

SUFC Policy WG

Call 1/31/14

In attendance: Chuck Mills, Sarah Wessel (NASF), Rebecca Turner, Rebecca Arvin, Keith Klein, Anne Buckelew, Gordon Mann, Jen Hinrichs, Gerry Gray, Gary Belan, Faith Campbell

1. Farm Bill analysis: what it means for green infrastructure and urban forests

- Earlier version of the Farm Bill had Urban and Community Forest programs capped and sunsetted, was removed last Fall and remained out of the final package.
- FIA is now required to include urban trees in inventory and status, trends and assessments. Language from bill below: pg. 725

SEC. 8301. REVISION OF STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Elements of the revised strategic plan should include:

(2) Implement an annualized inventory of trees in urban settings, including the status and trends of trees and forests, and assessments of their ecosystem services, values, health, and risk to pests and diseases.

- Senate vote expected Tuesday, Feb 4
- Other sections of the Farm Bill of interest:
 - The Conservation Title consolidated 26 programs into 13, \$6 billion less, but still strong
 - Specialty crops, section 10201, funding very important to finance research and practical activity

Action Item: Gerry will do initial analysis of SUFC's original Farm Bill priorities to determine the effectiveness of our advocacy efforts.

2. Fly-out with Rep. Joyce: update and outcomes

- Kent, Ohio: TCIA and Davey hosted Rep. Joyce (urban, rural, suburban district) to seek an ally, if not a champion for urban forests. Talked broadly about public/private sector of urban forestry, national initiatives, and other relevant issues. Cultivating as an ally, will extend an invitation to the SUFC reception and set follow-up meetings. Overall, positive experience and something SUFC and its members should consider doing more of.

3. March 26 Reception: who to honor and how?

- While we want to honor Rep. Moran, however, given his popularity, it may be difficult to secure his attendance.
- Conservation groups will be holding a reception April 30th at the Mott House to thank him more broadly for all of his conservation efforts. American Forests is one of many sponsors and will send out invitation to all SUFC members so that a strong urban forestry contingency can be present.
- Matsui's office is sponsoring the reception at the Botanical Gardens and we will invite her as well.

- Other options include: Senator Udall (New Mexico), Rep. Joyce, and Rep. Donna Edwards who was a sponsor of the green infrastructure bill
- Leaders from Federal agencies: Deputy Undersecretary Butch Blazer+
- We should also honor Paul Reis who recently retired from the Forest Service, he has been a strong supporter of urban forestry.

Action Item: Send other honoree/invitees ideas to Jen, whether agency or members of congress

4. **Who are our senate champions?** How did U&CF end up with more funding than requested by President's budget for 2014
 - At a time when budgets are being drastically cut across the board, U&CF ended up with \$28 million, when the President's budget requested \$25 million.
 - Who championed this funding, who do we need to thank? Sen. Jack Reid, Sen. Barbara McCulsky?

Action Item: Gerry is going to look into who championed this funding.

5. **Feb 14th – in person luncheon – (and conference call) 12 pm – 2 pm Eastern: agenda creation, what will be our appropriations priorities for FY15**
 - at American Forests new office: 1220 L St NW Suite 750:
 - Opportunity as coalition has grown to answer the following: what do we want to put forward, and what asks do we want to include in FY15?

Action Item: Send Jen an email if you will be present