

R&D Working Group Call December 18, 2014

Participating: Scott Maco, David Rouse, Jen Hinrichs, Faith Campbell, Michael Leff, Bill Toomey, Cindy Blaine, Cara Boucher, Rich Dolesh, Ian Leahy

General updates

NUCFAC 10-year urban forestry action plan feedback

- Should SUFC R&D group provide combined input, or just respond as separate orgs? Seemed to agree it should be done both ways. Suggested that individual organizations should submit separately, but Jen will carry our thoughts to NUCFAC, using the R&D platform we have already created. Would apply only toward research aspects of NUCFAC's list of items. Scott will cross-walking our 11 items to their 14 key issues and Jen will present to advisory panel.

UF Sustainable Standards

- Michael gave a quick status update and sent manuscript review draft and cover memo to this workgroup for consideration and feedback. Further queries/feedback should be sent to Michael directly.

Research Station outreach

- Outreach to Jimmy Reaves and FSRET has been ongoing; presentation by SUFC on R&D platform tentatively scheduled for late-January mtg.
- Faith suggested a coordinated effort to connecting with Southern Research Station to explore ways our interests connect with the Southern region's agenda. See attached for draft approach from Faith.

Urban FIA program feedback

Following previous conversations with SUFC, Greg Reams, FIA National Program Manager, welcomes additional feedback from us. Discussion included SUFC concerns, NASF perspectives and helping bring forth a congressional hearing—or “briefing”—on Urban FIA.

- Scott listed five key issues that seem to be most important to SUFC members:
 - 1) Funding – what is needed/adequate
 - 2) Program rollout - systematically rolled out vs. city x city model/inventory interval, etc.?
 - 3) Data - What is meaningful to the urban forestry community?
 - 4) Reporting - How will data be accessed, what will it look like, meaningful and not duplicative?
 - 5) Accessibility - of inventory data itself for use by stakeholders to work with openly
- NASF perspective (Cara) – Noted gaps in each of the options listed in Plan. Wants full implementation of the grid, whether interior Alaska or urban area. Concerned about cost-effectiveness of plot sampling by FS vs. states. Wants 5-year rotation.
- Rich noted two things: (1) “Congressional briefing” would be more desirable than a “hearing” and would be more in-line with SUFC capabilities. (2) The issue of resiliency, and role of UF in resiliency strategies and GI solutions. Does FIA cover that adequately, or should it be pointed out as a need?
- Scott will organize a dedicated conversation on FIA in Jan/Feb timeframe.

Other

We agreed not to prioritize our 11 areas, but find consensus on 3-4 things we could highlight during coming year. Jen suggested setting up a call specifically on that in January.

Need stories about how UF science/research is making a difference in our communities. Could use stories from WG. Will return to this in first 2015 mtg. If anyone has anything to highlight in meantime, please submit and we'll collate.

Hold-the-date: SUFC Annual Mtg in D.C. is Feb 26, with reception Feb 25 evening.