

SUFC Policy Work Group Call
May 9, 2014 2 pm

Participants: Peter, Jennifer, Becky, Alex, Danielle, Rebecca, Gordon, Leighton, Kevin

1. Recent Hill UF/GI Outreach Debrief

- a. SUFC Steering Cmte Members
- b. ACTrees Policy Summit
- c. US Water Week

SUFC steering committee members made strategic hill visits during the Annual Meeting. ACTrees policy summit had mixed reviews. Some meetings with staffers were encouraging, while others were not as favorable. The meetings with federal agencies and Alice Ewen at CEQ highlighted the need to insert urban forestry into the administrative level talks on climate change. Working with the Forest Climate Working Group is helpful, perhaps we need to start making meetings with just urban folks and the White House Climate Change Task Force.

Action item: Water groups involved in Water Week, we would be interested in an update on how it went and if there are any takeaways pertinent to SUFC.

2. Future SUFC Hill efforts

- a. Fly-In
- b. Fly-Outs

Conversation about not holding an SUFC fly-in this May. Including not having the capacity to organize a large fly-in, our strategic hits throughout the year has resulted in tangible results. Urban and Community Forestry was added back to the 2014 appropriations bill, members of the appropriations subcommittee addressed urban forestry – in the Chief’s testimony and the chair’s opening remarks.

It is important to encourage individual organization’s members to support SUFC priorities by including the most relevant SUFC points in their individual fly-ins. How do we implement fly-outs? What role can the coalition play in these endeavors?

Action item:

- **We will be sure to resend SUFC Policy platform to remind folks to include in their organization’s fly-in materials.**
- **Compiling a list of strategic 4-6 members whom we want to reach during a Fly-Out (possibly during the August or October recesses). Once they are selected, galvanize SUFC organizations to reach out to local members so that an “Urban Forest Tour” has a wide range of interests represented.**

3. Continuation of House & Senate Champions

- a. Rep. David Joyce, Ohio
- b. Rep. David Valadao, CA

TCIA held a PAC dinner for Rep. Joyce. He brought along his colleague, freshman Rep. Valadoa – we saw this as a positive sign. Not only is Joyce remaining interested in urban forestry, he is encouraging his colleagues too. Both come from rural and urban districts, and this is a good opportunity to spread our influence and make more contacts.

4. Urban Waters Federal Partnership – Sign on in support (see attached)

Issued several years ago, coming up again for distribution. Would coalition members be interested in signing off as individual organizations? This is not something SUFC will sign-off on as a coalition.

Action item: Jen will check who the contact is to collect the signatures and provide that information when circulating the support statement to the larger coalition.

5. Other/Open