



MEETING SUMMARY
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON GLOBAL WARMING
Cross Cutting (CC) Issues Technical Work Group (TWG)
Call #7, July 9, 2008

Attendees:

TWG Members: Nick Brown, Jerry Farris PhD, Rob Fisher, Elizabeth (Betty) Martin, PhD., Jeff Short

Advisory Body Members: Karen Bassett, Nancy Ledbetter, Teresa Marks

Arkansas Governor's Office: Jillian Hicks

Center for Climate Strategies: Randy Strait, June Taylor

Members of the Public: Mark Alison, Esq.

Background documents:

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

1. Meeting Notice and Agenda
2. Draft Summaries of Call #5 and Call #6
3. PowerPoint for Teleconference
4. Draft Priority Policy Options for Analysis

Introductions and Review of Agenda

Randy Strait welcomed the TWG members, called the meeting to order, completed the roll call, and reviewed the agenda for the call. The TWG approved the draft summaries for CC TWG Call #5 and Call #6 without any revisions.

Dates and Times for Future GCGW and TWG Meetings and GCGW Progress

Strait reviewed with the TWG dates and times for the remaining GCGW meetings. The TWG has one more meeting scheduled for July 23 prior to the next GCGW meeting to be held on July 31. The TWG agreed to wait to establish future TWG meeting dates until its July 23 meeting.

GCGW Process Progress and Review of Next Steps for TWG

Strait provided a brief review of where the TWG and GCGW are in the overall process. The GCGW will begin review and final approval of pending priority policy options at its next meeting on July 31. The TWGs should be working to complete their recommendations on as many of the pending priority policy options as possible so that the GCGW will not be tasked with approving all options at its last meeting on September 25.

Goals for July 31 GCGW Meeting #8

The TWG should be working to complete its recommendations on several of the pending priority policy options. This includes filling out the TWG's recommendations on the remaining elements of the template for each of the options.

Discussion Regarding Development of Straw Proposals for Priority Policy Options

During the call today, the TWG reviewed and discussed CC-4 (The State's Own Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Lead-by-Example)) through CC-8 (Creative Financial Mechanisms). CCS will revise the policy option description file to incorporate the TWG's comments for distribution to the TWG prior to its next call on July 23.

CC-4 (The State's Own Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Lead-by-Example))

The TWG agreed that the Arkansas Climate Change Institute would provide the best home for coordinating the overall implementation of this option (e.g., it would consolidate the information and make suggestions about improvements). The TWG agreed to revise the first two bullets under "Implementation Mechanisms" to assign implementation responsibility to the Arkansas Climate Change Institute.

An Advisory Body member noted that that the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration and the Arkansas Building Authority are two state agencies that could also support implementation of this option. A member suggested compiling a list of all the agencies and organizations, including "the Climate Change Institute" that are relevant to this option. An Advisory Body member asked to clarify if this is the emissions from the "buildings" or from the transportation of people commuting to them, the procurement activities that are done by the state, etc.? If the Institute does not come into existence, should the TWG recommend an option/backup method to oversee this? There is a lot of information to track. The idea of a multi-agency group was discussed – each collects their information and meets yearly. Another point raised is that there is a multitude of agencies, but there are some central points where change is approved and/or money spent.

Regarding the GHG reduction goal for CC-4 (first bullet under Goals), the consensus of the group was to make the goal consistent with the statewide GHG reduction goal for CC-3 that is adopted by the GCGW.

It was noted that the remaining elements of the template with a "TBD" are probably not applicable. The TWG agreed that CCS would review these and offer default language for the TWG to review and revise based on how other states have addressed these items for this same policy option.

CC-5 (Comprehensive Local Government Climate Action Plans)

A TWG member noted that the Implementation Mechanisms section could use improvement. It was suggested that the Climate Change Institute could take on the role for implementing this option, for example, by acting as a clearinghouse for the information for developing and

implementing plans and sharing information on what works for communities. A TWG member noted that this option should address the importance for local governments to develop and implement plans for mitigating GHG emissions on a long-term basis to benefit future generations. It was also noted that the state has a role in providing educational and technical support to local jurisdictions for developing and implementing plans. A TWG member volunteered to contact the Municipal League and possibly other non-governmental organizations to discuss methods to support implementation of this option. TWG members recommended that the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, the City of Fayetteville, and the American Planning Association be contacted to see what plans they have for addressing climate change or to mitigate GHG emissions. The question arose about different ideas being good for different sized cities and towns. Since Arkansas has a lot of rural communities, the idea of a distinction between rural/small towns and other area's needs/abilities to address this issue should be recognized.

Up With Trees Program – there was a question about how many state or local jurisdictions in the U.S. have established a program like this. In response, a TWG member noted that they were not sure. It was suggested that if the forest management option beginning developed by the AFW TWG recommends planting of trees in urban and rural areas of the state then it is not necessary to recommend it in this option.

CC-6 (State Climate Public Education and Outreach)

It was noted that the state does already have a lot of outreach on safe recycling and other information by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. The Arkansas Energy Office under the Economic Development Commission also provides education and outreach on energy efficiency. A TWG member asked if there could be an integrated campaign to address climate as part of the bigger picture.

TWG members agreed that education and outreach efforts should start as soon as possible. On Implementation Mechanisms, the TWG discussed if it should recommend that the Governor ask the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to take the lead in coordinating and working with other state agencies to implement education and outreach efforts. A TWG member noted that they will be attending a climate sustainability conference in Oregon next week that will be addressing educational curricula on this topic for states. They will share what they learn with the TWG during its next meeting. It was noted that a question was raised at a recent GCGW meeting about what the US Department of Education was doing to integrate climate change into school curricula. Strait indicated he would check into this.

CC-7 (Optimizing Best-Scale of Reduction Policies)

A TWG member noted that a market approach such as a cap and trade program needs a large and “liquid” market to be successful, which Arkansas does not have. They do not think it would be viable for Arkansas to join a regional entity like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) for the northeastern and mid-Atlantic states because of Arkansas’ location (geographically). A TWG member noted that beyond cap and trade there are other regional-type efforts (solid waste management, etc.). Another TWG member noted that upgrades to regional transmission and

distribution systems will be needed to convey electricity from renewable energy sources (e.g., wind) to the power grid. These are big, multi-state issues that need to be addressed regionally – or at least beyond the state. Strait asked if the group wanted to recommend anything specific in the option such as the anticipated need for electric transmission and distribution system upgrades. A TWG member noted that some ideas will overlap with RCI or ES TWGs and the thought was that specific issues related to these TWGs should be addressed by these TWGs.

For clarification purposes the TWG agreed to revise the first sentence under Policy Description to replace “...area undertaken...” with “...considered ...” so that the sentence reads as follows: “The Arkansas Climate Change Institute should investigate optimization of scale for each specific greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction considered by the state and report its findings in its annual reports.”

Agenda for Next Meeting

For the July 23 TWG meeting, CCS will revise the policy option description file to address comments that the TWG provided during today’s call. CCS will email the revised policy option description file to the TWG prior to the July 23 call. During the July 23 call, the TWG will focus on finalizing its recommendations for CC-1, CC-2, and CC-8 through CC-11.

The next GCGW meeting is scheduled for July 31, 2008. Documents must be posted on the project website by July 25.

Public Comments and Announcements

None.