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**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**MARYLAND CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY GROUP**  
**Agriculture, Forestry, and Waste Management Technical Work Group**  
**(AFW TWG)**  
Call #2, September 11, 2007

**Attendance:**

*Technical Working Group:* Gary Allen, Val Connelly, George Kelly, Laura Miller, Cindy Parker

*Maryland Department of Environment:* Tad Aburn, Renee Fizer, Brian Hug, Kati Perry  
*Center for Climate Strategies (CCS):* Gloria Flora, Stephen Roe

*Public Attendees:* none

**Background documents:** ([www.mdclimatechange.us/GHG\\_Agriculture\\_Forestry.cfm](http://www.mdclimatechange.us/GHG_Agriculture_Forestry.cfm))

1. Meeting Notice and Agenda
2. PowerPoint for Teleconference.
3. AFW Policy Option Descriptions
4. AFW Catalog of State Actions
5. Draft Inventory and Forecast with Appendices

**Discussion items and key issues:**

1. Roll call and introductions of TWG, State and CCS contacts.
2. CCS reviewed the Agenda for the call.

*Purposes and Outcomes*

1. CCS refreshed participants on the role of the Technical Working Groups (TWG's) in providing subsequent recommendations to the MCCC. Specifically, this and the next call will be devoted to carefully reviewing the Options Catalog for completeness and applicability to current Maryland issues and concerns. The Draft Inventory and Forecast will be reviewed for accuracy and completeness.
2. Agenda, background and current materials for the MCCC and MWG meetings, are available at [www.mdclimatechange.us](http://www.mdclimatechange.us)
3. The public and members of the AFW TWG are welcome at all MCCC and MWG meetings as observers. Observers will be given opportunities to contribute views and ask questions.
4. CCS gave an overview of the purpose and key outcomes of the process.
5. **Milestones** are November 1 for an Interim Report with general recommendations and/or draft legislation. The Final Report is targeted for April 20, 2008.

### *Update on latest MWG Meeting*

1. Tad Ahern, Chair of the Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Mitigation Working Group (MWG) gave an overview of the September 7 MWG meeting.
2. MWG reviewed the Executive Order that established the Maryland Climate Change Committee. Two of its objectives are an interim report due Nov. 1, and the final report, due April 20, 2008. The goal is to have material for the 2008 Legislature to use to shape climate change policy.
3. Specifically, three items of interest for the November interim report are:
  - a. Updating state laws pertaining to the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS),
  - b. Green building, and
  - c. State Government leading by example.
4. Additional information from the TWG's sought for November:
  - a. Advice on priorities
  - b. Early action items
5. When framing goals, think short-term (feasible under existing regulatory framework), mid-term (stretch goals) 2012 and long-term (aspirational goals) 2025

**Tad urged everyone to be creative and don't be shy!**

### *Catalog of State Options*

Refer to the revised Maryland AFW Policy Option descriptions available soon on the website, [http://www.mdclimatechange.us/GHG\\_Agriculture\\_Forestry.cfm.-\\_under\\_Call\\_#3](http://www.mdclimatechange.us/GHG_Agriculture_Forestry.cfm.-_under_Call_#3) - for detailed modifications and additions to Options AFW 1 through AFW 7..

1. The TWG reviewed the detailed descriptions of Policy Options to assess completeness and applicability to Maryland, as well as recent germane actions in the state. (Items AFW 1 through 7 were covered so far).
2. Initial sensing of higher priority options and potential early actions were recorded, so far, Intriguing possibilities were seen in various aspects of :
  - a. AFW 1.1 -1.3: Biomass to Electricity and Steam Production,
  - b. AFW 3.2 Advanced Nutrient Management,
  - c. AFW 4.2/7.1 Conservation of agriculture and forest lands,
  - d. AFW 7.6 Forest Loss due to Insect/Disease and Invasive Species.
3. Early Action Items that may be forwarded to the MWG include (but are not limited to):
  - a. AFW 3.2 Advanced Nutrient Management: additional actions that could be taken beyond the existing Nutrient Management Plans. Nutrient baseline calculations and credit system for going beyond minimum actions in preparation for potential nutrient trading system.
  - b. AFW 4.2 Preserve Open Space/Agricultural Land – Development of data documenting change in GHG values on farm and forest lands converted to development. Need to know so we can judge efficacy of contribution to limiting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
  - c. AFW 7.3 Reforestation – Existing Conservation Law requires reforestation but there's no reporting, tracking or monitoring so actual contributions are unknown. Change voluntary post-planting monitoring to a requirement.
  - d. AFW 7.3 Afforestation - The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) has an offset model afforestation model. MD should continue building and

implementing direction to take advantage of this approved offset. (See [www.rggi.org](http://www.rggi.org) under Offsets. Also see discussion of RGGI in Call #1 Summary)

4. The only option that did not seem worthy of further review for Maryland was AFW 3.5 Drainage Management.
5. An ad hoc forestry advisory group of over a dozen organizations was consulted through Gary Allen. Laura Miller will be included in all future correspondence with that group.
6. The Catalog (chart) will also be revised to reflect the modifications to the Option Descriptions.

**Next steps and agreements:**

1. The next TWG meeting will be held on **September 25, 2007 from 3:00 to 5:00 EST.** The purpose of the next call will be to continue with the policy options refinements and delve into the Draft Inventory and Forecast.
2. TWG members should review the Catalog of State Actions and the Descriptions of Catalog Items documents, Items AFW 8 through 11 for additions or revisions.
3. TWG members are encouraged to forward germane data and reference material to Gloria Flora [gflora@s-o-solutions.org](mailto:gflora@s-o-solutions.org) or Brian Hug [bhug@mde.state.md.us](mailto:bhug@mde.state.md.us)
4. Future Calls are scheduled for:
  - a. Call #4: October 4 from 1:00 – 3:00
  - b. Call #5: tentatively October 16 (time to be determined)Team members who cannot make the calls can request a personal update in addition to the meeting notes.
5. Materials for each call will be posted at the Maryland Climate Change website (see address above). CCS will notify the TWG members when the materials are available for review.
6. CCS will arrange for a face-to-face meeting for the AFW TWG.

Thanks to all members for your meaningful contributions and excellent discussion.