

**Policy Working Group Meeting**  
**July 29, 2011**

Participating: Kevin O'Hara, Gary Belan, Jake Donnay, Alice Ewen, Michael Geary, Carrie Gallagher, Phil Rodbell, Jen Hinrichs

**Discussion Summary:**

- HR 2095: Several representatives of the SUFC met with Kari Lacosta in Rep. Matsui's office in mid July. The take-away was while this bill is important to their office, it is not a priority with the current focus on the debt/deficient debate and extreme partisan climate. Only three house co-signers are lined up. SUFC will continue to pursue a contact and background information from DOE as WG looks at language improvement consensus internally.
- Due to lack of momentum @ this bill (and others discussed), SUFC will lower HR 2095 as a policy WG priority – but not drop (“from front burner to warming plate”).
- HR 2030 (Clean Water Through GI) and Complete Streets update (ASLA): while good bills and priorities for several offices (Matusi, LaTourette, Edwards, Udall etc.), they are priorities for committees and therefore not likely to gather much momentum this year
- The focus of many SUFC members is to maintain past accomplishments; many organizational priorities are being threatened.
- Majority of WG members on call concurred that Farm Bill should be the WG's #1 priority moving forward.
- U&CF budget on House floor was cut to 29 M (from 32M budget request for 2012); 10% reduction.

**Action Items:**

- **Jennifer** will draft a simple ranking system for Policy WG members to clearly prioritize legislative items and formalize process. This would streamline tracking for intermittent Policy WG members and create clear reference system to help clarify where SUFC members will put their collective energy.
- **Jennifer** will integrate edits and comments on Farm Bill recommendations draft for distribution. (See attached)
- **Kevin, Jake and Gary** to talk/meet up off-line re: FB.
- **WG members** will share with their leadership/colleagues and get comments, positions back to Jennifer by 8/3 (Wed.).
- **WG members** will re-group on Friday morning at 9 a.m. to discuss as primary agenda item.
- **WG members** to consider pros/cons of a congressionally mandated foundation for urban forestry/green infrastructure and contribute to dialogue @ Friday's meeting.