

SUFC Policy Working Group Meeting Notes, July 27, 2012

Participating: Jake/Kim/Cara (NASF); Faith (TNC); Nick (APA); Carrie (ACTrees); Gerry/Rebecca (AmF); John (SAF)

Farm Bill:

-The Farm Bill has not been scheduled for a floor vote in the House. Congress recesses August 6th. It appears unlikely that the FB will be addressed before the break.

-There are signals that the House may propose a 1 year extension to the Farm Bill which would leave a job of passing a new Farm Bill to the next Congress.

-The Senate is still committed to completing the Farm Bill in this session.

Appropriations:

-The House sub and full committees reported out the Department of Interior (DOI) budget bill (includes the Forest Service urban forestry and research). It is unlikely that the bill will be considered on the floor because of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues.

-In the Senate neither the sub nor full committee has completed a DOI markup.

-It appears that Congress is moving down the path of a Continuing Resolution (CR) to begin FY13. The length of the CR could be through December in which case the current Congress would need to take action, or longer (6 months), which would leave the job of passing a FY13 budget to the next Congress.

Research:

-Discussed the important of continuing to build SUFC's relationship with Forest Service Research and the next steps. This includes meeting with national leadership and members working with Research Stations.

-Carrie expressed interest in being involved and noted that we could update FS on SUFC's research advocacy work and Vibrant Cities. We could consider including APHIS issues in discussions.

-Before meeting with FS on research, SUFC (leadership/research sub group) should meet to review and refine our strategy. Jake offered to host this meeting at NASF's office. Depending on schedules, tentatively looking at a meeting in August.

Action Items:

-Jen should send a reminder note to SUFC members about contacting and working with the FS Research Stations, and reporting back to SUFC so we can track efforts.

- Gerry will follow-up with Jen next week regarding setting up a meeting with SUFC and Research leadership. Will discuss who (Gerry or Jen) should contact Paul Reis and Beth Larry. Tentatively looking at for a meeting a meeting in late September.

-Jen should work with Gerry and Jake on setting up a SUFC (leadership/research sub group) meeting to review and refine SUFC's research strategy.

Notes and mtg facilitated by Cara Boucher