

SUFC Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 13, 2013

Participating: Cara Boucher, Jen Hinrichs, Scott Maco, Rebecca Turner, Peter Hutchins, Steve Sinclair, Julia Anastasio, Mark Garvin, Gerry Gray,

The goal of this Steering call was to receive updates from the working group chairs on recent activity and short-term plans for research, policy, and the Vibrant Communities communication efforts.

Policy Working Group:

Gerry Gray and Rebecca Turner provided a thorough review of SUFC policy interest over the last three months. This includes:

Appropriations

- SUFC alarmed by the recent House appropriations draft FY 2014 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill which eliminated specific funding for U&CF.
- In response to this proposal and SUFC's long-standing strategic plan to develop deeper and broader relationships on the House, the SUFC Policy Working Group is developing short, medium and long-term strategies for Hill work to include a wide range of activities such as 1-1 key meetings with House reps, briefing etc.
- Thank you letters to Moran and Ohio Rep. Marcy Kaptur have been issued by several SUFC members thanking them for their on-going support of U&CF and their amendment request to reinstate the funding.
- NOTE: The Senate side did allocate slightly more than President's budget so keeping those relationships strong but cultivating House relationships.

Community Parks Bill

SUFC has endorsed this legislation and it will be an official part of the SUFC policy platform. Tailored materials under development. SUFC members ASLA and NRPA are leading this effort to move the legislation forward.

TREES Act

SUFC has endorsed this legislation and is working to coordinate strategies on the Hill among SUFC members. The current focus is to fold the TREES legislation into a broader omnibus bill on energy efficiency (i.e., HR 1616) vs a stand-alone. This strategy is far more likely to move it forward.

Climate Working Group

SUFC is working on a set of recommendations to submit to this to include a urban strategy/language. These recommendations will be submitted to the administration – hopefully with FS Climate Working Group for the first time.

UF Research Working Group

- Scott Maco provided a brief update on the group's progress over the summer. The **Research Platform** is finalized. We incorporated final feedback from members and it is an external-ready document. SUFC is getting many request to share and circulate this document; interest in strong.
- Meeting with Michael Rains on July 17th in DC. Quick takeaway – FS has not had a national strategy with urban issues in the past. We are encouraged not to be shy, get in front of the chief, other key FS leaders and the Hill. Be a leader. Don't just focus on S&P, research but the larger picture. Jennifer has more detailed notes available.

ACTION ITEM: Policy and Research leadership meeting to discuss coordinated advocacy strategy is set for Friday, August 30th at 12 PM. All welcome to join.

NOTE: All SUFC documents will be posted to the SUFC website by early September. A notice and links will be distributed to SUFC members once it is up.

Strategic Engagement Working Group

- Dan, Don, Jennifer and Carrie met 8/22/13 to discuss how to best move outreach and communication efforts forward. They are reviewing pro-bono and contractual opportunities ranging from enewsletter issues to conference outreach.
- WG members will reach out to all current Strategic Supporters (corporate) for 2014 renewal and feedback. [True Green](#) is the newest Strategic Supporter (\$1k).

MISC.

- SUFC Steering Committee agreed to be a joint sponsor of the 2013 reception held the first evening of the Partners in Community Forestry Conf., Pittsburg, PA. \$500 commitment. Jennifer to follow up with TNC event coordinator.
- Steve, Cara, Jen and Julia agreed to work on the SUFC governance outline.
ACTION ITEM Jennifer to circulate.
- Peter Hutchins is helping guide a review of our SUFC current and future IT needs which range from SUFC website and Vibrant Communities/Trees Are The Key site to ecommunications and other related needs. ISA, SUFC and AmForests are currently working as an advisory committee to think through the technical needs of SUFC and its members; how we might grow SUFC and related membership data base collection/needs; and current consolidation efforts etc. Scott Maco also offered his support.