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MEETING SUMMARY
ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON GLOBAL WARMING
Agriculture, Forestry and Waste (AFW) Technical Work Group (TWG)
Call #14, August 12, 2008, 1:00 to 3:00pm CST

Attendees:

TWG Members: Bill Reed, Jerry Farris, Aubra Anthony, Annette Pagan, Steve Cousins

Advisory Body Members: Richard Bell (AR Department of Agriculture), John Shannon (AR Forestry), Karen Bassett (ADEQ), Adrian Baber (AR Natural Resources Commission), Nancy Ledbetter, Jane Anderson and Martin Blaney (AR Game and Fish Commission),

Arkansas Governor's Office: Jillian Hicks

Center for Climate Strategies: Joe Pryor, Jackson Schreiber, Jen Jenkins

Members of the Public: Jim Sherrill, Jeffery Hall (AR Farm Bureau),

Background Documents: (all posted at www.arclimatechange.us/AFW.cfm)

- Summary of Call #13
- Meeting Notice and Agenda
- PowerPoint for Meeting
- AFW Straw Proposal Document
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission comments

Discussion and Conclusions:

Introductions

John Shannon had some difficulty receiving the documents sent to him prior to this meeting.

Review and Approval of Prior Call Summary

No Comments. The Call Summary was approved.

Discuss Results of July 31 GCGW Meeting

CCS went through the important comments that the GCGW made regarding the AFW quantifications.

Discuss Development of Policy Options including quantification

Jane Anderson and Nancy Ledbetter outlined the comments from the AR Game and Fish Commission comments of the AFW policy options. The AFW TWG considered the comments and agreed on the following approaches for each of the recommendations:

- Recommendation 1: The use of native Arkansas grasslands will be added to AFW-5 as a practice that should be considered in implementation which would provide additional benefits.
- Recommendation 2: The consideration of habitat will be added to AFW-7 with the additional benefit of wildlife habitat continuity noted as a possible additional benefit.
- Recommendation 3 and 4: There was overlap on these recommendations, but protecting wetlands to preserve aquatic species will be considered as an additional benefit/cost under AFW-3 and AFW-4.
- Recommendation 5: Encourage the use of plants native to Arkansas as an additional benefit of AFW-7.
- Recommendation 6: Prescribed fire should not be excluded as part of a forestry management approach.

AFW-7

- John Shannon will provide a definition of sustainability with regards to forestry.
- The goal for improved forest management for carbon sequestration will be changed from 50% of publicly owned land to 5,000 acres per year of publicly owned land. There are some other government land owners, but the Game and Fish Commission has the majority of it. The majority of this land is mature hardwood forests.
- The analysis of privately owned forests will use the breakdown of acreage from the FIA analysis of Arkansas which will be provided by John Shannon.

AFW-6

- The TWG has asked that the goal be revised to increase the use of wood building products in addition to increasing the use of locally produced wood in Arkansas.

AFW-5

- The NRCS definition based on soil capabilities of marginal agriculture land is currently being used for the goal of this option. CCS is currently working with NRCS to include ground cover within the definition.
- The TWG noted that the definition of “marginal” may be a moving target (as the prices of corn and other commodities change, different land may become economically viable and therefore no longer “marginal”).

Agenda, Date and Time for Next Meetings

Public Comments and Announcements

Jim Sherrill – wondered if the TWG would consider a tax incentive as part of AFW-9.

Jeffery Hall – Prescribed burns should have their place in a forest management practices in Arkansas. The definition of marginal Agriculture land may be problematic for the quantification for AFW-4.

John Shannon explained that Ted Wagnen called him to say that he believes the commission is making a direct connection between biofuels and the cost of food, and he thinks that relationship is more complex than that.

Annette Pagan - The Biofuels Alliance would like an opportunity to speak to the TWG. CCS recommended that they call in and speak as a member of the public.