

SUFC R&D Working Group Call
July 3, 2014

Participating: Scott Maco (Davey), Anna Reeves/David Rouse (APA), Gerry Gray (ACTrees), Jen Hinrichs (SUFC), Faith Cambell, Michael (Davey/FS), Beth Larry (FS), Bill Toomey (TNC), Gary Allen, Cindy Blaine (STF), Anne Gosling (CATF), Anne Buckelew (FS)

Action items/updates:

1. **R&D working group strategic plan:** revised based on committee feedback to better reflect our role within SUFC framework and goals and action items; see attached.
2. **Support FS efforts to leverage NAS findings and next steps:** Gary Allen, Jen Hinrichs, Scott Maco, Laurie Gellar (NAS) and Beth Larry have had several discussions about a conceptual follow-up proposal to the 2013 workshop - and there is strong interest from both FS and NAS in developing a series of ecosystem services workshops. [Exec. Summary: Strengthening the use of urban forestry science, models and metrics in ecosystems services regulation by Federal regulatory agencies.]

Gary and Laurie/NAS are working on revised proposal draft and will circle back to WG with progress report.
3. **NUCFAC 10-year action plan:** WG will be able to track and provide feedback via Jen Hinrichs who is sitting on the advisory committee and will brief WG on progress on future calls.
4. **Policy update:** California will grant \$16 million to community UF project. Largest ever allocation to urban forestry in the state. UF projects need to meet the broad goals of the climate change legislation in the state, including serving underserved communities.
5. **Butch Blazer (USDA Deputy Under Secretary):** Last several meetings have focused on mutual interest of youth engagement, arboriculture training/work force. Next meeting/subsequent meeting focus in UF R &D. Sept. meeting planned.
6. **FSRET (Forest Service Research Executive Team):** continuing to work towards a date to meet with team this summer/fall.

ACTION ITEM: SUFC to directly email Jim Reaves to get on the agenda (Beth gave Jim heads up and he is expecting our request)

7. **FS Research Directors (PNW and PSW):** Both Alex Friend and Rob Mangold are teed-up for SUFC to contact. Objective is to build and strengthen relationship with all station directors from the urban forestry sector.
8. **Urban FIA:** Dr. Dave Nowak (FS NRS Project Leader) and Greg Reams (National Program Manager, FIA) provided an overview of the new Urban FIA program:
 - Authorizing language in the Farm Bill directs assessment of urban forest risk, structure, and ecosystem services.

- Strategic plan has been developed and will be publicly available for comment in August.
- Initial rollout will be collaborative project (city) level work rather than assessment by state; Austin, TX and Baltimore, MD are two pilot projects for this summer. Interested cities should contact Greg Reams directly.
- Data collection will be intensified in urban areas to approximately 200 plots per city, which is different from FIA standard grid based on 1 plot/6k acres.
- Data collection will be conducted and analyzed through a modified version of i-Tree Eco; new version will accept FIA variables such as downed woody debris and microplot sampling.
- FIA protocols stress rigor of quality assurance as data will captured in the national system.
- Reporting/access to data sets has not been addressed and is open to discussion.
- SUFC has opportunity to bring a congressional hearing on FIA portion of Farm Bill after Jan 2015 with the goal of supporting program appropriations.