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**MEETING SUMMARY
MICHIGAN CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL**

**Agriculture, Forestry, and Waste Technical Work Group (TWG)
(AFW TWG)**

Call #2, January 24, 2008, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST

Attendance:

1. Technical Working Group members:
Jeff Andresen, Jim Byrum, Michelle Crook, Ken Dahlberg, Jordan Devries, Dana Kirk, Andrew Kok, Donna LaCourt (in place of Director Humphries), Gary Wykopf (in place of Pete Madden) Gary Trimmer (in place of Ken Nobis), Martin Dove (in place of Doug Parks), Lisa Scramlin, Michael Toth-Purcell, Carrie Vollmer-Sanders, Brian Warner
2. Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) staff:
Steve Roe, Rachel Anderson
3. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality:
Terri Novak, Marcia Horan, Duane Roskoskey
4. State Agency Participants: Jan Patrick, Shauna Tonsor, Tom Stanton, Steve Kulesia, Gordon Wenk, Michelle Crook.
5. Public Attendees: Amy Spray, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Becky Cooke, DTE, Tim Moncell, Kent Evans

Background documents:

(all posted at <http://www.miclimatechange.us/AFW.cfm>)

1. Meeting Notice and Agenda
2. PowerPoint for Teleconference
3. Michigan AFW Options Description
4. Michigan AFW Catalog
5. Summary of Call #1

Discussion items and key issues:

1. Steve Roe called the meeting to order, Rachel Anderson completed the roll call, and Steve reviewed the agenda and plans for the call.
2. CCS reviewed Call #1 minutes, TWG objectives and gave an overview of the Inventory & Forecast process. MI DEQ decided against a listserv because of resource constraints. CCS mentioned a question from call 1 on how TWG members were selected. Marcia Horan DEQ indicated that Council members were able to identify which TWG they wanted to be on and make recommendations for other members as well. Governor's office also received requests for TWG participation. Key gaps were identified and DEQ and council members identified people to fill in gaps. 12-15 members is a good size for a TWG to be functional, however DEQ wanted to be inclusive so TWG membership was open until the first meetings and then capped. Any other interested parties are welcome to attend as public members.
3. In the last call TWG members asked if Adaptation was to be addressed. DEQ responded that we cannot focus specifically on Adaptation at this time but inasmuch as Mitigation options are explicitly linked to Adaptation it will be addressed.
4. At the February MCAC meeting Steve from CCS will present the AFW catalog for approval by the Council. CCS stated we will continue to add actions to the Catalog. A member from the Dept of Agriculture indicated they had some indications and CCS recommended that they be shared during the call.
5. CCS reviewed the rest of the process, including both TWG and MCAC actions.
6. CCS began the Catalog overview. In answer to a member question about how cost per ton is calculated when it comes to cost savings, CCS responded that the detailed calculations will happen after the next phase where we choose priorities.
7. CCS walked the group through each set of options. For the first set Agriculture options the title was changed to "Production of energy and materials". A TWG member explained that the additions of 1.4 and 1.5 were added to expand beyond the increased use of wood products mentioned in AFW-8. Biobased materials such as soy insulation, corn carpet, green-based materials were mentioned, as well as manure-based building materials and pots for the bedding plant industry. A comment was made that there is little bio-based plastic production in MI. A TWG member asked "What is sustainable biomass?" and mentioned sensitivities to biomasses that are not sustainable such as tropical woods, given other externalities. The member indicated this was why he suggested carbon sequestration and ecosystem services be included and measured for each option, as a way to help define those externalities. The TWG recommended removing the word "building" from title of 1.5.
8. A TWG member mentioned that advanced refining at current ethanol plants should be encouraged, such as producing other products and the capture of their carbon emissions. A comment was made that the TWG needs to look at competing industries that will be relying on same bio feedstocks to make sure that the best use of those materials is being encouraged.

9. The question of whether wind power is an ag issue was brought up. A suggestion was made that it be added to land use AFW-4, since ag land is usually where wind farms are located. A comment was raised about displacing acres of farmland with windfarms and associated maintenance roads as well as a question concerning feasibility issue related to development of windpower in MI. DEQ proposed that we let the energy group handle windpower and then later we can weigh in on wind energy and its relationship to agriculture. There was also a suggestion that we could ask the cross-cutting group to look at it.
10. CCS walked through AFW-2 options. Organic Meat and Milk was added as 2.6. Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation were also added. There was a comment that about organic studies show that organic doesn't always mean GHG reductions due to decreased yields, lower production. TWG member suggested encouraging early adoption of biotechnology in all sectors to reduce pesticide use and other inputs. In response to a suggestion delete 2.3-2.5 due to limited use in MI, CCS said those issues will drive selection of priorities in the next step of the processes and recommended leaving them for the time being. A suggestion was made to add covers for lagoons, noting that it is an action supported by state activities and the group agreed to include it as part of related actions. 2.1 was expanded to Manure Management & Utilization noting potential energy uses that link back to option 1.1.
11. CCS then walked through AFW-3 options. It was noted that 3.3 can include all types of technologies, both traditional such as auto-steer guidance systems and biotechnological. A lively discussion ensued about the addition of option 3.6, organic crops. Rachel will send around Ken Dahlberg's documents on research and rationale behind organic farming. Steve mentioned a UK study that demonstrated no net GHG improvements from organic practices. It was noted that MI has more demand for organic products than MI growers can produce and that promotion of MI organics brings reduced food miles benefits in addition to ecosystem benefits and economic multipliers for local food economies. A member commented that organics is a niche market and that production/consumption is tough to quantify unless it is going through supermarkets. Another member noted that organic systems focus more on soil, not on carbon sequestration and suggested organics should be wrapped into the Buy Local option. Another member suggested should keeping all organics in one option so that the option description can include more background info in one location. Another member questioned promoting organics over production practices and noted that organics is a small portion of MI ag. A member noted that other commodity programs are promoted in the state while another commented that those programs are paid for by growers. Another member suggested that organics fits under 5.2, promoting farming practices that achieve GHG benefits and including it as a farming practice or system. CCS noted that all ancillary issues, such as carbon sequestration and ecological impact will be included when weighing and quantifying each option. A final recommendation suggested list it under 5.4, programs to promote organic farming practices that achieve GHG benefits. The conclusion was that 3.6 and 2.6 would be rolled into 5.4, which would be the focus point of organics.

12. CCS explained AFW-4 options, Land use Change. A member noted the Governor's Blue ribbon commission on land use should be looked at for 4.2, and mentioned an underfunded purchase of development rights program where farmers could put their land into ag production for perpetuity. It was decided these would be included under the notes and related actions for this option. A member suggested including farmland consolidation and noted that farms are becoming more fragmented. It was noted that consolidation improves efficiency and, though unpopular, when used with livestock improves implementation of technology such as manure digesters as well as reducing transportation related emissions. It was decided to include consolidation of farmland as option 4.3. It was also suggested to include consolidation of livestock as a new option under livestock with that note that it goes contrary to 2.5.
13. Next AFW-5 options were discussed. It was suggested that 5.2 and 5.4 can be combined, with 5.4 being a sub-option under 5.2. Some members asked why encourage one cropping system or practice over another. There is disagreement within the group on whether organic needs to stand alone. We can raise it within the MCAC, and CCS noted that those that have strong feelings about it are encouraged to talk about it at the MCAC meeting. It was also noted that later the group will have the opportunity to quantify which policies will best meet GHG reductions goals. A final suggestion was to wrap 2.7 into 5.1, energy efficiency.
14. There were no additions to AFW-6, but the title was changed to "Forestry – Production of energy and materials"
15. It was noted that AFW-7 options are for addressing potential for GHG benefits separate from addressing other benefits. A member noted that in option 7.3 – if ethanol plants want to plant large-scale genetically modified native species such as poplar it may actually relieve pressure on other local forests and suggested removing "with a diversity of native forest species" from the title and including it as a suggestion alone.
16. Next AFW-8 options were discussed. It was suggested option 8.3 be changed to 6.5 since AFW-6 was now focused on materials as well. A member suggested including a placeholder for improved wood product harvesting equipment as well and noted that other options such as water conservation, etc. also have a place in silviculture as well, not just ag crops.
17. Next, AFW-9. Waste coal 9.5 can be removed because there is almost no coal mining in state. A member mentioned 9.6 Bronco biodiesel at MSU where they are capturing sewer grease for local bus system – this can be included in options description.
18. Next, AFW-10. A member suggested it be looked at more generally, not just specific practices that may box the option too narrowly to particular actions. It was also suggested that we consider new technologies such as methane to methanol – can be included under 9.6, promotion of new and existing technologies for waste energy conversion.
19. Finally, AFW-11 Wastewater. No additions.

20. TWG members were reminded to send any updates to Rachel within the next week, by Jan 31st (rachel.anderson@pechan.com).
21. Members were also asked to look at MI Inventory & Forecast AFW appendices that are posted on <http://www.miclimatechange.us/AFW.cfm>. Full report is up on MCAC page at <http://www.miclimatechange.us/stakeholder.cfm>.
22. The next two AFW TWG calls were scheduled for Feb 28 and Mar 27 from 1-3 PM.
23. Public input: none.

Next steps and agreements:

1. The next TWG meeting will be held on Thursday, February 28, from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Please RSVP to Terri Novak novaktl@michigan.gov 517.930.3170 if you will be attending in person at DEQ Constitution Hall conference room.
2. TWG members should review and make final contributions to the Catalog of State Actions by Thursday, January 31st. TWG members should send in comments/questions/additions to Rachel Anderson (rachel.anderson@pechan.com).
3. TWG members should review at least the AFW appendices of the GHG Inventory & Forecast Report, so that issues can be discussed on the next call.
4. Next MCAC meeting is February 14th where the options catalog will be discussed. TWG members are encouraged to attend the meeting.
5. Dates for upcoming TWG conference calls:
 - a. February 28th, 1-3 PM
 - b. March 27th, 1-3 PM
 - c. May 1st, 1-3 PM
 - d. May 29th, 1-3 PM
 - e. June 26th, 1-3 PM
 - f. August 7th, 1-3 PM
 - g. September 25th, 1-3 PM
 - h. October 30th, 1-3 PM.