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**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON GLOBAL WARMING**  
**Agriculture, Forestry and Waste (AFW) Technical Work Group (TWG)**  
Call #8, May 27, 2008

**Attendees:**

**TWG Members:** Pearlie Reed, Jerry Farris, Bill Reed, Kevin Smith

**Advisory Body Members:** Karen Bassett (for Teresa Marks) Adrian Baber (for Randy Young)

**Arkansas Department of Governor's Office:** Jillian Hicks

**Center for Climate Strategies:** Joe Pryor, Steve Roe, Jackson Schreiber, Jen Jenkins, Brad Strode.

**Members of the Public:** Don Richardson, Tim Hall

**Background Documents:** (all posted at [www.arclimatechange.us/AFW.cfm](http://www.arclimatechange.us/AFW.cfm))

- Summary of Call #7
- Meeting Notice and Agenda
- PowerPoint for Meeting
- AFW Straw Proposal Document

**Agenda:**

1. Introductions
2. Review and Approval of Prior Call Summary
3. GCGW Process Progress
4. Outcomes of GCGW Meeting #6 (May 19, 2008)
5. Discuss Potential Policy Option Goals for Outstanding Options
6. Discuss Next Steps in Developing Straw Proposals
7. Review of Next Steps for TWG
8. Agenda, Date and Time for Next Meetings
9. Public Comments and Announcements

**Discussion and Conclusions:**

**Introductions**

No Comments

**Review and Approval of Prior Call Summary**

The Previous Call Summary was approved.

**GCGW Process Progress**

No Comments

## Results of GCGW Meeting and Discussion of Straw Proposals

1. AFW-3
  - a. Some of the text of this policy has been altered. TWG members should refer to the highlighted section in the Straw Proposal Document.
  - b. TWG members had no objections to the changes made to the straw proposal.
2. AFW-4
  - a. The text at the top of page 11 of the Straw Proposals Document is now directly from Act 755 (HB 2812).
  - b. The TWG needs a definition for marginal agricultural land to insert into AFW-4. Pearlie Reed and Bill Reed will try and get a definition of marginal agricultural land by the end of this week so that the TWG can see it before the next meeting.
  - c. There was a request to clarify the language regarding not increasing the price of food.
  - d. There is a new study on the impact of biofuels on the price of fuels, and Bill Reed will forward that along to the rest of the TWG and CCS.
  - e. There is some question regarding whether food prices are really part of the scope of the GCGW/TWG. The TWG could add in concerns of food supply to the Additional Benefits and Costs section.
3. AFW-5
  - a. The text of this straw proposal has been modified slightly to reflect comments made by the GCGW.
  - b. The words “In-state” have been deleted from the title of AFW-5. This option can still promote in-state biofuels but this option is not limited to only in-state biofuels consumption.
  - c. The intention of this option is to encourage low carbon footprint fuels, so biofuels with higher carbon footprints than traditional gasoline are not to be encouraged under this goal.
4. AFW-6
  - a. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture might have information on the number of farmer’s markets in the state of Arkansas. It can be difficult to determine the number of farmer’s markets, because some markets are operated in an intermittent or unofficial capacity.
  - b. We need to find a baseline for where we can find the number of farmers markets or amount sold at farmers markets in order to determine what an appropriate goal might be.
  - c. This item should consider locally grown food, not just produce, because other items can/should be sold at local farmers markets.
  - d. If the TWG cannot determine the amount of energy that is used through our current system of food distribution, then we should research it further for the state of Arkansas. A new goal could be added to this option regarding that.
  - e. The second goal of AFW-6 will be modified to include meat, poultry and fish.
5. AFW-7
  - a. The TWG discussed whether to add a goal regarding permanent land cover to AFW-7. This could create competition among the row-crop farmers, because this type of permanent land cover could be used to create biofuels. This

addition might have some GHG benefits, but could be considered a low priority.

- b. There was some discussion of using the land on the sides of highways as a biofuels crop. This land is not good for food production, because if it is fed to people/animals the metal content from the automobile exhaust is not healthy. No addition was made to the straw proposals document regarding this item.
  - c. One estimate for the afforestation option cites 200,000 hectares available for restoration/establishment of new forests. The goal will be 500,000 acres for afforestation in 2025.
  - d. The conservation reserve program might be a good model for how afforestation should occur in Arkansas.
  - e. Typical urban areas have 15-30% urban canopy. It remains up to the TWG how ambitious this goal ought to be. Changing from number of trees to % of urban canopy creates timeline problems, because a tree planted one year will not have canopy until several years later.
  - f. It was agreed to present the urban forestry option as a percentage of urban canopy and number of trees as well. The goal will be to increase the urban canopy by 25% in 2025.
  - g. Urban forestry is more likely to be effective if the trees are planted in an “optimal” manner so as to provide shade and temperature regulation.
6. AFW-8
- a. One study found the recycling rate in Arkansas for 2006 was 42%. This is much higher than the national average. This is also higher than the recycling rate for Arkansas found in some other studies, and this can create some difficulties with establishing a baseline estimate.
  - b. There are several recycling goals in place in the state of Arkansas, the TWG could use these to determine what sort of goals might be appropriate.
  - c. Removing hazardous materials from landfills will have environmental benefits, but not necessarily any impact on climate change.
  - d. The goal for AFW-8 will remain un-defined at the moment, pending further investigation of AR recycling information available. Karen Bassett and CCS will continue the dialogue offline.
7. AFW-9
- a. According to the Arkansas Inventory and Forecast, the current rate of methane capture from landfills is 18% in Arkansas. There are 4 other landfills that could use methane capture. This is a relatively low number, implying a larger number of smaller landfills in the state.
  - b. CCS will come back to the TWG for discussion of what feasible goals will be.
  - c. Karen Bassett and CCS will continue the dialogue offline.

## **Review Example Policy Options and Potential Goals**

### **Discuss Next Steps in Developing Straw Proposals**

1. We encourage TWG members to go through the Inventory and Forecast that is posted on the AFW website. If TWG members have any suggestions/revisions, CCS will be sure to send to take their comments into account.

## **Review of Next Steps for TWG**

### **Agenda, Date and Time for Next Meetings**

The next meetings for the TWG are outlined below. TWG members should contact CCS with any comments that they might want to make about the proposed schedule:

- AFW TWG Call #9 – June 3, 1:00-2:30pm
- AFW TWG Call #10 – July 1, 1:00-2:30pm
- AFW TWG Call #11 – July 15, 1:00-2:30pm
- AFW TWG Call #12 – August 12, 1:00-2:30pm
- AFW TWG Call #13 – September 9, 1:00-2:30pm

### **Public Comments and Announcements**

Tim Hall of the AR Farm Resources Bureau suggested Dr. Rainey from the University of Arkansas and Jim Ellison from the department of Agriculture as potential resources for TWG members to consult with, particularly on AFW-6.