

## **SUFC Steering Committee Meeting**

### **March 18, 2013**

**Participating:** Don Winsett, Alice Ewen, Dan Lambe, Gerry Gray, Steve Sinclair, Cara Boucher, Carrie Gallagher, Jen Hinrichs

#### **1. Formalizing Federal Partnerships/Supporter Level:**

EPA (Specifically Office of Water - Urban, Stormwater+) has strong interest in "joining" SUFC. FS has acted as ex-officio 'member' of SUFC since inception. Gen'l consensus to create a category for federal agencies to set precedent for EPA and future fed agencies. While relationships with current program mgmrs are strong within U&CF and Urban Water (EPA), formalizing the organizational relationship builds towards permanency and expansion to rest of respective agency.

Price point and related issues to be addressed by Strategic Engagement WG (Dan and Carrie) who will make a recommendation to Steering Cmte (SC).

FS would 'fee' would be waived/exempt from federal level contribution in light of substantial past and current contributions.

**ACTION ITEM:** Jen to follow up with Surabhi Shah, EPA Urban Waters Program  
Dan, Jen, Carrie to revisit issue in more depth and make recommendations to SC (not likely to be ready by April 9<sup>th</sup> call)

#### **2. Drafting More Comprehensive SUFC Guidelines:**

SC reaffirms need to develop comprehensive guidelines or "soft bylaws" to provide greater clarity on wide range of issues and infrastructure for SUFC.

**ACTION ITEM:** Gerry Gray to look up Rural Voices for Conservation background/guidelines and get to Cara.

Cara continues to compile information from 501 c (3) groups and coalitions.

#### **3. Research Working Group – Formalize:**

SC consensus for Research Ad Hoc Cmte to become established Working Group – rounding out three working groups: Policy, Research and Strategic Engagement. Scott Maco will step up as WG Lead and SC liaison.

Interest in reaching out to SUFC members in the water community to join Research WG.

**ACTION ITEM:** Jen/Scott setting up next WG call; Jen to reach out to water and health groups to participate in WG.

#### **4. SUFC Steering Cmte Recruitment:**

SC will wait until we are further along with guideline development (see #2 above) before aggressive recruitment; however, interest in reaching out to water community representative NOW – need to reach new constituency through this sector.

**ACTION ITEM:** Jen to send description of water groups to next SC call and suggest possible candidates.

**5. Fundraising for SUFC:**

SC in consensus re: SUFC ability to raise funds to support its operations – either from foundations or private sector - as long as the funds support the unique strengths of the Coalition (convening, networking+) and there is no actual or perceived competition with SUFC member programming. “As long as the unique role of SUFC is the focus, I don’t believe SUFC membership is against funding from whomever.” From lessons learned, SUFC needs to be as clear and transparent as possible. SUFC budget should reflect coalition goals/direction and ensure all SC members are on board with each potential future ask.

Don Winsett shared that there may be one, or more, anonymous donors ready to support SUFC. Also, some SUFC members such as ISA, TCIA+ are willing to step up their contributions to SUFC, recognizing the value/benefits received from SUFC.

SC will also determine if there is a “trigger point” of ‘x’ dollars which require SC approval. For instance, 5k is the current top end of SUFC Strategic Partnership levels, SUFC member contributions (special events etc.). Good to have a ‘fast-track option’ for convener/Chair to access for contributions. Reminder that the groundwork has already been accomplished with SC through the current tiered Strategic Partnership levels offered by SUFC (1k supporting partner, 5k full strategic partner).

**ACTION ITEM:** The next SC Call will focus on SUFC budget for remainder of 2013 and concrete fundraising steps as well as membership structure dues (alternatives/pro-bono contributions/staffing etc.).

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 1-2 PM Eastern. NOTE: If there is enough interest, we may host an in-person meeting for those in the DC area with a conference call. To be confirmed.

**Conference Dial-in Number:** (605) 477-2100 Participant Access Code: 806975#