

**SUFC Policy Working Group
December 14, 2012**

Participating: Cara Boucher, Jake Donnay, Gerry Gray, Danielle Dills, Jen Hinrichs, Phil Rodbell, Alice Ewen, Christi Layman, John Barnwell

- SUFC Advocacy Day is proposed for Wednesday, Feb. 27th. To be confirmed prior to the end of the year. Annual meeting to be held 28th. WG felt avoiding a Friday (March 1st) meeting date was important.
- ACTrees has proposed joining forces for the Advocacy Day (similar to 2012). Carrie was not on the call but relayed her members interest in arranging a hearing/testimony with Barbara Boxer as well as joined forces for Hill meetings. Possible links include EPA Urban Waters programming (her cmte has oversight of EPA); ecosystem/UF research; and green infrastructure supporting EPA and others – underscoring value/benefits which touches additional Committees.
- WG also expressed concern re: a briefing or a hearing/testimony due to short time frame and capacity issues – “are we ready for a hearing?” While WG members want to take advantage of NAS experts/scientists being in DC, an SUFC member will need to step forward to coordinate and lead activity. WG members also flagged that more time is needed to get the answers around research needed. Finally, the question remains is there time to do both on the same day? There would be a cost – such as reduced Hill 1-1 visits.
- Strong interest from WG in working with ACTrees but timing may be difficult due to National Academies of Science (NAS) workshop* ending 4:30 on Feb. 25th and ACTrees interest in a more in-depth advocacy training prior to Hill meetings. Carrie and Jennifer will follow up to discuss possible logistics.

*NAS workshop will be held at Constitution and 5th Street location between Gallery Place and Judiciary Square metro stations.

- **SUFC platform:**
 1. Farm Bill
 2. Appropriations – U&CF

Research and urban waters themes/issues should be addressed in both these platform pieces – as well as reaching out to other federal agencies re: enhanced coordination.

NOTE: We will wait until early 2013 to develop core messages on both platform issues. There are many pending issues including sequestration and how that could impact our priority programs. It is premature to say exactly what we can do on Appropriations now. Secondly, it is possible that the Farm Bill could be resolved - although WG not optimistic. Finally, a continuing resolution could mean we are discussing BOTH FY 2013 and FY 2014.

- SUFC Webinar: proposed overview and preparatory webinar on SUFC platform (Appropriations, Farm Bill?) for mid-February. Exploring USDA FS “all family” conference call to provide information on the President’s proposed budget. May be combined with SUFC webinar.

Received positive feedback on past briefings – allowing participants to get handle on issues vs. arriving cold for Advocacy Day.

- SUFC Advocacy Day Logistics:
 1. Hill appts.: In 2012 we divided up the confirmed SUFC/ACTrees participants and Policy WG members were assigned a ‘team’ for which they set up appts. This worked well for the most part. We will repeat this process.
 2. Hall of States suggested as continued staging center for the 27th

NOTE – Christi Layman will go on maternity leave in February. Josh Ullman will step into some of her role on the WG. Mark Garvin/TCIA will also participate.

ACTION:

- Jake Donnay will look into reserving large conference room for 27th for AM briefing, staging area etc. Estimated # is 50.
- Cara and Jake will work on pulling together some initial points and information on Appropriations.
- Jen to finalize SUFC meeting dates; coordinate with ACTrees and NAS (Nat’l Academies of Science)
- Jen to follow up with Surabhi Shaw to invite her to speak at SUFC annual meeting re: Urban Waters updates/recent announcements

NO MORE POLICY WG CALLS/MEETINGS UNTIL JANUARY 4th – 9:00 AM.