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MEETING SUMMARY
MARYLAND CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY GROUP
Agriculture, Forestry, and Waste Management Technical Work Group
(AFW TWG)
Call #4, October 4th, 2007

Attendance:

Technical Working Group: Gary Allen, Cindy Parker, Eric Sprague, James Remuzzi, Bob Ensor, Joel Dunn, George Kelly, Laura Miller.

Maryland State Department Representatives: Tad Aburn, Renee Fizer, Kati Perry, Liz Entwistle, Denise Clearwater (MDE); John Rhoderick (MDA); Chris Rice (MEA)

Center for Climate Strategies (CCS): Gloria Flora, Steve Roe, Joe Pryor

Public Attendees: Jeff King, DC Metro Planning

Background documents: (www.mdclimatechange.us/GHG_Agriculture_Forestry.cfm)

1. Meeting Notice and Agenda
2. Summary of Call #3
3. PowerPoint for Teleconference.
4. Fast Track Options Document
5. AFW Policy Catalog Descriptions
6. AFW Catalog of State Actions
7. Draft Inventory and Forecast with Appendices

Discussion items and key issues:

1. Call to order and roll call
2. Review and approve prior call summary
3. Review MD MWG 9/28/07 meeting accomplishments
4. Prioritization of Fast Track Options
5. Nominal Rating Review
6. Public Input and Announcements
7. Agenda, Time and Date for Next Meeting & Subsequent TWG Meetings

Purposes and Outcomes

1. Call #3 summary accepted
2. CCS reiterated tight timeframe and deadlines. Milestones are November 1 for an Interim Report with general recommendations and/or draft legislation. The Final Report is targeted for April 20, 2008.

3. CCS will forward Renewable Portfolio Standards to all TWG members
4. Waste management industry stakeholders have been contacted but none yet agreed to participate
5. CCS provided an update from the 09-28-2007 Mitigation Working Group meeting and their suggested inclusions and areas for further investigation for the TWG (see below).
6. The TWG requested information from amongst members as to why the current suite of conservation and protection legislation information is not effectively increasing the amount of acres in conservation.
7. The State requested additional information from the TWG clarifying the carbon sequestration benefits of forests, agricultural lands and coastlines.

MWG Suggestions for Updating Catalog

- Conservation of costal zones (4.2)
- Transfer tax for land conversions (4.2)
- Biomass source protection in all sectors (6.1)
- Vegetation of motor ways to promote sequestration and provide ancillary benefits (7.1)
- Add time frames to forestation projects
- Add “sustainable” to local wood products (8.5)
- Consider GHG waste management standards (AFW-9)
- Energy efficiency improvements in WW Treatment , i.e. solar, etc. (11.1)

Also, MWG requested AFW TWG to review existing reforestation and reclamation policies relating to mining, and to investigate funding opportunities for WWTP under the Clean Water Act. Denise Clearwater agreed to provide information on existing legislation on both these issues.

Priority Options for Fast Track

Refer to the revised Maryland AFW Preliminary Fast Track Options and State Criteria available on the website, http://www.mdclimatechange.us/GHG_Agriculture_Forestry.cfm - under Call #4.

1. Five possible fast track options were proposed by the TWG.
 - a) AFW 1 Expanded Use of Biomass Feedstocks for Energy Production
 - b) AFW 3.1 Soil Carbon Management
 - c) AFW 3.2 Advanced Nutrient Management
 - d) AFW 4.2 and 7.1 Conservation of Lands, Forest and Coastline (combined priorities)
 - e) AFW 7.4 Forest Management for Carbon Sequestration
2. Tad Aburn from MDE emphasized that the fast track options be conceptual and can cover the spectrum: legislation, executive orders, changes in enforcement, format, authority or priorities of existing law or policy; incentives, etc.
3. The TWG agreed to two fast track options:
 - a) Nutrient Trading. (a component of AFW 3.2) with possible cross over and synergies with carbon trading which is being considered by the Cross Cutting TWG. Proposed: all aspects of trading (nutrient, carbon and other natural services) be considered in parallel.
 - b) Forest Management (AFW 7.4). This is a very broad category needing refinement and clarification to promote as a fast track option. Gary Allan and Laura Miller agreed to provide information about existing legislation and specific forest management improvements that were already being proposed in Maryland.

4. CCS agreed to draft brief descriptions of the fast track options using information provided by the TWG and State personnel.

Nominal Ratings

1. CCS explained the nominal rating system.
2. TWG agreed to approve ratings out of session via email with some minor modifications.

Ballot System

1. CCS explained the balloting system and advised that the ballots will be sent out early next week with the revised nominal rating chart.
2. CCS reiterated the tight timeframes and the need for prompt return of the ballots to ensure the balloting has been analyzed and distributed before the next TWG meeting.

Next steps and agreements:

1. TWG agreed to approve fast track options out of session via email.
2. TWG members agreed to review the catalog chart and provide comments to CCS by COB Monday October 8th.
3. Ballots to be distributed via email on Tuesday October 9th.
4. **Ballots to be returned to CCS by COB Thursday October 11th.**
5. The next TWG meeting will be held on **October 16th, 2007 from 10:00 to 3:00 EST** in Baltimore at MDE. The purpose of the next meeting will be to update the TWG on the ballot results and to agree to the final 10-12 policy options.
6. Future meetings:
 - a. Call #6 is scheduled for: November 8th 1pm to 3pm EST.
 - b. Call #7 is scheduled for: November 27th 1pm to 3pm EST.
7. Group members who cannot make the calls can request a personal update in addition to the meeting notes.
8. The next MWG meeting (#4) is on October 26th.
9. TWG members are encouraged to forward germane data and reference material to Gloria Flora gflora@s-o-solutions.org or Brian Hug bhug@mde.state.md.us

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.

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