

SUFC Policy Committee Call

May 4, 2010

Attendees: Alice Ewen, Steve Sinclair, Mark Garvin, Phil Rodbell, Dee Merriam, Gerry Gray, Jennifer Hinrichs, Jess Kebert

- **H.R. 4202, Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act** – Seeking comments or edits to APWA’s analysis:
 - **Phil** – centers of excellence and green infrastructure – the FS has been funding NARC. They’ve been forming a center for green infrastructure – website green regions. Jen will follow up.
 - **Dee (CDC)** – looking for opportunity for this legislation (or other) to have a broader definition of green infrastructure that has multiple community benefits vs. just storm water.
 - **Next step** – Alice and Jen will draft a letter (similar to Jake’s for SBA). Draft will be circulated to Policy WG for additional review. All letters should have some similar language around recognizing the broad definition of green infrastructure, multiple benefits as well as calling for inter-agency collaboration.
- **H.R.4509, Small Business Environmental Stewardship Assistance Act of 2010**– Seeking WG sign-off on SBA letter of endorsement for small business tree planting program support.
 - General approval; several edits were suggested to expand the resulting benefits from re-instituting the program.
 - **Next step** - Jen and Alice will incorporate suggested edits and distribute directly to the full SUFC membership. *SUFC members will circulate internally within their organization and stakeholders and respond by X date with a vote of support or decline. 3/4th approval of members ensures the letters are formally endorsed by SUFC (see Policy Principles).*
- **H.CON.RES.240, "National Streetscaping Week"** – seeking WG sign off, limited discussion as a positive effort but no funding involved.
 - **Next step** - No questions/comments. All comfortable moving this forward as drafted.
- **H.R. 2222, Green Communities Act** - letter of endorsement is forthcoming from ACT for WG review.
- **June 1-1 meetings** – Jennifer needs key policy contacts to create a short list. Examples include individuals from EPA, DOT, HUD, CEQ, Office of Urban Affairs, Urban Caucus etc. and specific contacts on the Hill. See attached “short list”
- NUCFAC presentation with invited SUFC guests is on June 2 – starts at 9 a.m. at Hall of States (more details will be forthcoming and template invitation from SUFC).

Additional submitted information from ANLA: H.R. 4509 and S. 3279. Our "Arbor-cacy Day" site is still live, and the Schrader video is on the front page. You can view that at www.anla.org/arborcacyday. Top visited place on the webpage as of now, with an average viewership of 5.5 minutes. We also did a legislative update back in April on the program that is available on our Knowledge Center, though we've more than doubled the # of co-sponsors since that time.

I'm also happy to report that we have 14 co-sponsors on the House version (2 R, 12 D - Mike Thompson of CA-1 will be added tonight). On the Senate side, S. 3279 was introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden on Thursday w/ 5 originals (Merkley, Stabenow, Specter and committee members Harkin and Hagan).

1. De-brief group on ACT Policy Summit; Great Outdoors meeting; APWA/NRPA briefings; and Outreach WG efforts
 - ACT was pleased with results. Had a number of panel discussion around different topic areas (storm water, energy, economic development, etc.) Everything was taped and soon the video will be available.
 - Alice was able to attend White House function on the Great Outdoors. President Obama, Secretary of EPA agriculture and leaders from CEQ were all in attendance - crafting a 21st century conservation agenda. They'll be reaching out to attendees for local contacts for field and listening tours. Opportunity for SUFC to suggest specific key voices of trees, arboriculture, etc.
 - Outreach group is meeting tomorrow 5/5. Continuing work on Urban and Community Forestry Champions list. Task is to contact every member in coalition to discuss populating the list. Will hold a conf call within the next month or so for all parties to discuss this how the Call-To-Action process will best work.
 - Working on media release about the coalition overall as well as a communications plan and calendar to create a consistent voice and "drum beat" going out every month or so. A communications protocol is also under development.