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

Call #4, July 19, 2007, 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Attendance:

1. Technical Working Group members: Ted Troolin (for Steve Raukar), Joe Maher, Andy Hart, Greg Miller (for David Berg), Clarence Turner (for Dave Zumeta), Shalini Gupta, Jim Klienschmidt, Stacey Bohlen.
2. Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) staff:
Stephen Roe, Brad Strode, Tom Peterson
3. Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) and Pollution Control Agency (PCA)
Liaisons and Attendees:
Liaison - David Richfield, MPCA
Other MPCA: David Thorton, Jim Chiles, Rebecca Walter, Anne Clafin Ginny Black, Al Dotson, Wayne Anderson
DNR: none
Agriculture: Michael Yost
Met Council: Brad Gehring
Commerce: Ed Garvey, Linda Limback
4. Public Attendees:
5. Observers: Bill Mcauliffe, Startribune Newspaper; Kirk Koudelka, Minnesota House of Representatives Staff

Background documents:

(all posted at http://www.mnclimatechange.us/Agriculture_Forestry.cfm)

1. Summary of Call #3
2. Meeting Notice and Agenda
3. PowerPoint for Teleconference.
4. AFW Draft Catalog of State Actions.

5. AFW State Actions Descriptions.
6. Policy Option Template
7. Preliminary Draft Inventory and Forecast for AFW Sectors
 - a. Agriculture
 - b. Waste
 - c. Forestry
8. Results of TWG Balloting (distributed via e-mail prior to the call)

Discussion items and key issues:

1. CCS conducted the roll call and reviewed the Agenda for the call.
2. CCS reviewed the draft summary of Call #3. A TWG member asked that he and his associate be added to the attendance for the Draft Call #3 Summary. No other changes were requested to the call summary. CCS announced that a call specific to forest inventory procedures has been scheduled for Friday, July 27 to address questions raised in the previous meeting.
3. CCS restated the ground rules for TWG meetings. A new conference call system is being used that allows CCS to mute members of the public until the time in the call for public input has come.
4. The steps in the stepwise planning process that have been addressed (or are being addressed) were reviewed. Currently, the AFW TWG has completed the second step; “Identify a full range of possible actions.” The first and third steps - “Develop inventory and forecast of emissions” and “Identify initial priorities for analysis” - are steps that were addressed during this call. The TWG will finish work on the third step today and begin work on the fourth step (“Developing straw proposals”)
5. CCS called the TWG members’ attention to the MN AFW TWG Policy Option Balloting Results document that was distributed by e-mail prior to the call. These results are based on input from 17 TWG members and represent the consolidated policy options that will be considered priorities for further development by the TWG. CCS, responding to a question from a TWG member, stated that consolidation was based upon a combination of member input, as well as meeting the requirement of being identified as a priority on at least one ballot. However, the consolidation is up for discussion, following CCS’s initial review of the Ballot Results. CCS proceeded with a brief overview of the balloting results.
6. CCS opened the floor up to comments from TWG members, beginning with AFW-3: Advanced Recycling.
 - a. AFW-3: A TWG member suggested combining Source Reduction – currently a medium priority option – with the proposed options in AFW-3, changing the title into something like “Integrated Waste Management.” A TWG member commented that the “end of pipe” policy options relating to landfill gas control or waste to energy generation should be considered separately from options such as

increased recycling, composting and source reduction. The proposal was to combine 9.1, 9.3, and 9.6 as one option, with 9.2, 9.7, 10.3, and 10.2 as another option. CCS explained that the names of options can be revised as the TWG moves further into the development process. For now, the proposed name for the first group of options is “Integrated Waste Management,” but a name for the second group was not proposed. CCS will come up with an initial name for the option.

- b. AFW-1: CCS related to the TWG a concern over consolidating manure management options with soil carbon and nutrient management options (due to the complexity of dealing with a wide variety of policies within a single option). A TWG member requested that a medium priority option, “Conservation of Peatlands,” be included in a Soil Carbon Management option. It was proposed by another TWG member that nutrient/manure management options be broken off the soil carbon management. In addition, the soil carbon management would be connected with land use and preservation of lands with herbaceous cover (AFW-5) and Conservation of Peatlands. The final proposal, as summed up by CCS, would be to pull out manure management options from AFW-1, and to bundle the perennial cover option (4.1) with the Conservation of Peatlands (12.1). Hence, AFW-1 will have a focus on both soil carbon and nutrient management on cultivated lands.
 - c. AFW-2: CCS proposed disaggregating 7.2 – Urban Forestry – from this option. Discussion surrounded the feasibility of implementing Urban Forestry as a part of a broader forestry management option. The TWG, however, felt that Urban Forestry is a key aspect of afforestation/reforestation, and therefore should remain a part of AFW-2.
 - d. AFW-4: No changes were proposed to AFW-4.
 - e. As per earlier discussion, 12.1 – Conservation of Peatlands – will be brought in as a part of AFW-5 (combined with 4.1). It was acknowledged that the title of AFW-5 should be changed. CCS encouraged the TWG to provide a working title for AFW-5 at a later time. In the meantime, CCS will develop a working title.
 - f. AFW-6: No changes were proposed to AFW-6.
 - g. AFW-7: No changes were proposed to AFW-7.
 - h. Given the number of votes for the consolidated option formerly of medium priority – “Landfill Methane Energy Programs” – will move into a high-priority option with the other end of use waste management options in 9.2 and 9.7.
7. CCS began describing the next step for the TWG. After the list priorities have been reviewed by the MCCAG at their next meeting, the TWG will develop straw proposals that include policy option description and policy option design. CCS also reviewed the remainder of the Policy Options Template, explaining the work that will be done by the TWG and CCS to complete the Policy Options Document later in the process (the Policy Options Document includes the templates for all options).

8. After the list of priorities have been revised, TWG members are asked to respond to Brad Strode (brad.strode@pechan.com) to volunteer to work on the development of a specific policy option. TWG members should note whether they would like to be a lead volunteer for an option.
9. CCS reviewed updates to the Draft MN Inventory and Forecast. A meeting to address inventory methods for forestry emissions will be conducted via conference call on July 27, 2007. Jim Smith of the USFS (and possibly other USFS staff) will be available to answer questions on the methods used by the agency to develop the State and National estimates. The call will be held from 1 to 2 pm local time. TWG members should review the MN forestry appendix and supporting documentation that is cited prior to the meeting.
10. A TWG member requested that alternative dates be found for TWG meetings on October 4 and 25. CCS will circulate alternatives and these will be discussed during the next TWG meeting.
11. Members of the public were offered the chance to provide input. No members of the public identified themselves, or asked to speak.
12. The State Agency reported that an unofficial survey conducted of the State Staff returned results similar to those presented to the TWG today.

Next steps and agreements:

1. Remaining TWG meetings are August 16, September 6, October 4, October 25, November 29, and December 20. The time for the August 16 meeting is 1:00PM to 3:00 PM.
2. CCS will distribute the final list of priorities based on today's call via e-mail. Please respond to Brad Strode (brad.strode@pechan.com) to volunteer to assist more directly in the development of the policy options.
3. After approval from the MCCAG, the TWG will begin developing straw policy proposals.