

SUFC Policy Call-Friday, November 01, 2013

On call: Danielle Watson, Brent Keith, Kevin O'Hara, Gerry Gray, Chuck Mills, Nick Tobenkin, Rebecca Arvin, Cara Boucher, Faith Campbell

Action Item: Contact Kevin O'Hara at ASLA by 11/12 if your group supports the Innovative Stormwater Act

Agenda:

1. Budget negotiations and strategic meeting updates
 - a. Meetings with Hill appropriations staff on importance of urban forestry a priority, goal is to get U&CF back into the next iteration of the interior appropriations bill
 - b. Our message is not resonating with offices, key staffers would have liked to have our points prior to the committee debate
 - c. SUFC steering committee has Hill meeting coming up in December and will hit key offices
2. Farm Bill update
 - a. Conferees are first tackling issues less problematic titles of the bill, SNAP will be last. Concerns about how impacts of negotiations around SNAP will change numbers in Conservation and Forestry titles.
3. Fly-in Advocacy Day-review key contacts
 - a. Fly-In committee is creating target lists for Policy Workgroup to review. We want to be more strategic in encouraging groups to bring in members/constituents from key districts and states.
 - b. If large groups from a single state attend, we may split them up and use them for key meetings not already covered.
 - c. Limited response to our survey but overall positive with changes in advocacy days
4. Update from October 28th SUFC meeting
 - a. Gerry updated the Policy Workgroup on National Sciences Workshop report briefing. Key conversation points were how to apply the research to encourage policy and decision makers.
 - b. One takeaway from a participant was the desire to apply the research, not necessarily focused on the next steps or identifying gaps in research.
 - c. There is a need for education on the local level as well as federal level. Need municipal successes to garner federal support
5. Other
 - a. ASLA and others are working on the "Innovative Stormwater Act". Kevin will circulate once the bill is finalized. The act creates regional green infrastructure centers for excellence, develops best practices for regional implementation.
 - b. Any groups who want to support the bill please **contact Kevin before Nov 12** if want be listed in any press material