

SUFC Steering Committee Call

August 19, 2014

Participating: Mark Garvin, Cara Boucher, Jen Hinrichs, Carrie Gallagher, Dan Lambe, Scott Maco, Anne Buckelew, Becky Turner

Community Forestry Conf/Charlotte, November 2014

- Many SUFC members/representatives will be attending including several SUFC Steering Cmte members.
- SUFC Breakfast is scheduled for one AM during the conf. Confirmed date is pending per an invitation to Steve Koehn to attend. (*How do we want to message attendance @ bfast?*)
- Federal coordination in place to maximize UF Coordinators ability to attend larger Conf. and partners annual meetings (SMA, ACTrees, UAA+)
- Joint reception, Tuesday, Nov. 4th
- **ACTION:** Steering Cmte to make conscious effort to invite individuals/orgs to Conf. who are SUFC members but more “lightly engaged.”
- **ACTION:** Steering Cmte (at Conf.) to flag and introduce current “lightly engaged” SUFC members or potential partners to other SUFC members @ Conf.
- **ACTION:** Jen will look into SUFC “unity” stickers/conversation starters for SUFC members to wear/use at Partners.

SUFC Outreach:

- Reinforced strategic engagement strategy to focus on bringing those SUFC members with “light” SUFC connection (or just loosely affiliated partners) into deeper engagement with SUFC (i.e., ICMA, SMA, NLC+)
- Recent meetings and outreach efforts include ICMA, APA, FS Conservation Ed, Am. Public Health Association and Bartlett Tree Company
- Pending: NUCFAC, NARC, WEF, FS Partnership, BOMA, NLC, DOI

Policy Update:

- Right before recess Congress approved FY 2015 Appropriations budget for U&CF: \$28.4 M (same as FY 2014 level) which was not quite as high as we wanted **BUT** \$5 M more than the President’s request. Hence process is working.
- SUFC members met with OMB this summer (Barbara Johnson) to talk about FY 2016; Introduce her to SUFC (Carrie, Faith and Becky attended). Had not met with OMB for many years and thus covering all bases.
 - Now we follow up with “new story” that we are telling.
 - Also recommendation to invite Barbara and/or representative from FS Budget Office to attend SUFC Annual Mtg.

- **ACTION:** Follow up in Sept. when she has budget in hand. **Becky** will put on the calendar now (checking with FS office).
- CA Fly-out still being vetted/planned; other Hill visits being evaluated as SUFC Steering members visit DC (Sept/Oct)

Urban Research Update:

- SUFC R &D Research briefing with Dep Under Sec. Butch Blazer, Sept 9th (Scott Maco, Jen Hinrichs, FS R &D rep., Gerry Gray?) and Lisa Pelstring of Dept of Interior.
- FIA (urban) update: The reality is this will be a slow start and be introduced at the local levels with interested/ready communities. The FS feeling their way with interested partners. A July FIA partnership/pilot leadership team met in Baltimore to discuss urban FIA. Implementation of FIA on the ground in urban areas is viewed as a big challenge. A strategic plan is under development and Greg Reames (FS) expressly requested SUFC input and is open to our input. (SUFC policy role will also play into this later.)
- **ACTION:** **Scott/Jen** will set up meeting/call to discuss urban FIA in more depth AFTER strategic draft is completed for further SUFC member discussion.

Steering Cmte Recruitment and Chair Succession Planning Update:

- Kevin O'Hara, National Recreation and Parks Association AND David Rouse, American Planning Association are both interested in serving on the SUFC Steering Cmte per our outreach efforts. Both will attend the SUFC Steering Cmte meeting in DC on Dec. 9th. If they agree to serve, they will be formally voted in at the SUFC Annual Meeting in early 2015.
- Tom Delay, PLANET declined.
- **ACTION:** **Don** to follow up with Ben Grumbles, US Water Alliance to assess potential interest in serving on Cmte.
- Steering Cmte Advisory role drafted. To be shared with Paul Ries ASAP.
- **ACTION:** Update SUFC Chair description (**Don/Jen**). **Carrie and Dan** agreed to serve on an ad hoc succession committee.

OTHER:

- SUFC Annual Meeting date should be selected BY December 2014 (at the latest).
- **ACTION:** Jen to get out meeting date poll in September for **2015 date**.