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MEETING SUMMARY
ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON GLOBAL WARMING
Cross Cutting (CC) Issues Technical Work Group (TWG)
Call #1, February 20, 2008
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm Central

Attendees:

TWG Members: Joan Cash, Jerry Farris, PhD, Rob Fisher, Christopher Ladner, Elizabeth Martin, PhD, Bill Reed, Jeffrey Short

Advisory Body Members: Teresa Marks, Karen Bassett

Arkansas Governor's Office: Marc Harrison, Jillian Hicks

Center for Climate Strategies: Ken Colburn, Randy Strait, Katie Pasko

Members of the Public: None

Background documents:

(all posted at <http://www.arclimatechange.us/cc.cfm>)

1. Meeting Notice and Agenda
2. PowerPoint for Teleconference.
3. Catalog of State Actions
4. Descriptions of State Actions

Discussion and Conclusions:

Introductions and Review of Agenda

Randy Strait welcomed the TWG members, called the meeting to order, completed the roll call.

Purpose and Goals

Ken Colburn reviewed the agenda and plans for the call. Prior to the next GCGW meeting, the TWG will develop recommendations for additions to the Catalog of State Actions (Catalog) to ensure that the catalog includes state actions relevant to Arkansas.

Review of TWG Goals to prepare for GCGW Meeting #4

Ken Colburn reviewed the ten step process to be followed by all TWGs in developing policy recommendations for the GCGW. The TWG is at the beginning of the process and needs to focus on identifying a full range of possible actions to be included in the Catalog. In addition, the draft greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and forecast (I&F) for Arkansas will be reviewed and refined, as necessary, based on recommendations by the TWGs and approved by the GCGW.

The draft I&F presented at the GCGW's February 7 meeting is continuing to undergo changes as to incorporate state-specific data.

The Catalogs for the five TWGs together contain 300-400 potential policy actions. The Catalogs contain actions taken or proposed by a wide variety of US states. All sectors are represented, with a wide variety of implementation mechanisms. When completed, the Catalog needs to include a comprehensive set of actions for Arkansas. This will provide a starting point for the identification of Commission priorities for analysis. The goal of today's meeting is for the CC TWG to identify actions to add to the Catalog that are relevant to Arkansas. At its February 7th meeting, the GCGW will review the Catalogs, add any actions that it identifies for Arkansas, and then approve the Catalogs for use in the next step of the process. The goal is to expand the Catalogs for all of the TWGs to include the universe of all possible actions for Arkansas at this point in the process.

The next step in the Commission process will be for each TWG to develop 10 to 12 suggested priorities for analysis of policy options for consideration by the GCGW. Each TWG will use the actions in its Catalog to identify its suggested priorities for analysis. The GCGW will review and discuss each TWG's recommendations, and is responsible for deciding on the priority policy options for analysis.

After the GCGW approves the final list of priority policy options for each TWG, the TWGs will develop straw proposals for the options assigned to it. These encompass a brief description and proposed design without quantification. After receiving the GCGW's review and approval of the policy designs, the TWG's will begin quantification of its priority policy options. All of the TWGs will develop and complete a policy option development template to be provided by CCS that includes areas such as implementation mechanisms, feasibility issues, benefits and costs or cost savings, etc. The GCGW will review and comment on the quantification results prior to their approval of each policy. Where barriers to consensus exist, the TWG will work to develop alternatives to resolve the barriers. However, if barriers to consensus exist at the end of the process, these barriers will be documented in the policy option template.

The Catalogs for the TWGs contain many potential options, covering all aspects of the work of the GCGW. The CC TWG focuses on broader, visionary policy options for which there is typically no quantification of the options required. Should the GCGW request quantification of a CC TWG option selected as a priority for analysis, the option will be transferred to the appropriate TWG (as approved by the GCGW) that has the technical expertise to support the quantification analysis. Colburn noted that during this phase of the process there are frequently actions that overlap TWGs. The TWGs should not be concerned with this issue at this point since the objective is to be as inclusive of all actions that may apply to Arkansas. Should overlaps exist after the GCGW decides on its priority policy options for analysis, the CCS facilitators will coordinate with the TWGs to ensure that overlaps are addressed to eliminate double counting of emission reductions and costs or cost savings.

Review of Catalog of State Actions

Ken Colburn reviewed the Cross Cutting catalog with the TWG. There are fifteen options outlined, many with subsections. Generally, these policy options are very broadly described. It is the work of the TWG to provide specifics to deepen the content. Members are asked to provide additional suggestions for inclusion in the catalog. At this point, no options should be deleted, as

the purpose of this stage is to gather as many possibilities as imagination allows. Many proposals made at this stage can be grouped together for further analysis.

The TWG provided the following revisions and additions to the CC Catalog:

1. CC-2 (GHG Reporting) - A TWG member noted that currently, the emphasis is on direct emissions by industries, not indirect efforts. This policy option should include delineation of indirect efforts, so that utilities, for example, are compensated for demand-side reductions. This led into discussion of the need to have protocols for consistent measuring and reporting of emissions. A note was added to Catalog Action 2.2 (Provide assistance in reporting GHG emissions) indicating the need to create a clearinghouse of protocols for quantifying GHG emissions (direct and indirect) for Arkansas sources.
2. CC-9 (Seek Funding For Implementation Of Climate Action Panel Recommendations) - Change the title to “Creative Financing Mechanisms.” These programs should not be limited to governmental agencies. An example could be a state revolving loan fund. Another example discussed included the use of “feebate” programs for vehicle use, but it was noted that these programs are included in the draft catalog for the TLU TWG.
3. CC-16 (Regulatory Realignment in Government to Encourage Constructive Climate Action) – The TWG agreed to add this new action to the catalog. The idea is to identify and consider methods for reducing GHG emissions that might otherwise not be addressed as a result of barriers that might exist in state regulations and permits. This includes building codes and trade licensing areas.
4. CC-17 (Establish a Climate Analogue to the Arkansas Biosciences Institute) - Add a new action to create an environmental analog to the Arkansas Biosciences Institute.
5. CC-18 (Evaluate Climate Change Policy Options to Determine Potential Risks, Costs, and Benefits to Public Health and Environmental Justice) - Add a new action to address the need for an evaluation of proposed climate change policy options to include a review of the impacts on public health and low-income residents.

Agenda, Date and Time for Next Meetings

At the beginning of the call, Ken Colburn reviewed the GCGW meeting schedule, and the CC TWG members agreed on the following dates and times for the next two CC TWG meetings:

- Meeting #2, March 12, 2008, 3:00 – 4:30 PM CST
- Meeting #3, March 26, 2008, 3:00 – 4:30 PM CST

Public Input and Announcements

There was no public comment.