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MEETING SUMMARY
MARYLAND CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY GROUP
Agriculture, Forestry, and Waste Management Technical Work Group
(AFW TWG)

Meeting in lieu of Call #4, October 16, 2007

Attendance:

Technical Working Group: Joel Dunn (The Conservation Fund), James Remuzzi (Forestry for the Bay – CBPO), Gary Allen (Center for Chesapeake Communities), George Kelly (Environmental Banc & Exchange), Laura Miller (Montgomery County DEP), Cindy Parker *by phone* (JH Bloomberg School of Public Health)

Maryland State Department Representatives: Edward Dexter (MDE/Solid Waste Program), Chris Rice (MEA), Katy Perry (MDE/Air and Radiation), Dan Rider (DNR-FS), Liz Entwistle (MDE- Climate Change), Tad Aburn (MDE- Climate Change), Renee Fizer (MDE – Climate Change), Dan Rider (DNRC Forestry);

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

Public Attendees: None

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

1. Meeting Notice and Agenda
2. Summary of Call #4
3. PowerPoint for Meeting #5
4. AFW Draft Catalog of State Actions with Ratings (revised)
5. AFW State Actions Descriptions
6. Final Fast Track Options
7. AFW Balloting Results

Discussion items and key issues:

1. Call to order and roll call
2. Review and approve prior call summary
3. Discuss Fast Track Input from MWG
4. Review the balloting results on the Catalog of State Actions
5. Finalize Priority Options for Recommendation to MWG
6. Next Steps for the MWG and AFW TWG
7. Public Input and Announcements
8. Agenda, Time and Date for Next Meeting & Subsequent TWG Meetings

Purposes and Outcomes

1. CCS provided summary review of fast track options (also called Early Action Items) discussed at the MWG conference call on October 15. A total of 8 fast track options from all TWGs are currently being considered. Early Action Items:
 - Will be a featured part of the November 16 Interim Report
 - Will be carried forward, in part or wholly, as a Priority Option.
 - Will meld into Priority Options in the final report due in April.
 - Aren't necessarily higher in importance than Priority Options.
 - Are actions and issues that have already been fairly fully developed (e.g., in Maryland) and that could be quickly assessed and adopted through regulation or legislation.
2. Ten step planning process was reviewed.
3. Tad Aburn from MDE provided a review of the RGGI rule and the auctioning of CO2 credits and the public benefits fund that will result.
 - June of 2008 will be the first auction of credits under RGGI. Power Plant operators very interested in participating and not balking at the decision to auction 100% of allowances instead of the 25% min. of RGGI standards.
 - Resultant funds will be spent according to PSC, specifically into Tier 1 energy production.
 - He encouraged the group to be visionary in their development of AFW policies. Create stretch goals for long term accomplishment even if they don't seem immediately feasible.
 - Early Action Items (Fast Track) should be pulled together by 10/26.
4. Participants were reminded of the gravity of global warming and the ever-heightening concern world-wide. Climate thresholds and negative effects are occurring much more quickly than modeling suggested.
5. Agenda, background and current materials for the MCCC and MWG meetings are available at www.mdclimatechange.us.
6. **Milestones** are November 16 for an Interim Report with general recommendations for draft legislation and regulations. The Final Report is targeted for April 20, 2008.
7. Brief discussion of three reports prepared for Dr. John Sherwell (MD DNR – Power Plant Research Project) and shared with TWG. Note specific numbers for sequestration by tree species were extrapolated from very general data and may not be accurate.
8. There's a lot of emphasis on Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) but implementation has been soft.

Balloting Results and Discussion

The AFW TWG reviewed the balloting results and how these were summarized into the set of 10 priorities. The group wanted to see the nominal ratings included in the priority option chart to help understand the possible costs and GHG benefits of each option.

The options were discussed in a random order and will be renumbered and grouped logically (see Draft of Proposed AFW Priority Options and accompanying chart.) [Where appropriate, the title has been changed from the Ballot Compilation Chart as a result of discussion and for more clarity.](#)

1. **Expanded Use of Forest and Farm Feedstocks and Bi-products for Energy Production** –
 - a. Group recommended not combining with biofuels.
 - b. Could link to RPS and perhaps expand to include thermal energy.
 - c. Could link to other incentive programs such as “fuel for schools”.
2. **Nutrient Trading with Carbon Benefits** – was tentatively re-named to capture the carbon trading component (i.e. for forest projects) of this option, options discussed were “Nutrient Trading Programs for GHG Benefits” or “Promotion of Sequestration Opportunities through Nutrient Trading”. Language in fast track document is appropriate. This could be combined with carbon trading and called “credit trading”. The carbon trading is currently being covered by the Cross-Cutting TWG.
 - a. It is important that forest management and “active” stewardship is considered inside a trading regime.
 - b. This is one of our recommended fast track options and is compatible with RGGI.
3. **Protection and Conservation of Agricultural Land, Coastal Wetlands and Forested Land** – Restoration will be handled under AFW-5 and/or 6, while this option should focus on conservation. It is also important that planting of appropriate species is considered under this option.
4. **Managing Urban Trees and Forests for GHG Benefits** – the group recommended looking into urban forest components in the ozone reduction portion of the State Improvement Plan (SIP) for MD and build upon this as needed (it is part of the voluntary bundle for municipalities to adopt). Goals likely to be structured around increasing the Business as Usual (BAU) forest canopy to a certain percentage based on American Forest recommendations. Median strips should be investigated for perennial plantings that could increase carbon sequestration and reduce fossil fuels used to maintain certain areas (e.g. grassy areas).
 - a. The group recommended that the physical benefits (e.g. shade) rather than the chemical benefits should be the focus of this option. Sequestration is a side benefit rather than the primary benefit.
 - b. Using wood from historic and old growth urban trees in value-added products (such as furniture) is the highest and best use for sequestration. Energy production from waste wood also important.
 - c. The group questioned whether it was possible to improve vegetation coverage between roads (median strips)? It was suggested that MDOT be contacted.
5. **Afforestation, Reforestation and Restoration of Forests and Wetlands** - incentive programs will be needed to take land out of production and to put it into forest cover.
 - a. RGGI requires that land be in a non-forested condition for 10 years.
 - b. Concern that prime farmland may be converted to forest, social impacts of converting any farmland should be considered.
 - c. Scale of planting and connectivity with existing forests is important
 - d. Insurance for failure or loss can be implemented through planting on public lands.
 - e. The group noted that afforestation opportunities in MD are limited and as such reforestation and restoration should be the priority of this option.
6. **Forest Management for Enhanced Carbon Sequestration** – need to edit the Catalog Descriptions document in the first sentence to change 100 acres/day to 800 acres/month

(done). Group suggested possibly changing the title to identify the GHG benefit, for example, “Forest Management for **Enhanced Carbon Sequestration**”.

- a. One of the Fast Track Options.
7. **Waste Management through Source Reduction & Advanced Recycling** – A lot is already happening under recycling. Currently recycling is mandated at the county level and at least 20% of all waste is recycled (some counties divert as much as 50% of solid waste). Refer to Maryland Diversion Report on the MDE website. However, there is the potential to expand recycling to include woodwaste (e.g. timber framing). May be premature for organic recycling due to associated environmental impacts.
 - a. Group recommended that source reduction (including incentives for source reduction) be included in this option.
 - b. Ed Dexter from MDE Waste Management gave an excellent overview of waste reduction and treatments options for a wide range of materials. Gloria has complete set of notes. Ed also offered to act as a resource for TWG questions.
8. **Soil Carbon Management** – The group discussed the merit of this option as a stand alone option because so much no-till and winter cover crop planting already occurs in MD (a national leader). Group agreed to forward to MWG but question its significance as a stand-alone option, but more information is required. Suggested contact John Rhoderick.
9. **Liquid In-State Biofuels Production** - Group agreed to leave separate from AFW1.
10. **Mitigation of Forest Loss Due to Insects, Disease and Invasive Species** - Group recommended the addition of invasive species (including native and non-native and pests). Deer, for example, are severely limiting reforestation.
11. **“Buy Local” Programs for Sustainable Agriculture, Wood and Wood Products** - The group recommended adding an additional priority option through the combination of AFW Options 5.2, 8.5 and 8.3.
12. Refer to the revised Maryland AFW Policy Option descriptions available soon on the website, http://www.mdclimatechange.us/GHG_Agriculture_Forestry.cfm - under Call #5 - for detailed modifications and additions to all AFW Policy Options.

Other Issues

The group noted that land use for activities such as alternative energy projects (particularly wind) needs to be considered under this process. Currently prohibitive legislation exists for such projects (eg construction height limitations limiting wind turbines). **Gloria noted that this will be passed on to the ES TWG.**

Next steps and agreements:

1. The next TWG conference call will be held on **November 8th, 2007 from 1:00 to 3:00 EST**. The purpose will be to update the TWG on the MWG Oct. 26 meeting and to discuss the next steps for developing straw proposals.
2. Future meetings:
 - a. Call #7 is scheduled for: November 27th 1pm to 3pm EST.
 - b. Call #8 is scheduled for: December 11th 1pm to 3pm EST.
3. Group members who cannot make the calls can request a personal update in addition to the meeting notes.

4. The next MWG meeting (#4) is on October 26th. 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.