

## SUFC Steering Call

### Thursday, June 11, 2015

**Participating:** Don Winsett, Mark Garvin, Cara Boucher, Steve Sinclair, Jen Hinrichs, Alice Ewen, Paul Ries, Rebecca Turner, Peter Hutchins, Gerry Gray

- The [Partners in Community Forestry Conference](#) is in early November. For the past three years, SUFC has hosted or co-hosted an opening reception. ADF is pulling together the basic components to see if the partners/sponsors from last year are interested in re-upping. ADF is checking to see if a representative from TNC or another group will take the lead on coordinating (TNC did it last year, Charlotte 2014). (Jen/SUFC is not offering this role this year.) ASK: Will SUFC contribute up to \$750 to support the all-inclusive event?

Overall response was “yes” with a few descents AND a request to see if we can find an SUFC strategic partner/other to help defray the cost (from unrestricted dollars) for SUFC. Jennifer, Don and Paul will pursue.

- **R & D Update:**

- Don, Jen and Gerry will meet with Alex Friend, Pacific SW Research Station Director next week while he is in DC. Purpose of the meeting is to continue to cultivate relationships with all the regional research stations as a preliminary step to advancing SUFC’s R & D platform. Agenda items should include the proposed LA field station (has National Forest System involvement, lot of opportunities). SUFC met with Rob Doudrick (SE Research Station) earlier this year. SUFC will also be looking to “socialize across the FS hive” regarding research interests, not limiting ourselves to traditional urban forestry related programs – with a strategy to develop multiple connections within the FS.

- **Policy Update:**

- TCIA has their “Fly-In” in DC next week. Becky has been invited to present the SUFC policy platform and attend various TCIA events. Great opportunity for sharing and co-carrying messages. *Much appreciated TCIA and Becky.*
- Steering Cmte members are being asked to put aside some time July 28+ for some Hill visits with SUFC Policy WG members. SUFC will pair up those out-of-towners with WG members for strategic/select Hill meetings. Scott, Jim, Dan, David –please consider incorporating this into your schedule.  
**ACTION ITEM: Please contact Jen or Becky.**
- Chuck Mills from CA ReLeaf recently gave the WG an update on how the UF investments are beginning to move and the possibility of even more additional funding.

- **Financial/Administrative Update:**

- Going forward American Forests will provide the Steering Cmte with quarterly updates to review and meet with convener and chairs monthly to review

status/check-in on federal and non-federal funds. The final report (narrative and financial) will be completed and submitted at the end of June. Jennifer will share both with Steering Cmte members.

- The new grant is “in process” with the FS and will reflect a June 1<sup>st</sup> start date. Alice will ensure the current grant is set up for an 18-month period (vs. 12 month) to allow for flexibility and any change in predicted spending expenses due to convener transition/other.

➤ **Strategic Outreach & Engagement (communications)**: Working group continues to grow (met in May) and has increased interest from SUFC members such as TNC, APA, NASF+. Signed agreement with Fifth Estate Communications. Also looking for strategic plan and this WG to chart SUFC communications efforts in the future (even addressing questions such as how/when SUFC sponsors events like Partners reception etc.)

➤ **JULY Steering Cmte meeting and Strategic Planning session:**

- Steering Cmte meeting: Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. 5 p.m.+ SUFC Happy Hour reception
- SUFC Strategic planning session: Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Hill visits: Tuesday PM and Wed. AM – cmte members paired with Policy WG members for appts on the Hill.
- Location: TBD

➤ **Convener Transition Planning:**

- Jen will continue her current role through the end of July. She is talking with Paul and Don about continuing to spearhead specific SUFC projects including the strategic planning (through early December).
- Don is looking for volunteers to serve on a search committee for a consultant replacement and will be sure to have a diverse representation on this short-term committee.
- While the transition will be challenging for SUFC, it also provides a unique opportunity that dovetails well with the strategic planning – it frees the leadership to re-think and re-define the position without constraints.
- **ACTION ITEMS:** Jen will update the short version to include a desired skill set and revise it for external use AND update the detailed version to reflect the percentage of time spent on various tasks and reshape it so that it can be used as an internal document to evaluate the current convener role and project future changes.