

SUFC Farm Bill Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

May 24, 2011

NACD Offices

Participating: Jake Donnay and Steve Sinclair (NASF), Gerry Gray (AF), Danielle Dills, Karl Anderson and Yenie Tran (NACD), Jennifer Hinrichs (SUFC), Don Winsett (ISA), Larry Wiseman, Hadley Sosnoff (ANLA), Alice Ewen (FS)

- Jennifer confirmed the SUFC has given its collective “go-ahead” for the Ad Hoc Committee to pursue work on the 2012 Farm Bill. We have at least six SUFC member organizations who will officially represent the SUFC on this ad hoc committee (with support from Larry Wiseman and others)
- Several participants gave a collective overview of the Farm Bill and noted:
 - Senator Stabenow (committee chair, MI) is pushing a more aggressive timeline although the House will not (likely) consider the bill until 2012. The Forest and the Farm Bill Coalition (FBBC) is looking to send basic recommendations to Stabenow’s staff in mid-June.
 - There will be multiple opportunities to engage and introduce potential language into the Farm Bill along the way (marker legislation+)
 - The current authorities for urban and community forestry in the Farm Bill are very broad and the inferred authorities state “could vs. should”, creating room for more specific and compulsory language.
 - “Ecosystem services” and “environmental markets” are critical language to include going forward.
 - Now is the time to think creatively, inclusively and broadly – later our language requests will be trimmed and adjusted significantly by our coordination with other entities and partners who will help us carry our message.
 - Regardless of the outcome of Farm Bill language or inclusion of our policy principles – this process of developing a solid SUFC policy platform (“site prep”) will serve SUFC on many other fronts including introducing SUFC presence to a larger community.

Action Items:

- To create a starting place for the committee, we need to craft a collective goal (or backdrop) for all future messages – and to provide a measuring stick against Farm Bill and other legislation of interest to SUFC.
<http://www.urbanforestcoalition.org/doc/SUFCPrinciplesFinal.pdf>
- Each ad committee member should review the SUFC Principles and get comments to Jennifer by Tuesday COB (May 31st).
- Jennifer to reach out to NYRP for potential release of preliminary information that may have some bearing on committee’s Farm Bill work.
- Jennifer and Policy WG/research (iTree) Committee will continue to set up strategic meetings with congressional representatives throughout summer months, upon which SUFC can build their foundation for Farm Bill (and other) work.