

Policy Working Group Call June 6, 2011

Participating: Don Winsett, Jake Donnay, Gerry Gray, Jennifer Hinrichs, Jennifer Dillon, Kevin O'Hare, Carrie Gallagher, Leland Milstein, Danielle Dills, Hadley Sosnoff, Phil Rodbell, Alice Ewen,

Meeting Summary

Farm Bill:

- Farm Bill webinar is currently scheduled for late July (tentatively July 20th) to be co-hosted by Arbor Day Foundation. Webinar will provide overview of Farm Bill, SUFC interests and opportunities. Strong interest expressed by many SUFC members in briefing.
- Farm Bill Ad Hoc Committee met in May and is drafting a basic set of goals from which to build their policy platform re: the Farm Bill. These are being set against a backdrop of the SUFC Principles. There is strong cross-coalition participation in this committee and support by Larry Wiseman.
- It was noted that the rough spring weather in many areas of the country will require replanting and this may be an opportunity for SUFC to advocate and build into platform (replacing the lost benefits of these trees) for increased funding.

U&CF Recommendations – Grassroot mobilization:

- Discussion centered around taking additional action now with diverse grassroot constituency or wait until after House mark-ups. “Have (SUFC) done enough? If so, wait until mark up happens in appropriations subcommittee and build next steps from this point.” Two action steps identified were Dear Colleague letters AND grassroot mobilization.
- Consensus was to provide updated template “action alert” to SUFC Policy WG members to distribute to their constituency (as each member see fits) running up to the mark up period. Then, wait until mark-up process complete to initiate Dear Colleague letters.

Specific Legislation of Interest:

- The Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2011 ([H.R. 1780/S. 1056](#)); <http://www.asla.org/FederalGovernmentAffairs.aspx?id=22886>
- Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities (HR 709): ASLA lead. Endorsed by SUFC. Working to get 131+ sponsors. SUFC, ACT, City Parks, ASLA included in their advocacy days this spring.
- Energy Conservation Through Trees H.R. 2095) (http://matsui.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3040:congresswoman-matsui-introduces-energy-conservation-through-trees-act&catid=45:2011-news)
Legislation was re-introduced late last week. Was not anticipated by SUFC members. Legislation was supported by majority of SUFC members when introduced last year. Changes

are minimal to new legislation. NASF retains concerns with language and would like opportunity to discuss their position with larger SUFC membership.

Action Items:

- Jen to resend Farm Bill notes to ACT; continue compiling and integrating suggested goals for Farm Bill ad hoc committee.
- Policy WG to have follow-up discussion re: U&CF Recommendations – Dear Colleague letter (likely post mid-July); need to draft letter in interim.
- Jen to locate and update U&CF Budget Action Letter to grassroot audience (from ACT and SUFC in past years) for distribution by SUFC members as interested.
- Kevin to provide analysis (overlay with SUFC principles) of Safe and Complete Streets Act to WG.
- Gerry to provide analysis of Energy Conservation Through Trees to WG.
- Jake to draft specific concerns with Energy Conservation language for Policy WG to review.
- NASF and ACT to connect offline.