

SUFC Policy Workgroup Call

July 26, 2013, 2.00 pm EST

Participants: Rebecca Turner, Maki Tazawa, Danielle Watson, Chuck Mills, Nick Tobenkin, Brenna Mannion, Kevin O'Hara, Gerry Gray, Alice Ewen, Samantha Delsing, John Barnwell, Jen Hinrichs, Phil Rodbell

1. House Interior Appropriations Update

- \$100 million reduced from S&PF (almost a 30% reduction from budget)
- Appropriations bill is going to the full committee on Wednesday, July 31. We are not expecting it to reach the House Floor or that it will continue due to the large differences it has from the Senate version. We should still keep in mind what kind of precedence this sets. By not reacting to such a drastic cut, we are accepting that this is the baseline from which the House will be negotiating.

Action Item: Gerry is going to draft a one-point letter SUFC members can sign on to that will be sent to the Appropriations Committee by next Wednesday COB (July 31). Jen will circulate the letter once it has been drafted.

2. Update from TCIA Fly-in regarding SUFC priorities

- They had four meetings on SUFC issues:
 - A meeting with Shaheen's staff in order to discuss the TREES Act. She was receptive of the bill being included within the Energy Efficiency bill and ensured the group that getting it in the House side was the best step forward.
 - A meeting with Representative Green on the TREES Act. He is on the subcommittee of jurisdiction. He actually said he would be happy to co-sponsor the bill right there in the meeting.
 - A meeting with Rep. Porter about the Community Parks Bill. She is on the subcommittee of jurisdiction. She did not commit to cosponsoring during the meeting but was receptive of the bill.
 - A meeting with Rep. Pitts on the TREES Act. He is on the subcommittee of jurisdiction. He was interested and wanted to take a closer look at the Sacramento numbers and info. He said the fact that there was not an offset was going to make this tough but seemed on the verge of agreeing to co-sponsor.

Action Item: Becky and Danielle Dills are going to follow up with these offices and Sen. Boxer and Rep. Matsui to discuss next steps.

3. Community Parks status

- We are still collecting endorsements from the SUFC full coalition. A reminder will be sent out to further the effort.

Action Item: Jennifer will be sending out the reminder early next week to remind groups for endorsements.

4. Intro of [Great Lakes Ecological and Economic Protection Act of 2013](#)

- We were informed of this bill that provides a fund to help restore the Great Lakes region. USFS receives \$6 million including \$3M for tree planting to mitigate EAB, improve Brownfields, and restore UCF in Great Lakes states.
- One interesting point is the number of republicans involved in this restoration effort. Determining what motivates them to engage in this type of project may help us in our advocacy efforts.
- We will hold a discussion in the near future to determine what level SUFC wants to engage in regional restoration issues. There are numerous initiatives across the landscape that could spread the workgroup thin. However, this is where the work is getting accomplished, and there may be opportunities to ensure urban forestry is a part of these efforts.

House Great Lakes Task Force Co-Chairs and Members Introduce Bill to Restore the Great Lakes

House Great Lakes Task Force Member Rep. David Joyce (OH), and Co-Chairs, Reps. John Dingell (MI), Candice Miller (MI), and Louise Slaughter (NY), along with colleagues Reps. Sander Levin (MI) and Tom Petri (MI), introduced the Great Lakes Ecological and Economic Protection Act of 2013. The bill authorizes President Obama's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) at \$475 million annually. So far, Congress has appropriated over \$1.3 billion to the GLRI for Great Lakes projects, including habitat and fisheries restoration, as well as removal of contaminated sediments. The bill would also re-authorize the Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Protection Office and the Great Lakes Legacy Act. The Legacy program provides funds to clean up coastal areas that Canada and the United States deem so contaminated that beneficial uses are impaired (known as "Areas of Concern"). The bill authorizes all programs through 2018. Additionally, the bill codifies the role of an Interagency Task Force to coordinate federal Great Lakes restoration and development activities, as well as that of the Great Lakes Advisory Board, to provide input and advice to the Administration on Great Lakes restoration and protection. When last introduced in the House during the 111th Congress, the bill garnered bipartisan support among 43 co-sponsors. Senate Great Lakes Task Force Sens. Carl Levin (MI) and Mark Kirk (IL), along with seven of their colleagues, introduced the [Great Lakes Ecological and Economic Protection Act of 2013](#) in the Senate in June.

Action Item: Please review the bill and prepare your thoughts for the discussion

5. Forest Climate Working Group recommendations update

- Bullets of recommendations should be sent to the FCWG in mid-August in time for their meeting on August 15.

Action Item: Becky, Gerry and Danielle are going to continue to work on a draft and send it out to the rest of the group for thoughts and approval.

6. SUFC Advocacy Day committee Update

Action Item: The subcommittee will be getting together in August in order to put together a plan to increase the impact our Advocacy Day can have.

7. Other

- There will not be a call on Friday, August 2.
- There is a new research station director in the Pacific Northwest Station, Robert Mangold.

Action Item: Becky will send out a cancellation for next week's call.