

SUFC Steering Call
Friday, March 7, 2014

Participating: Steve, Mark, Dan, Rebecca (Alex), Peter, Keith, Gerry, Jen and Julia

SUFC Events week of March 24th

1. Tuesday, March 25th: 12-5 p.m. Congressional meetings
 - Select Hill appointments. Participating: Don Winsett, Rebecca Turner/Alex, Gerry Gray, Julia (pending), Ullman rep?
 - Organized by Rebecca and Alex
 - Timing for these meetings is good due to budget release and Cong. Members making budget requests – SUFC will make programmatic requests through staffers
 - SUFC policy working group members also invited/recruited by Gerry/Beck

2. NACD Reception: 5-7 p.m.
 - House Agriculture Committee Room, 1300 Longworth House Office Building

3. Wednesday, March 26th: 8-4:30 SUFC Annual Meeting
 - US Courtyard Capitol Marriott, attendance est. @ 45

 - 6-8:30 p.m. SUFC Reception, US Botanic Garden on the Mall
 - Paul Ries will be honored at the reception (Linda Ries also attending). Steve has a wood plaque from VT maple (what else?) being made. Keith and Jen submitted wording.

ACTION ITEMS:

- If you have a VIP guest to invite to the SUFC Reception, alert Jennifer ASAP. Final headcount goes in 3.20.14
- **Mark Garvin** will bring (to DC) wooden gift watch for Paul Ries as well.
- Hill meetings being set up by **Rebecca and Alex**. Jen pass along Steering Cmte members who are interested/available for Hill meetings.
- **ALL:** Submit to **Dan Lambe** stories/appreciation for Paul Ries' work over the years (cc Jen). Don Winsett will recognize Paul and present SUFC tokens of appreciation. **NEED THIS BY FRIDAY 3/21!**

SUFC Staffing

- Jen flagged creeping workload growth related to high Coalition activity (governance, strategic planning, engaged working groups, annual meeting, Hill meetings, pro-active advocacy efforts year-round, overall outreach and admin.+)
- There is a growing need to prioritize projects, monitor budget and develop a longer-term solution to limited SUFC "staffing" capacity.

Strategic Planning

- Agreement that SUFC would benefit from an external leadership/facilitator and coordinator for the strategic planning efforts.

- Jennifer has reached out to Lisa Burban and while Lisa was very interested, she recently replied that this work is too far out of her scope of work at this time. She passed on another

contact name, Nancy Walters – previously with the FS and now in private practice. However, finding an excellent facilitator will not be an issue, the funding will be more challenging. This is a possible area where SUFC could approach the FS for future grant funding.

- In the interim, working groups (Policy and R&D) are moving ahead aggressively with short, interim and long-term goal planning. Both groups are using a similar template to lay the ground work for the this planning process.

Debrief on SUFC Outreach/DC Chair meetings

- In February, Don Winsett and Jennifer met with NACWA, NASF, BOMA, OPEI, and FS
- Jim Skiera and Mark Garvin came to DC for the meeting with Dep Under Sec Butch Blazer (TCIA, ISA and Davey) to discuss arboriculture education and training. Butch is willing to support and facilitate introductions once SUFC members have a larger plan of action. SUFC will work to support ISA and TCIA+ efforts – but is not currently in a position to lead.
- March-May meetings with Butch Blazer are being penciled into calendars.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Jen following up with FS leadership offices re: invitations. All are cognizant of how speaking engagements roll downhill to U&CF program (both pro and cons).

Policy & Research update (as time allows)

- Policy WG has held two in-person multiple hour meetings to begin drafting their short to longer terms goals, 2014+ platform and pro-actively working to include all SUFC member interests – not just core UF groups. Looking to streamline and find consensus in at least five different bills that have been put forth by members, Appropriations and identifying priorities.

This was Keith's last Steering Cmte call as he begins a new UF leadership position with Fairfax, VA in two weeks. Keith was thanked for his continuous support of SUFC and leadership within the U&CF Program. We look forward to seeing him at the SUFC reception and other UF events in the near future.