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MEETING SUMMARY
MICHIGAN CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL

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

Call #7, July 10, 2008, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Attendance:

1. Technical Working Group members:
Cara Boucher, Ken Dahlberg, Jordan Devries, Dana Kirk, Donna LaCourt,
Duane Roskoskey, Steve Shine, Carrie Volmer-Sanders, Brian Warner
2. Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) staff:
Steve Roe, Rachel Anderson
3. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality:
Marcia Horan, Steve Kulesia, Jim Ostrowski, Timothy Unseld
4. State Agency Participants:
5. Public Attendees: none.

Background documents:

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

1. Meeting Notice and Agenda
2. Summary of Call #6
3. PowerPoint Presentation for Teleconference
4. Straw Proposals with feedback from MCAC

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 today's agenda, which is to report feedback from the Michigan Climate Action Council (MCAC) and discuss next steps in the policy option process.

3. CCS reviewed the Call #6 minutes and provided an opportunity for TWG members to provide feedback. Call 6 focused on preparing straw proposals for the MCAC meeting #4 and a review of the inventory & forecast (I&F). The call summary was accepted without additional changes.
4. Steve mentioned that the Forestry I&F has been updated and he is waiting for feedback from Larry Pedersen. In response to a member question, Rachel reported that the livestock forecasts have been updated based on feedback from industry groups. Updated appendices will be sent out to the group.
5. CCS turned to the Policy Options document and reviewed feedback from the MCAC. The biomass supply table lists potential sources of supply based on in-state reports and National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL) reports. Switchgrass and willow or hybrid poplar do not have numbers next to them in the table because they are not a current biomass supply – NREL has estimated amounts that could be produced if CRP lands went into production. In response to a question about other lands that could be used for woody crops, a member mentioned some private studies that identified under-utilized agricultural lands that could be used for woody crops. A member mentioned a short rotation woody crop trial that produced 2 dry tons/acre/year. A member asked that the quantities of biomass be converted from tons to BTUs. A member asked if the quantities of biomass mean what is currently being unused or does it include biomass that is already being used. Another member commented that the in-state report referred to sources that are not already being used. Members noted that decisions will need to be made on the best use of available agricultural land – for low-GHG food production or energy crops such as short rotation woody crops.
6. The Policy Option document was reviewed as follows:
7. *AFW-1 Expanded Use of Biomass Feedstocks for Electricity, Heat, or Steam Production:* The MCAC would like a clear definition of what is meant by “sustainable.” Please send suggested language to Rachel.anderson@pechan.com. What is the state currently using for biomass electricity? CCS will draw that information out of the I&F and report it back to the group, including amount utilized for industrial production. Current generation of electricity from biomass is about 1%. The DNR – Forestry Management, Fire, and Minerals section (Anthony Weatherspoon and Cara Boucher) are working on this issue – trying to figure out what wood boilers are out there, what fuel is actually being used, and what the feedstock is. A member noted that a MCAC member claimed that 12.5% is an unachievable goal.
8. CCS will bring quantification of options after this call. TWG members are asked to flesh out Implementation Mechanisms, and Related Policies and Programs.
9. *AFW-2 In-State Liquid Biofuels Production:* MCAC wants language that focuses on GHG reductions. Members discussed how the group would come up with a definition for “renewable.” A member noted that currently as written it is “usage-based” not “production-based.” Workgroup volunteers are asked to provide Rachel with updated language. CCS will need to make some assumptions during quantification such as type of feedstock used to estimate GHG savings from this

- goal, however it is recognized that future technologies might be better than current technologies.
10. AFW-3 *Methane Capture and Utilization from Manure and other Biological Waste*: A member noted there might be other uses besides methane utilization for organic waste and garbage, such as using them for hog feed.
 11. AFW-4 *Expanded Use of Bio-based Materials*: The usage of bio-based materials is assumed to be annual. The same suggestion for waste demolition materials. We need data on current usage – Jody Pollock w/ corn growers will be contacted for data on bio-based materials. Tom Stanton volunteered to contact the Biomass Program to get data on current usage of demolition materials.
 12. AFW-5 *Land Use Management that Promotes Permanent Cover*: MCAC questioned the use of the word “permanent” in the title. A member suggested “continuous” cover or “long-term” cover or “winter” cover. CRP is market-based. A member suggested “restore” or “enhance” wetlands rather than “conversion” of wetlands. TWG members are asked to submit language that can be circulated. Carrie will work on some language.
 13. AFW-6 *Forestry and Agricultural Land Protection*: MCAC requested consideration of a “no net loss” goal. Change from “conversion of ag land to developed use.” Are windmills considered development? There is no specific language on conversion of forest land because the last 20 years there has been an increase in forest land, much of it from ag land conversion. Add language to retain that trend but not necessarily at the expense of ag land unless it is higher carbon sequestration. Cara will work on some language.
 14. AFW-7 *Promotion of Farming Practices that Achieve GHG Benefits*: MCAC wants to see reduction in N-based fertilizer. “Better nutrient use” rather than nitrogen management. Currently 2 million no-till acres. Change “no-till” to “conservation tillage” since some MI soil structures are not conducive to no-till. MCAC also asked for a definition for “locally-produced.”
 15. AFW-8 *Forest Management for Carbon Sequestration and Biodiversity*: Little input from the MCAC. They wanted “carbon traders” added to parties involved. Plantations of native trees – not fast-growing trees from southeast Asia. There are a number of different components to any solution.
 16. AFW-9 *Source Reduction, Advanced Recycling, and Organics Management*: How is lawn and garden waste being managed? Most of it is burned or left in fields. There is a bill in Michigan now that would lift the ban on yard waste going into landfills. Members noted that composting food is more difficult, both to implement and to quantify. There could be other ways to utilize organics other than composting. Could potentially change language to “achieve 75% enhanced organics management rate by 2025” to include composting and other uses.
 17. AFW-10 *Landfill Methane Energy Programs*: MCAC had little feedback on this option.
 18. A member asked if biochar is being addressed by any of the AFW options.

19. Please send any feedback or updates to Rachel.anderson@pechan.com.

Next steps and agreements:

1. The next TWG meeting will be held on Thursday, August 7th, 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 the DEQ Constitution Hall conference room.
2. Dates for upcoming TWG conference calls:
 - a. August 7th, 1-3 PM
 - b. September 25th, 1-3 PM
 - c. October 30th, 1-3 PM.