

April 20th Policy Call:

Participating: Gerry Gray, Rebecca Turner, Carrie Gallagher, Danielle Dills, Jake Donnay, John Barnwell, Philip Rodbell, Faith Campbell, Jen Hinrichs, Cara Boucher

- **Farm Bill Update:**
 - Ad Hoc Committee members provided update on status of bill mark ups (something could be released from Stabenow's office as early as today) but the process and projections are unclear.
 - If the bill is not passed by September this will trigger additional complications and require an extension etc.
 - NACD President will be testifying next week to the Conservation Subcommittee.
 - Ad Hoc Committee will review proposed language from FS and keep larger Working Group updated.

- **Community Forestry Caucus:**
 - The question was posed to the Working Group about the possibility of developing/encouraging a community forestry caucus – based on observations by Dan Lambe (ADF) about the Green Schools Caucus.
 - The WG agreed that we did not currently have the capacity to initiate a dedicated community forestry caucus but that exploring the current Urban Caucus would be worthwhile.
 - Vibrant Cities (and Farm Bill) might be an excellent entre to the Caucus. *Jennifer will gather more information about the caucus and report back to the group for further discussion.*

- **Urban Research:**
 - In person meeting on urban research was very insightful and having Alice and Beth on the call was invaluable to setting context for on-going discussion.
 - There was interest by most WG members in all advocacy channels (appropriations for R & D; Regional FS Research Stations outreach; Congressional Outreach/Champion Cultivation; and Regulatory Opportunities/Outreach). Diagram below.
 - While SUFC does not have the “bandwidth” or capacity to pursue or lead a full-blown campaign on promoting urban forestry research, there is a large constituency interested in pursuing this direction of advocacy.
 - There appeared to be common agreement on *involvement vs. leadership* of research advocacy AND to integrate the four channels (mentioned above and in graph below) in the CURRENT SUFC POLICY PLATFORM. In other words to underscore and support current policy workplan through these channels – the only NEW addition being outreach to the research stations.
 - The first proposed step to addressing the research stations: Work on developing a relationship with the stations to become a ‘part of the conversation’ then evaluate SUFC action/s. *Jennifer will speak with Beth Larry about the opportunity to get on the agenda for future meetings.*

