

Farm Bill Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Jan. 27, 2012

Participating: Larry, Melinda, Carrie, Gerry, Jake, Danielle, Jennifer

- Goal: “Winnow down” the larger platform and clarify SUFC’s intent/purpose with Farm Bill platform/recommendations.

Q. Is our purpose primarily educational or to get something specific inserted or modified in the Farm Bill?

A. It can be both. It is an educational opportunity to get across at least two key messages:

1. We want to see more programs that cross artificial rural and urban boundaries and work on a larger landscape scale.

- a. If pushed to answer what that looks like, SUFC (and other advocates) should acknowledge it is a complicated issue - but we are working specific language after reviewing various legislation.

2. We want to see Federal and State agencies work more closely together to maximize monetary investments and regulatory impact both up and downstream.

- a. Agencies already have multiple water quality, wildlife plans and other to coordinate – this is a natural extension of that cross-agency coordination.

- Committee agrees we can use current double-sided fact sheet to address Farm Bill issues at 10,000 foot level. This should be overlaid with the messages/talking points above (need to be refined).
- While some specific points will be dropped from this winnowed list, they are not removed from the overall platform – simply pushed to a back burner so that Hill advocates can have succinct and minimal points/asks.
- Gen’l observation that March 7th may NOT be the right time to make a specific ask – but may be the perfect time to explain why these issues are important to the Farm Bill/other.
- Committee will continue discussion to further clarify messages and recommendations in the coming weeks. Specific decisions to date include:
Step 1: Keep bullet one (50M); drop second bullet
Step 2: Keep bullet one re: landscape planning (add language about permeable barriers b/c urban and rural). NOTE: This is where the Committee will continue to search out specific language or “a little piece” that we can use as a lever.
Step 3: Still under discussion –