

SUFC Urban Research Working Group

8/27/13

Participating: David Rouse, Olivia Starr, Scott Maco, Michael Leff, Jen Hinrichs, Faith Campbell, Alec Giffen, Ann Gosline, Peter Hutchins

- The SUFC Urban Forestry Research Platform document is finalized! It is attached in PDF form for general use and distribution. It will also be uploaded to the SUFC website. Again, it is a living document that will continue to be reviewed and updated to reflect SUFC interests and needs.
- The SUFC conversation with Michael Rains/FS and SUFC members from our July gathering will be integrated into our planning with the Policy WG as we move from platform development to outreach and advocacy strategies on behalf of UF/GI research. Notes from this meeting are available from Jennifer. Salient points include increased and improved communication with FS leadership, other external agencies, key Hill committees AND, consistent messaging and alignment. Also, stressed was meeting people where they are re: our communication goals.
- Several SUFC members on the WG call flagged the importance of expanding the SUFC circle re: federal relationships with a connection to urban forestry/GI. It is not a FS monopoly – although our relationship with the FS is long-standing and very strong. It is time to take our work/platform on the road to other federal agencies (DOT, DOI etc.). NOTE: These relationships and any desired outcomes are long-term outcomes so we have to maintain our current efforts and relationships.
- Gerry Gray gave an overview of the current appropriations funding issues and concerns over House zero-ing out of U&CF budget (and 1/3rd reduction of S & P budget). Research and Policy WG leadership will meet in August to discuss pending policy issues and co-develop a strategy to advance common interests. This outline will be brought back to the Research WG for review and discussion prior to implementation.
- David Rouse, new Managing Director of Research @ APA (see attached card) and Olivia Starr gave a short overview of their research priorities/SUFC overlap:
 - Applied and policy-related research – we want to take ideas like iTree/other into mainstream use. Our work is through [three national centers](#):
 - Planning for and Community Health
 - Green Communities
 - Hazards Planning

A lot of different tools are being funded but APA challenge is to get planners to learn how to USE these tools – therefore mainstreaming these tools is one current focus for APA. APA is very broad and large so we are looking to SUFC to help us with UF/related tools. A combination of

David being in DC and interest in UF bodes well for strengthened relationship b/w APA and SUFC.

APA will also work with SUFC members for a future Planners Training Service (PTS) workshop at APA potentially @ Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services. This topic may be very interesting to planners and give us a chance to build on some of our partnerships (like with SUFC and Digital Coast). More to come.

- **The NAS UF report is now available:** http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18370