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

Call #7, November 27, 2007

Attendance:

Technical Working Group: Bob Ensor (Howard County Conservation District), Eric Sprague (Pinchot Institute for Conservation), James Remuzzi (Forestry for the Bay – CBPO), Laura Miller (Montgomery County DEP), Joel Dunn (The Conservation Fund), Cindy Parker (Johns Hopkins School of Public Health), George Kelly (Environmental Banc & Exchange)

Maryland State Department Representatives: Katy Perry (MDE/Air and Radiation).

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 Meeting #6
3. Power Point for Call #7
4. AFW Straw Proposal Template
5. Straw Proposal Recommendations

Discussion items and key issues:

1. Call to order and roll call
2. Review and approve prior call summary
3. Review Straw Proposals from Sub-groups
4. Next Steps for the MWG and AFW TWG
5. Public Input and Announcements
6. Agenda, Time and Date for Next Meeting & Subsequent TWG Meetings

Purposes and Outcomes

1. Agenda, background and current materials for the MCCC and MWG meetings are available at www.mdclimatechange.us.
2. **Milestones** The Final Report is targeted for April 20, 2008.

Straw Proposals

1. **Process:**

- a. Need feedback from MWG as to what is the right direction (how stringent) and a starting point for quantification.
 - i. Tad has indicated that visionary thinking is what they are looking for.
 - b. For Friday, MWG is interested in looking at how the TWG is addressing the policies.
 - c. Ideal policy description is 1-2 paragraphs.
2. **AFW-1:** Expanded Use of and Farm Feedstocks and Bi-Products for Energy Production.
- a. Three different possible components
 - a. Hog/dairy manure (e.g. goal in fraction of population through anaerobic digestion etc)
 - b. Crop residue. Proportion for collection and use by
 - c. Energy Crops. E.g acreage target.
 - b. Need to make sure that adequate nutrients remain available to maintain forest health and not too much biomass is removed.
3. **AFW-2:** In-State Liquid Biofuels Production.
- a. Sub-group doesn't feel like they have the information available to make specific goals.
 - b. Chris Rice has study looking into this which should be available by the end of next month.
 - c. CCS reiterated that only liquid biofuels should be included.
 - d. Much of what is included is related to implementation mechanisms and should to be included there instead of the policy design section.
4. **AFW-3:** Nutrient Trading with Carbon Benefits.
- a. Educate public on what nutrient trading is.
 - b. Opportunities for non-point sources to participate (currently this does not exist)
 - c. Implementation mechanisms – building on point source opportunities for non-point source allowing for credit opportunities. Carbon would be available on state registry (once criteria are met).
 - i. Revise second sentence under implementation mechanisms to include point and non-point source trading policy.
 - d. Need to emphasize what the cap on nutrients is. Baseline defined as past practices and other factors.
 - e. Need two new points under goals:
 - i. Nutrient (e.g. through this program nitrogen application or nitrogen emission would be reduced by X% by 2025). E.g. Bay Commission set goals and this could be tied to the goal but nutrient trading is only one tool to achieve the goal. **George Kelly to discuss potential goals with MDA.**
 - ii. Carbon (e.g. difference with and without program). Could be brought forward in a non quantified basis.
5. **AFW-4:** Protection & Conservation of Agricultural Land, Coastal Wetlands and Forested Land.
- a. Joel Dunn sent through revised proposal (followed up by goal recommendations).
 - b. Tax credits available to land owners to conserve land to enhance sequestration (make MD similar to VA?).
 - c. Fixed percentage of credit sales available for conservation purposes.
 - d. Most of this information is related to implementation mechanism section.

- e. Goals, three possible subcomponents (and potential goals):
 - i. Ag land (e.g. decrease the rate of conversion by X% by 2025)
 - ii. Coastal wetlands
 - iii. Forest land (e.g. no net loss of carbon stock by 2015)
- 6. **AFW-5: Afforestation, Reforestation and Restoration of Forests and Wetlands.**
 - a. Gloria to resend document which includes Policy Design.
 - b. TWG will develop an overarching statement about how all-encompassing forest benefits are.
 - c. For policy design, want to increase/enhance forested lands and forest health which will lead to enhancing forest benefits.
 - d. New goals
 - i. Establish new forests equivalent to forest being lost to development (currently 900acres/month)
 - 1. similar to AFW-4
 - 2. group wanted to go beyond BAU.
 - ii. Establish no-net loss goal with date.
 - iii. Possible goal to establish additional acreage.
 - e. In-lieu fees not included as an implementation mechanism.
 - i. Might include but only as a last resort
 - f. Need to link with December 5 report (Chesapeake Forest Policy goals)
- 7. **AFW-6: Mitigation of Loss Due to Insects, Disease, Pests and Invasive Species.**
 - a. Goals to outline priority species.
 - b. Proactive management of these species and pests (rather than reactive).
 - c. Discussion on how invasive species decrease forest health and productivity.
 - d. Need to provide numerical goals and dates.
 - i. Difficult to quantify amount of land impacted.
 - ii. Example: protect 100% of MD forest land by 2025. Maybe not limited to forested areas because a lot of invasive species come from other areas
 - e. Maybe “mitigation of *carbon* loss” is more appropriate.
 - f. Could be combined with AFW-7 “forest management” and also AFW-8
 - i. **Gloria to recommend to MWG: combine AFW-6 with AFW-7.**
- 8. **AFW-7: Forest Management for Enhanced Carbon Sequestration.**
 - a. Increase rate of sequestration and increase amount of carbon stored.
 - b. For biomass removals could be directed towards durable wood products from a supply side.
 - c. TWG to consider if the overall techniques are sufficient or do we need to breakdown into specific techniques.
 - d. Gloria to change to “as markets are developed”.
- 9. **AFW-8: Managing Urban Trees and Forests for Greenhouse Gas Benefits.**
 - a. Need quantifiable goals
 - i. E.g. targeted tree plantings, increasing the urban tree canopy by X% by 2025.
 - ii. Could adapt American Forests Urban tree canopy goals (e.g. 40% on east coast, higher in residential areas, lower in commercial zones.)
 - b. Ensure continued emphasis on ancillary goals.

10. **AFW 9:** “Buy Local” Programs for Sustainable Agriculture, Wood and Wood Products.
 - a. There not information available at MDA regarding local use of ag products.
 - b. Implementation mechanisms included on MWG’s request.
11. **AFW-10:** Waste Management through Source Reduction & Advanced Recycling.
 - a. This is a starting point.
 - b. This includes composting and other waste reduction policies.
 - c. Minnesota example, waste streams broken out separately. Cindy to develop.
12. **Order of options**
 - a. TWG agreed to change the order of options noting that the change is not based on priority.

Next steps and agreements:

1. Straw Proposal Process:
 - a. MWG will review, modify and approve basic straw proposals. The TWG then refines straw proposals for quantification and cost/benefit analysis. TWG need to provide additional information on goals by noon Friday November 30 2007.
2. The next TWG meeting (call#8) will be held on **December 11th, 2007 from 1:00 to 3:00 EST**. The purpose of the next call will be to refine the straw proposals and to discuss the next steps for developing straw proposals and quantification.
3. Future AFW TWG meetings:
 - a. Call #9 is scheduled for first week in January.
 - b. Gloria will send out an email to confirm the date and time.
4. Group members who cannot make the calls can request a personal update in addition to the meeting notes.
5. Next MWG meeting is on 30 November 2007.
6. 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.