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DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY
Cross-Cutting Issues Policy Working Group
Meeting/Call #1, February 14, 2007

Members Attending:

Chris Crosby
Helen Klanderud
Tom Looby
Tom Moore
Barbara Roberts
Nancy Sharpe
Lucinda Smith
Randy Udall

Governmental agency liaisons: Jill Cooper, Patrick Hamel
Rocky Mountain Climate Organization: Stephen Saunders
Center for Climate Strategies: Ken Colburn, Randy Strait

Agenda Item #1: Introductions and Review of Agenda. Attendees did introductions and CCS reviewed the eight agenda items for the call.

Agenda Item #2: Purpose and Goals. CCS noted that for all five of the Policy Working Group (PWGs), their purpose is to develop recommendations for actions in Colorado to reduce the state's contribution to changed climate. The overall goals of the CAP are to (1) review and approve a current and comprehensive inventory and forecast of GHG emission in Colorado from 1990 to 2020; (2) develop a comprehensive set of individual policy recommendations to reduce GHG emissions in CO in future years through 2020 or after; and (3) develop goals for statewide reductions consistent with the goal of an efficient, robust Colorado economy.

RMCO staff noted that the PWG and Climate Action Panel (CAP) are focused on developing policy options for mitigating GHG emissions. Issues associated with the State of Colorado adapting to and managing risks associated with the effects of climate change (e.g., water supply, heat waves, impacts on wildlife) will be addressed by a separate process that is currently under development by the RMCO.

Agenda Item #3: Review of the CAP Process. CCS reviewed the roles, responsibilities, and timeline of the CAP and PWG processes. Whereas most PWGs are focused on particular options within specific sectors (e.g., energy; residential, commercial, and industrial fuel use; transportation and land use; agriculture, forestry, and waste), the CC PWG will discuss and develop recommendations that cut across all sectors. The CC PWG will start with the options provided in the draft “catalog” for this meeting, along with any additional options that the PWG members wish to add, and other issues or options may be suggested by other PWGs. CCS provided an overview of the timing for PWG meetings relative to CAP meetings, and the work products to be developed by the CC PWG.

Agenda Item #4: Review and Discussion of the Catalog of State Actions. Prior to the meeting, RMCO and CCS provided the PWG with a draft catalog of CC policy options (and descriptions of the policy options in a separate file). CCS noted that the catalog is a starting place that the CC PWG can add to or modify as it deliberates policy options most appropriate for Colorado. CCS provided a brief overview of each of the policy options on the catalog that include the following: Inventories and Forecasting (CC-1), GHG Reporting (CC-2), GHG Registry (CC-3), GHG Reduction Goals and Targets (CC-4), State’s Own GHG Emissions (Lead by Example) (CC-5), Comprehensive Local Government Climate Action Plans (CC-6), and Public Education and Outreach (CC-7).

CCS noted that the catalog should focus on the policy options to be considered by the PWG, and a separate “design options template” will be developed to help the PWG define the attributes of individual policy options. The following provides a summary of the CC PWG’s comments on individual policy options (the parenthetical note following each comment identifies the location in the catalog where CCS addressed the comment):

Inventories and Forecasting (CC-1):

- Consider ways to include GHGs associated with wildfires (to be considered under catalog item #1.1 (Establish & maintain a GHG emission inventory function); and
- Include “look back” to assess forecast accuracy; revise practices as appropriate (to be considered under catalog item #1.2 (Establish & maintain GHG emission forecasting function)).
- A member recommended that the forecast include a period that goes beyond 2020 to support long-range planning and implementation. CCS noted that the period over which the forecast should be prepared is one of several elements that the CC PWG will consider in developing the design characteristics of this policy option.

State’s Own GHG Emissions (Lead by Example) (CC-5):

- Institute an accountability program to measure and report progress in reducing GHG emissions (added as catalog item #5.4).

Public Education and Outreach (CC-7): The PWG provided the following comments for additions to the catalog.

- Institute annual Governor’s Awards to recognize climate action of several types/categories (added as catalog item #7.1.5 under (Target Audience: State Government Education and Outreach Actions));
- Help communities statewide implement programs like Ft. Collins’ “Climate Wise” program (added as catalog item #7.4.12 under (Target Audience: Community Leaders & Community-Based Organizations));
- Develop a statewide voluntary program to structure and assist individuals in undertaking actions to reduce GHG emissions (added as catalog item #7.5.10 under (Target Audience: General Public));
- Help municipal utilities move to greater demand-side emphasis rather than supply-side (to be considered under catalog item #7.6.3 (Energy Supply and Use, under Target Audience: Industrial & Economic Sectors));
- Implement a state program of voluntary business actions to reduce GHGs (like Ft. Collins’ “Climate Wise” Program) (added as catalog item #7.6.5 under (Target Audience: Industrial & Economic Sectors)); and
- Institute a “business incubator” program to attract and support new business development relating to the new energy economy (added as catalog item #7.6.6 under (Target Audience: Industrial & Economic Sectors)).

Tax Policies (CC-8): The CC PWG also discussed the possible use of tax incentives and disincentives to encourage GHG reductions, and agreed to add this as a new policy option to the catalog as item #CC-8.

Agenda Item #5: Next Steps of Policy Work Groups. CCS noted that it would revise the catalog before the CAP meeting the next day and would identify the PWG’s additions to the catalog during the CAP meeting. For the second meeting of the PWG, CCS will summarize the CAP’s comments on the catalog for consideration by the PWG. The PWG may also provide additions to the catalog during its second meeting. For the third CAP meeting, the PWG will need to recommend priority policy options from the catalog.

Agenda Item #6: Brief overview of Inventory and Forecast. CCS provided an overview of the inventory and forecast and responded to the PWG’s questions. CCS noted that this work is helpful for assessing GHG emissions and trends, but it is not intended to be a compliance baseline. The sector-specific PWGs will be responsible for reviewing the inventory and forecast and identifying opportunities for improving the inventory and forecast. Although the sector-specific PWGs have the primary responsibility for reviewing, revising (if approved by the PWG and CAP), and ultimately approving the inventory and forecast, the CC PWG members should also note any concerns they may have with the inventory and forecast for consideration by the sector-specific PWGs.

Agenda Item #7: Agenda, Time and Date for Next Meeting. The agenda for the second meeting of the PWG will include (1) review and discussion of results of CAP meeting #2; (2) review of goals for CAP meeting #3; (3) identification of suggested additions to the catalog of states actions; and (4) discussion of suggested updates to the Colorado emissions inventory and forecast.

The date and time for the next PWG meeting will be determined after the second meeting of the CAP. [Note: The date and time for the second meeting of the CC PWG has been arranged for **Wednesday, March 14, 2007 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Mountain time**].

Agenda Item #8: Public Input and Announcements. None.