

MEETING SUMMARY
Washington Climate Advisory Team (CAT)
Forestry Technical Work Group (F TWG)
Call #7, October 24, 2007, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Attendance:

1. Technical Working Group members: Craig Partridge (for Doug Sutherland), Anthony Chavez (for Sara Kendall), Gina Smith (for John Floberg), Rick Gustafson, Becky Kelley, Llewellyn Matthews, Dave McEntee, Heath Packard, Denise Pranger, Cindy Mitchell (for Court Stanley), Steve Stinson
2. Facilitation team (Center for Climate Strategies):
Katie Bickel
Carrie Lee
3. Washington State Agency (ECY/CTED) liaison and attendees:
Steve Bernath

Background documents:

(all posted at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/cat_twg_agr.htm)

1. Agenda
2. PowerPoint presentation (including agenda) for meeting
3. Draft Priority Options Description
4. Summary of F TWG Call #7

Discussion items and key issues:

1. The meeting started with a roll call of participants and a presentation of the agenda for the meeting.
2. The TWG had no comments on the Call #7 Meeting Summary, and the Summary was accepted.
3. CCS provided a brief update of the schedule of upcoming meetings. All of the forestry policy options will be reviewed by the CAT at the Nov 15-16 CAT meeting. Following that CAT meeting the TWG will have a meeting on Nov 19 to refine the policy options document based on CAT feedback prior to the Dec 4-5 CAT meeting. The CAT will vote on the full set of policy options from all TWGs at the Dec 4-5 meeting. The TWG involvement in the CAT process is expected to be completed by the Dec 4-5 CAT meeting.
4. CCS led a discussion of the Forestry policy options to be reviewed by the CAT at the Nov 15-16 meeting. TWG members reviewed and provided feedback on input draft text

provided by TWG member volunteer groups and quantification results provided by the CCS.

Discussion points included

F-6:

- CCS reviewed quantification estimates for GHG reductions and cost estimates. TWG member volunteers provided an overview of the approach for this policy option highlighting the intent to focus on utilization of current waste forest biomass and not increase competition for fiber at existing facilities.
- TWG member noted that biomass sludge should be included in the biomass supply inventory.

F-7:

- Confirmation among TWG members to retain the early starting goal for cellulosic ethanol production with the construction of a demonstration site by 2020.
- TWG members expressed some concern that cost estimates may be low, but there was agreement that this analysis was reasonable for now.
- CCS will coordinate with the AW and T TWG to account for any overlap of GHG reductions.

F-1:

- TWG members agreed to have CCS remove the last paragraph in the mitigation option goal section regarding density of wood in old vs. young trees.
- TWG members provided clarification on how to include text referencing forest management on tribal lands. Revision suggested was “Both the Colville and Yakima tribes have been actively employing forest health treatments on tribal lands and would serve as a good model for others”.
- TWG members expressed concern over not quantifying the avoided emissions from avoided forest fires. Discussion included:
 - Consideration that at a long-term time scale (multi-decadal to century) the assumption that there are no net emissions following a forest fire may be reasonable, but still uncertain considering climate change. However, at a shorter time scale ~50 yrs more appropriate for this process it is reasonable to suggest that there will be emissions from forest fires.
 - TWG members expressed strong interest in including avoided emissions in the analysis. CCS will revise the quantification based on this recommendation and circulate to TWG prior to the upcoming CAT meeting.
- TWG member agreement for CCS to revise additional benefits/costs text to note that additional GHG reductions could be achieved if the USFS adopted similar forest restoration goals.

- TWG members asked for clarification in the text for the link between F-1, F-6, and F-7.
- TWG member agreement for CCS to revise text under key uncertainties section to include a statement regarding how this analysis assumes that 100% of the biomass harvested is used to offset fossil fuel energy
- TWG member suggestion to clarify the F-1 biomass volume contribution to the biomass supply estimates in the Appendix.
- TWG members approved the draft text for Additional benefits and costs.
- TWG members suggested the following revisions to the Feasibility Issues section text: Highlight the diversity of land owner objectives and the ability to design site specific or fuel reduction treatments as an additional barrier along with the need to find sufficient markets for all of the biomass supply harvested.

F-2:

- TWG member will provide text for “Coverage of Parties”
- TWG members affirmed revisions to implementation mechanism text.
- Revise SEPA implementation mechanism bullet to include “This is not intended to extend SEPA coverage to currently exempt forest practices. See RCI-9.”
- TWG member volunteered to provide revised text referring to Table 5.
- TWG members offered to draft text in reference to the potential to enhance smart-growth objectives through reduced forestland conversion.
- TWG members agreed that text should be included to explicitly link this option to T-2 the T TWG policy option related to smart growth.

F-3:

- TWG members agreed that mitigation option goal text should be revised replacing the reference to WCI with the Climate Registry.
- TWG members agreed to revise the mitigation option goal statement regarding afforestation in the following ways:
 - Include statement in support of afforestation that intends “to restore forest conditions similar to what occurred prior to clearing by European settlers”, as well as encourage reference to utilization of space available for planting trees in city and urban areas with a direct reference to F-8.
 - Note that since the TWG does not anticipate afforestation to have a large additional benefit, and as a result of a lack of information available this portion of the policy option goal will not be quantified. Note that the Winrock Westcarb report is available but focuses on afforestation on abandoned cropland that was not historically forested.
- TWG members recommended that CCS review estimates of average forest rotation length.

- TWG members Steve Stinson and Denise Pranger volunteered to provide draft implementation mechanism text regarding the infrastructure issue of increasing rotation length and harvesting larger trees.
- TWG members were in agreement to retain the 1st bullet under implementation mechanism “Programs, incentives and development of new markets (e.g. increasing demand for large solid wood beams) for increased lengths of harvest rotation”, and to remove the 2nd bullet “Programs, incentives and development of new markets for harvest limitations.”

F-4:

- TWG members expressed concern regarding the following bullet under implementation mechanisms “Encourage state agencies to utilize the LEED, Green Globes, Built Green, or other appropriate rating systems to promote the construction and design of energy-efficient buildings. Provide incentives for use of these systems statewide for construction in the private sector.” TWG members agreed with the revision to remove “state agencies” and add a sentence to recognize that the state does have a policy for public buildings that recognizes 3 different green building standards.
- Support expressed for revised goal statement.

F-5:

- TWG members were in agreement with CCS suggestion, based on input from several sources, to not quantify F-5.
- CCS asked TWG members to review the cost estimates for F-3 and F-4, which due to time constraints during the call were not thoroughly reviewed with the TWG.

Next steps and agreements:

1. CCS will revise F-1 analysis based on TWG member input and circulate to the TWG for review prior to the preparation of the POD for the upcoming CAT meeting.
2. CCS will revise the F policy options document reflecting discussions during the TWG meeting and refined/additional quantification estimates for remaining F policy options..
3. TWG members who agreed during the call to do so will provide text for specific passages in the options document. The facilitation team will revise the F policy options document reflecting discussions during the TWG meeting.
4. CCS will prepare and submit the revised F POD to the CAT for their review at the Nov 15-16 CAT meeting.

Next meeting:

The next CAT meeting is set for Thursday-Friday, November 15-16 in Olympia.

The next F TWG teleconference is scheduled for Monday, November 19, from 9:00 AM –11:00 AM.