

May 2, 2011 Policy WG Call

Participants:

Steve Sinclair, Julia Anastasio, Jim Skiera, Don Winsett, Keith Cline, Dan Lambe, Gerry Gray and Jennifer Hinrichs.

The following is a summary of our SUFC Steering call on Monday with some highlighted action items for the group.

- The feedback from the Steering Committee and gen'l membership re: the SUFC Advocacy Day and Annual Meeting was positive. Members were engaged and felt their investments of time and funding were worthwhile. A compiled evaluation document will be generated for the 2012 Planning Committee to review.
- The resulting SUFC Action Plan (roadmap for 2011-2012) will be refined and distributed for review by late May. A working version is anticipated by early June at the latest. (This will include specific goals, tasks, timeline and identified resources (members and funding needs).
- Keith Cline and Jen Hinrichs will connect off-line to discuss issues around environmental justice and how that integrates into SUFC work and messaging.
- SUFC Policy Working Group is reviewing how SUFC can become involved in the re-authorization of the Farm Bill. WG will present recommendation to Steering Committee next week. June is a "motivational timeline".
- Jennifer will pursue setting up a webinar on the Farm Bill for SUFC members. ADF, ACT and NASF could be resources.
- SUFC will have a shortfall of operating funds June through October 2012 – assuming the U&CF program approves new grant application for SUFC. Jan, Jennifer and Don will have a conference call to discuss bridge funding options May 19th. Don is pursuing other potential resources. While summer is typically quieter for SUFC activities – the Farm Bill will increase SUFC activities/coordination. (NOTE: Membership dues of \$400 provide seed fundraising money and minimal funds for advocacy work but should not cover shortfall).
- All current Steering Committee members (and WG leads) agreed to formally remain on the Steering Committee for the next year.
- Wallace, Roberts and Todd LLC (WRT) has requested SUFC members and sent their fee. Jennifer will confirm membership unless there are any committee concerns. Please voice objection/concern by Monday, May 9th COB. NOTE: David Rouse is a principal of WRT and presented at the GI Conf. on behalf of SUFC and at the annual meeting last month on behalf of APA. <http://www.wrtdesign.com>