

SUFC Policy Workgroup Call Notes

4/12/13 (2pm)

Participating: Rebecca Turner/Josh deLacy, Faith Campbell, Carrie Gallagher, Jen Hinrichs, John Barnwell, Mark Truax, Rebecca Arvin, Chuck Mills, Kevin O'Hara, Heather Doucet, Danielle Dills, Cara Boucher, Gordon Mann, Alice Ewen

1. Appropriations/Budget

- Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of member organizations have signed on to the SUFC appropriations testimony. SUFC requires $\frac{3}{4}$ acceptance before something can be presented as an SUFC backed letter. Individual member organizations who signed on will be listed. It is expected that the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark will be met by Monday's deadline to submit the letter.
- The American Society of Landscape Architects will send the SUFC appropriations testimony to the House Appropriations Committee on Monday (4/15), in time for the hearing on 4/16.
- Organizations can still sign on to the appropriations testimony after the Monday deadline- those names will be added when the letter goes to the *Senate*.

ACTION ITEM: Organizations that missed the sign-on deadline for the House's letter can still sign on before the letter goes to the Senate.

ACTION ITEM: Jen will post the appropriations testimony in its final version on SUFC's "Take Action" page once it is live.

2. All-Family Call

- Every year, the U.S. Forest Service has an "all-family call" to respond to the president's budget. Forest Service representatives will walk through the president's budget, explain what its numbers mean for the Forest Service, and answer a few questions from an audience. This call is open to all SUFC members and their constituents. It will last a half hour.
- Immediately after the all-family call, there will be a second part for just SUFC members and constituents. This will be a call to action; SUFC will state its platform regarding the budget, explain what it wants to see happen moving forward, and host a question and answer session. As this will be a broad stakeholder meeting, it will provide basic information about what SUFC is asking its constituents to do. This will also take a half hour.

ACTION ITEM: Jen and Alice will schedule the all-family call. Jen issued Doodle poll 4/13 to nail down date for both FS presentation and SUFC advocacy call (second half). Looking at 4/19, 4/23 and 4/24.

3. Matsui Energy Conservation Through Trees Act

- Jake and Chuck (on behalf of nonprofits) came to an agreement on the bill's language regarding appropriation roles in section 6, paragraph D. The edit lets NGOs that do not have enough capacity or 501(c)3 status enter into partnerships with local municipal governments that have jurisdiction over local forests or conservation districts.
- In section 6, local governments and conservation districts are included, in addition to NGOs and state foresters.
- Mark suggested that the bill reference conservation district foresters in section 7, including them in the makeup of the technical committee.
- Faith suggested that the bill be consistent when it references utilities. In some areas, it refers to electric utilities; in others, it refers broadly to utilities (including gas companies).
- When presenting SUFC's edits to Matsui's office, we will not have full-coalition signoff. The pitch will be that a number of SUFC organizations have worked together on the edited bill and support it. Once the bill is introduced, then SUFC will a letter in support of the bill for full coalition sign-on. This will give a clear message that SUFC is working together and interested in the bill, and that support is likely to increase once the bill is introduced.

ACTION ITEM: Becky will look into the bill's inconsistent references to utilities and make those edits and will circulate the final language to everyone.

ACTION ITEM: A small group will go to Matsui's office next week to present the suggested edits to her staff. Jake, Danielle, Kevin, and Leland from ACTrees were mentioned as possible members of that group.