

Policy Working Group Conference Call
Monday, February 28, 2011

Meeting Summary (EPA Rulemaking, U&CF Budget Recs and SUFC Advocacy Day)

Attending: Christi Layman (TCIA), Alice Ewen, Phil Rodbell (FS), Leland (ACT), Don Winsett (ISA), Gerry Gray, Rebecca Turner (AmF), Jen Dillon (KAB), Gary Belan (Am Rivers), Kevin O'Hare (ALSA), Hadley Sosnoff (ANLA), Jerry LaHaie, and Jen Hinrichs (SUFC)

Action Items:

1. Jake Donnay/NASF will revise proposed U&CF Recommendations with expanded emphasis on urban waters initiative (EPA/other) and America's Great Outdoors (and potentially Partners for Sustainability). *To be distributed this week for comment and distribution to full SUFC membership by next week.*
2. Alice/Phil to pursue updated stats on U&CF program and jobs-related data.
3. Advocacy Day (April 12th) sub planning committee will meet Monday, April 7th (11:30 EST).
 - review proposed legislation ranging from SBA, Urban Revitalization (HR 709) and Green Infrastructure.
 - address messaging challenge. Message components include: job correlation (most effective means of spending these dollars); SUFC identification, appropriations (U&CF), federal partnerships (exploring with EPA, AGO); and energy conservation.
 - ID targeted audiences.
4. Jen/American Rivers to distribute draft state of support/platform re: EPA stormwater rule making – green infrastructure. Jennifer and Don Winsett are also pursuing 1-1 meetings with EPA water program (and poss. Smart Growth).
5. SUFC to create a cheat sheet for its members (i.e., simple grid) regarding the budget items for the other noted programs of possible interest, such as the Urban Waters Program, DOT Safe Routes to Schools, the USDA Peoples Garden initiative or other programs or line items of interest, like the Stormwater Revolving Loan Fund, which could allocate a specific percentage set aside for green infrastructure funding.
6. SUFC should take a clear position for OR against the noted 'strategic tree planting initiative' within the President's budget.

General Notes/Observations from Call:

- Regarding requests for increased inclusion/coordination between EPA and USDA/USFS, focus attention on communication within the administration. General recognition that there is more bridge-building to be done internally, and that the administration wants to find concrete ways to remove silos. There also needs to be more identification of the specific way to partner outside of GI Community of Practice etc. (being in same room isn't enough -that's just info exchange.)
- Chief Tidwell, FS, will testify on the Hill in coming weeks.
- Sev. pieces of legislation the SUFC endorsed last year may be reintroduced shortly (Revitalization already introduced in the House).