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TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY
AFW Policy Working Group
Call #1, January 17, 2007

Members Attending:

John Covert
Steve Hill
Tony Frank
Susie Gordon
Meg Collins
Eric Lombardi
Keith Paustian
Chris Crosby
Tony Frank
Tom Compton

Matt Baker
Jill Cooper

Governmental agency liaisons: none

Rocky Mountain Climate Organization: Tom Easley, Stephen Saunders

Center for Climate Strategies: Steve Roe, Katie Bickel

Agenda Item#1 and #2: Introductions, Review of Agenda and Purpose/Goals:

Tom Easley gave a general introduction explaining that RMCO and CCS are two non-profits working in cooperation to develop a climate action plan for Colorado. Steve Roe (CCS) explained the role of CCS as providing facilitation and technical support and he reviewed the purpose and goals of the policy working group (PWG) for Agriculture, Forestry and Waste (AFW). The PWG provides guidance to the Climate Action Panel (CAP), the CAP will work with RMCO to develop a final report by December 2007. CCS reviewed the meeting schedule. CAP will meet six times over the course of the year and the PWG will have approximately two calls in between CAP meetings.

Agenda Item#3: Review of the CAP Process:

CCS reviewed the process for preparing the final report. The process moves forward in a stepwise fashion, the details of each step will become clear over the next several calls. Decisions are consensus driven, CAP decisions are made through a voting process, aim to achieve consensus wherever possible, or super majority or simple majority on policy recommendations.

When there is not consensus, an effort is made to try to characterize the barriers to consensus. Decision criteria for policy recommendations are based on GHG reductions and costs.

It was noted by RMCO that there is also an interest in adaptation and that the catalogue is focused on mitigation options. RMCO is exploring with CCS a way to incorporate adaptation issues into the process.

CCS reviewed the elements of a policy template and explained that policy proposals end up as an appendix to the final report. CCS also reviewed the structure of the final report.

Agenda Item#4: Review and Discussion of the Catalog of State Actions:

CCS introduced the Catalogue of Options, reviewing the key to future rankings (semi-quantitative, determine whether they have low, medium, or high potential reductions in CO and cost/cost savings). CCS led a discussion that walked through the AFW catalogue of options. Actions that have already been undertaken at some level in the state are marked with an asterisk (S or L is listed where a policy has been implemented at the state or local level, respectively). CCS mentioned that the catalog will be populated by CCS with draft semi-quantitative rankings, feasibility considerations, and notes for review by the PWG. This could be made available as early as the next PWG meeting.

CCS reviewed each of the 11 groups of policy actions in the AFW catalog. Each option within each group was briefly mentioned and described, but detailed discussions were postponed until future PWG meetings. The idea was to make sure the PWG members understood what each option was, so that they could identify options that are not present in the catalog. PWG members asked a number of clarifying questions on individual options.

Agenda Item#5: Next Steps of Policy Work Groups:

First step for the PWG is to review and develop a comprehensive set of mitigation options that the CAP should be considering. CCS provided an initial list in the “Catalogue of Options.” The PWG will identify additional options not captured in catalogue of state actions. The Catalogue identifies existing policy actions in place under each option.

The next task for the PWG is to identify missing potential options for Colorado and review and suggest updates to the Colorado GHG Inventory and Forecast (the inventory and forecast will be posted to the website soon and a notice will be provided to PWG members; further discussion of the inventory will take place on future calls). This will be the focus of the next PWG call.

CCS also gave a broad overview of the remaining steps in the process, including PWG identification of priorities (top-10 list) and the policy design process for the priority options: development of straw proposals, quantification of benefits, and completion of a policy template. CAP will review and approve the PWG recommendations in between each of these steps.

Agenda Item#6: Agenda, Time and Date for Next Meeting:

Next PWG Call is scheduled for February 14, 2007; RMCO is hoping to organize an in-person meeting in the afternoon (probably from 3:00 to 5:30 pm). Details will be circulated by email.

Next CAP meeting is February 15, 2007.

Agenda Item#7: Public Input and Announcements:

None