUFC should renew efforts @ FB and work towards engaging a broader mix of partners.
- Although it remains an uphill battle to get the FB passed, opportunities remain for SUFC and extended partner advocacy efforts.
- Future SUFC FB efforts should strive to strengthen the link b/c various stakeholders (potential advocates for FB) and the connection to their work/history and the Farm Bill. Might be most effectively accomplished by expanding upon current FB Tool Kit via pull-outs to help “make the case”. I.e., highlight sub-grants.
  
- **2013 Appropriations:** U&CF Program is under review and *so far* it has not been reduced (flat funding levels) for 2013 (House marks: 29 million; Senate 32.4 million).
- **Research agenda:** Funding recommendations are challenging for urban b/c the FS Research budget is multi-year and urban is not pulled out in separate line items.
- Urban research is consistently mentioned as a growth area; also provides good opportunity to promote the success stories of FS and research use (from NSF partnership to new urban field stations). Consider not asking for specific funding but focus on quality, innovative research needs – past and future.
  
- **National Partners Community Forestry Conference:** Great opportunity for SUFC to be more involved in future agenda development, planning and for opportunities for more non-traditional sectors to be engaged.
  
- **EPA Stormwater Rulemaking:** Pushed to 2012 for further review within EPA. Currently, water quality groups/leaders looking to local, state and regional levels to focus efforts vs. federal. Will revisit in 2012.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Use the month of December to get our FB platform into more Hill offices and before staff during this window. For example, get FB in front of Stabenow’s staff. Lead? Jen will put out email to see what WG members will set up/follow through.
- Working Group should begin to pull together Advocacy Day platform 2012 – look to early January. And float initial annual meeting and advocacy dates for spring 2012.

- Send potential examples of sub-grants or funding that has stemmed from the FB to provide Jennifer with content for more “colorful stories” and educational case studies – reducing disconnect b/w potential advocates and the relevance of the FB.
- SUFC WG will need to revisit 2012 U&CF Program budget recommendations and determine recommendations for full SUFC for 2013 in near future.
- SUFC to continue dialogue with Beth Larry as FS liaison; collect success stories and connect with regions and Hill visits.
- WG WILL meet Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**NB: Below is an invitation to a breakfast workshop on evaluation advocacy. I have registered to attend but thought some of you might also have an interest. There is no cost. I look forward to having someone join me or reporting back any relevant information for SUFC efforts.**