

## SUFC Steering Committee Meeting

August 8, 2011

### Meeting Summary:

- Call provided an opportunity to update Steering Committee (SC) on administrative, fundraising, and policy accomplishments/activities.
  - Policy –
    - **Farm Bill** reauthorization recommendations has moved to top priority of WG. Recommendations out mid August with full coalition sign-off by end of August.
    - HR 2095 (**Energy Conservation Through Trees**) legislation held great interest for SUFC members. WG members worked for several weeks to revise legislative language, met with Matsui staffer etc. decided to put legislation on 'warming plate' until political climate is more conducive to new legislation (outside budget, Farm Bill etc.)
    - WG developing **policy issue matrix** to help prioritize and communicate SUFC interests
  - Outreach/Communication –
    - Focused summer months on strengthening relationships with ICMA, ASCA, American Forests, EPA (Urban Waters, Storm Water Mgmt) and potential collaborators such as National Association of Regional Councils, Am Academy of Env Engineers via in-person meetings in DC
    - SUFC/ADF hosted educational webinar on the Farm Bill and opportunities for urban issues within reauthorization; eBulletin update and Enewsletter out this spring/summer
    - Multiple fall conference opportunities
- Continuing to look for more SUFC member resources to meet Coalition communication, administration and policy needs. Pending meeting with KAB to explore opportunities.
- SUFC submitted pre-proposal to Surdna Foundation to expand grassroots advocacy efforts@ Farm Bill and other relevant SUFC interests. Forest Service grant approved for cont'd operational SUFC needs.

### Action Items:

- ✓ **Dan** to reconnect with Partners Conf. Planning Committee to revisit how NUCFAC, SUFC, VCTF, ACT etc. can best leverage time slot in November.
- ✓ **Jennifer** to share proposal (for above conf.) with Keith Cline, FS.
- ✓ **Jennifer** drafting policy matrix
- ✓ **Jennifer** to update Strategic Partners materials per SC comments. Begin to draft procedure for Strategic Partner involvement with SUFC. Reconnect with Davey @ status change before coalition-wide announcement.
- ✓ **Steve** to touch base with Jake @ future use of DC interns etc. & forward data linking air quality and UF
- ✓ Keith to share "code of ethics" statement for SUFC reference.

- ✓ **ALL:** The only item on the agenda we did not get time to address was whether the SC sees a need to update SUFC membership (and partners) on iTree. Is there interest in a webinar hosted by SUFC? 101 plus update information on iHydro etc.? Please share thoughts. Jennifer can also poll gen'l membership and will bring up in next iTree call (8/17 @ 11:30). Seems to be wide-ranging level of knowledge of iTree suite.
- ✓ **ALL:** Review request for Coalition Leadership course by Jennifer. See below.

NOTE: Jennifer has requested to take a new distance learning course offering for Coalition Leadership offered by Institute for Conservation Leadership. This two-month course will provide in-depth examination of coalition strategies and tools to better manage coalition networks. As Chair, Don Winsett has approved the expenditure (\$685 reduced rate). As this is a new request (no precedent), we are presenting to the full SC for approval. Funds could come from FS grant or private (ACT) funds.

<http://www.icl.org/programs/distance-learning/leading-coalitions-and-networks>

*Leading Coalitions & Networks* offers personalized consulting and small group webinars designed exclusively for leaders of environmental and conservation coalitions. Participants may register individually or as a leadership team.

By the end of this program you will:

- Enhance your effectiveness with new skills, self-awareness, and perspectives on your role as a coalition leader
- Identify the leadership practices that build healthy networks and coalitions
- Apply leadership tools to manage tensions, conflicts, and distractions
- Work with a coach to set goals and find solutions that work with your individual leadership style
- Connect with a community of coalition leader peers