



MICHIGAN CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL
Cross Cutting Issues Technical Work Group
Draft Meeting Summary of Teleconference Call #11
Wednesday Aug. 20, 2008, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm EDT

Background documents for call:

- Notice and Agenda
- PowerPoint Presentation for Call #11
- Revised Straw Policy Options Document
- Summary of Call # 10 (for review and approval)

Meeting Facilitator Tom Looby of the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) called roll and reviewed the agenda. The Summary of the last meeting was approved.

Purpose of Call #11

- Review and approve the remaining elements of the Policy Options Description (POD) that needed changes.
- Approve as many full options as possible to present to the Michigan Climate Action Council (MCAC) at their upcoming September meeting.

Discussion

To expedite the call, Tom Looby suggested the Technical Work Group (TWG) first review Options 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 to confirm prior changes, then review new text for Options 9 and 11. All of these options are in the POD on the website. Tom suggested that the group then address Options 5 and 10 revisions sent by e-mail last night. This approach was agreed.

CCI-1 GHG Inventories, Forecasting, Reporting, and Registry and CCI-5 Public Education and Outreach. The group agreed to changes to Implementation and Uncertainties. A member noted that if The Climate Registry (TCR) is not used, a state agency will need to be selected. (This was also raised on the previous TWG teleconference.)

CCI-2 - Statewide GHG Reduction Goals and Targets

Tom Looby asked about displaying the range for the goals/targets from the Interim Report. The TWG agreed. The last three elements of CCI-2 have been filled out. We will not ask MCAC for final approval until the goal/target numbers are inserted. Frank Ettawageshik noted we need to fill in the types of GHGs – it applies to all six GHGs from the IPCC report. No other changes were recommended; the TWG okayed moving CCI-2 forward with the changes to the “Types of GHGs.”

CCI-3 State, Local, and Tribal Government GHG Emissions (Lead-by-Example)

Frank Ettawageshik has some staff working on different aspects of this as it applies to Tribal governments. He got some information early this morning which suggest a strong statement. But

he's not certain if it should be here or in CCI-11. He has specific edits dealing with the mechanisms that States and Tribes have worked out—for example, in the area of water quality and economic development. We may need a similar accord/set of procedures for dealing with climate change. He wondered about adding a separate option specific to the Tribal / State interface and suggesting such a climate-related accord. Looby noted that at this point in the process it would be very hard to create a new option. He noted that the Executive Summary offers another way to address overarching issues. Someone suggested that within the Implementation section of Option 3 we could recommend a State/Tribal Accord on Climate-Related Issues. CCI TWG members agreed. The group agreed to move CCI-3 forward with a few edits which will be provided to Tom Looby and Mike Beaulac by end of day tomorrow, Aug. 21.

The discussion moved to “Uncertainties.” The question of who will be the lead agency was raised. This is really an implementation issue. Duncan Calloway raised the challenge of various township structures that may create coordination difficulties. No other uncertainties were raised. On the “Additional Benefits and Costs” Duncan Calloway noted that the monies saved by energy efficiency measures can be used for other purposes. Types of Greenhouse Gases should be “Not Applicable.” No other additions to the three last elements were offered.

CCI-4 Comprehensive Local Government Climate Action Plans

Some members are reviewing this with their local governments already and getting good responses. On the “sustainability” certification issue, the TWG discussed using EnergyStar along with others, such as LEED, that get at energy savings – to the bullets on page 19 of the POD posted for today’s meeting. “Sustainability” is a bit ambiguous, so the TWG decided to focus on energy and established conservation certifications (such as LEED and EnergyStar) and to remove the word “other” as appropriate. *Need to fix the spelling of selected cities.*

Under “Implementation Mechanism” Greg suggested adding information on the Midwest Governors Accord. This is a multi-sector initiative that will affect local governments. It was decided that the MGA should be removed from detailed discussion in the Implementation section, and rather noted in the Introduction. Also, some are working across the border with Canada’s First Nations and this should be noted. Another point to add is participation in The Climate Registry. Also, Carbon should be broadened to GHGs for this option. These edits will be circulated to all by Mike Beaulac in the next day or two.

No “Uncertainties” were in the draft. The uncertainty of the RPS and what a future a national program might look like were suggested. Pending the coming edits to be approved by e-mail and the other changes noted here, this option was moved forward for approval by the MCAC.

CCI-5 Public Education and Outreach

Tom Looby circulated a revision to this option via e-mail prior to the call. The relationship to CCI-3 vis-à-vis “Implementation” was noted. Part of the “Uncertainties” will be moved to Implementation Mechanisms. The funding issue will be treated similarly to other options. New language will be added on cost assessments. Option 5 was approved with these changes.

CCI-6 (Tax and Cap / Cap-and-Trade)

This option was transferred to become a separate working group on Market-Based Policies.

CCI-7 Seek Funding for Implementation of MCAC Recommendations

The TWG approved moving this forward to the council. Looby will highlight changes to those sections previously approved by MCAC.

CCI-8. Adaptation and Vulnerability

On “Related Policies” the question came up about future national programs. Tom Looby noted this element usually refers to current/existing items (or recently passed laws about to be implemented). However, some language will be added to “Uncertainties.” Ray noted there is a verb missing – Tom Looby will add “in preparing.” CCI-8 was approved to move forward to MCAC.

CCI-9. Participate in Regional, Multi-State and National GHG Reduction Efforts

The “Uncertainties” section needs to be completed. As with other Options in this section, the question of what exactly will be included in the MGA and what will come from expected national programs is uncertain.

CCI-10 Enhance and Encourage Economic Growth and Job Creation Opportunities Through Climate Change Mitigation

Dwight Brady, Mike and Steve did a re-draft of this option. They took a look at what other states are doing and there is a smorgasbord to chose from. Steve Kulesia pulled info out of the Energy Road Map. There are significant economic implications to this option. These three members will continue work on this to present a better version at the MCAC, but the TWG will not ask for approval until Meeting #6.

CCI-11. Enhance and Encourage Community Development Through Climate Change Mitigation: Address Environmental Justice

Duncan Calloway noted that scope of this option is very broad and goes way beyond “environmental justice.” Tom Looby said that was the intention but asked if changing the name would help clear this up. The TWG did not want to change the name.

On “Implementation Mechanisms” and “Uncertainties” there were no changes. On “Additional Benefits” one member questioned whether reducing “high rates of asthma” is really directly a climate mitigation result. The correlation between reduced fuels burning and reduced asthma was noted by another member. There were no objections to moving CCI-11 forward to the MCAC.

With the exception of additions noted to CCI-2 and with CCI-10 needing further development, all of the CCI TWG Policy Options were approved to recommend to MCAC.

Tom Looby briefly discussed the type of quantification analysis being done by other work groups. These will give estimates of the GHG reductions from options in each of the other sectors (Agriculture, Forestry and Waste Management; Energy Supply; Residential Commercial, and Industrial; Transportation and Land Use). There is a process for accounting for overlaps. Initial estimates for some options should be ready for the September MCAC meeting.

October 1 is the next scheduled TWG meeting.

There were no comments from the public.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Attendance:

TWG Members:

Dr. Rosina Bierbaum, University of Michigan
Dwight Brady, Northern Michigan University
Frank Ettawageshik, Tribal Representative
Norman Christopher, Grand Valley State University
David Holtz, Clean Water Action y

State Agency Representatives:

Mike Beaulac for Steve Chester, Department of Environmental Quality
Olivia Cohen, Department of Environmental Quality

Members of the public:

Duncan Calloway, University of Michigan
Greg Ryan, DTE
Louis Pocalujka, Consumer Energy

Center for Climate Strategies:

Tom Looby
June Taylor