

March 18, 2011 Policy WG Call

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Each Coalition member should review and vet the U&CF Recommendations per the 3/17 email from Gerry Gray. Respond with organizational position by **3/25** to Jennifer.
2. **Respond to Jennifer TODAY if you are interested in attending a breakfast policy WG gathering on Monday, March 21st. (This is an unstructured opportunity to discuss wide-ranging policy of issues of mutual interest/opportunity from the Farm Bill to energy policy, input into the upcoming Advocacy Day, pending legislation and other campaigns of interests). Location TBD. (Apologies for late notice but the scheduling window just opened while Don will be in DC).**
3. Review initial and revised version of the Stormwater and UF/GI document. Send thoughts and comments to Jennifer.

DISCUSSION:

- U&CF Recommendations for FY 2012 Budget Appropriations is moving forward through full coalition vetting process. NASF to support written comments into the record and distribution to key subcommittee chairs etc.
- Advocacy Day planning is underway. 27+ participants responded to date. Participants will be matched with key subcommittee members and other representatives and appts. will be set up starting March 28th + for April 12th.
- Policy WG did not voice strong consensus about sending a follow up letter re: S&P funding priorities (<http://stateforesters.org/node/2373>); however, group recognized how this missed opportunity can serve as a catalyst to increase outreach to other NGO's within the Forestry Working Group (and beyond) *and* to encourage SUFC members to connect the dots between urban forestry/natural resource management and other wider-ranging conservation issues.
- While SUFC needs to be pro-active re: relationship development with EPA @ stormwater and other issues, several SUFC members are not comfortable with specific endorsement or support of the proposed stormwater rulemaking at this juncture. While SUFC is encouraged to use the current window to promote UF and GI, the Coalition will have an opportunity for specific review and comments on the rule making when it is drafted and distributed Fall 2011. Additional group and 1-1 conversations are on-going re: this issue as the SUFC works to find common *and* effective ground. Individual members can also contact American Rivers to explore supporting the rulemaking through their platform position.