

# Bioenergy Council Conference Meeting Notes

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November 14, 2013

**Teleconference held at 09:30 AM**

**Members Participating:** Jamie Derr (Co-Chair), David Donovan (Co-Chair), Bob Sather, Tim Clay, Michael Allen, Dick Gorder, Keith Reopelle, Jeff Landin, Dan Bahr, Mike Troge, T.J. Morice, Mike Engel, Don Nelson, Dan Bahr and Andy Fiene

**Agency Staff Participating:** Amanda Mott, Dave Siebert, Deb Erwin, Steve Bertjens and Ty Rohloff

## **Welcome and Introductions (Jamie Derr)**

Members were able to introduce themselves.

Bob Sather had some new developments regarding Ace Ethanol. Sweetwater Energy, in conjunction with Ace Ethanol in Stanley, is working on a process to retrieve C5 and C6 sugar molecules. The process is a 20 million dollar investment, will create 15 to 20 jobs and will comprise 9% of Ace's production. Ace is also in the process of collaborating with another R&D firm to get the same C5 and C6 molecules from wood pulp waste.

## **Review Current Membership (Ty Rohloff)**

Group membership is fully represented with the addition of three replacement members, two newly created positions and a replacement on the agency support side. New members include Don Nelson – Packaging Corporation of America, Dan Bahr – Wisconsin Counties Association, Mike Engel – US Fish and Wildlife Service, Michael Allen – Energy Law Wisconsin, Tom Unke - Baker Tilly and Russ Raeder with the Farm Service Agency. Each new member present had some time to tell about their current job and some experience they've had working with bioenergy projects.

## **Vote on Sustainability Guideline Updates (Dave Donovan)**

Dave Donovan reviewed the Bioenergy Council's previous discussion on potential changes to the sustainability guidelines. By statute, the guidelines are to be reviewed every two years and updated as necessary. The technical team that supported the creation of the original guidelines recommended that no changes be made to the guidelines at this time. Since no major additions have been made to the supporting data base used to develop the original guidelines, the technical team saw no need to modify the guidelines at this time. A motion was made by Dave Donovan and seconded by Jamie Derr to accept the technical team's recommendation. After some discussion the Bioenergy Council agreed unanimously that no changes were needed at this time, but the option would remain open to revisit updating the guideline if something significant happens in the future.

A message will be forwarded to Secretary Brancel informing him of the Bioenergy Council's recommendation. A link will also be sent to the council so that members may read or share the guidelines with the public.

## **Policy Recommendations (Dave Donovan)**

During the October meeting, working groups were established to review and revise some of the potential Council recommendations. The working groups came back with revised draft recommendations for consideration and discussion.

**Draft Recommendation 1 - Dave Donovan and Ty Rohloff** – Discussion on this point revolved around some wording changes as well as a push for more coordination between state agencies, specifically between the Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. The agencies should come to a consensus on greenhouse gas emissions and be willing to present to the EPA. Since the Bioenergy Council was housed and is supported by the Wisconsin DATCP it seems appropriate that DATCP will take on the agency facilitation role.

**Draft Recommendation 2 - Deb Erwin, Amanda Mott, Michael Allen and Dave Donovan** – Some minor language changes need to be made yet and there should be more inclusion of electricity and system interconnection language. The same members will further refine the recommendation and present to the council for final approval next meeting.

**Draft Recommendation 3 - Deb Erwin, T.J. Morice and Keith Reopelle** – This draft recommendation would involve the inclusion of a thermal standard within the existing statewide renewable portfolio standard (RPS) or the creation of a thermal standard itself. Deb Erwin explained how the RPS worked and discussed the pros and cons of increasing the RPS or creating a renewable thermal standard. The Bioenergy Council also discussed whether thermal systems would qualify under any of the other portions of the RPS and the offset of electricity versus propane or natural gas. The work group will refine this recommendation for further consideration at the next Bioenergy Council meeting.

**Recommendation 4 and 5 Jamie Derr** – Recommendations four and five are still in original form. Jamie agreed to review both and edit for the next meeting. There will be discussion after they are updated as to whether or not the group wants to only present the first three or include Jamie's revised version of four and five to the secretary. Part of the group felt that three recommendations were sufficient for now and that four and five were not a priority at this time.

#### **Next Steps (Jamie and Dave)**

A doodle poll will be sent out after the meeting with a meeting date of either mid-December or mid-January. Recommendations will be updated incorporating the meeting's discussion and presented at the next meeting for final approval. The hope is to have a final set of recommendations to the secretary by early 2014. Each recommendation will be sent to Ty, compiled on one sheet and sent to the group for review before the next meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned**