

**Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC) Conference Call to Approve
Advice Letter on Draft EPA Biofuel Strategy**

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2009 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM EST

ROLL CALL

Members

Jim Andrew
Marion Bowlan
Garth Boyd
Mike Brubaker
Chris Chinn
Gary Cooper
Tom Franklin
Earl Garber
Ralph Grossi
Karri Hammerstrom
Michele Laur
Tom McDonald
Jim Moseley
Dave Nelson
Dawn Riley
Cliff Snyder
Jeff Vonk
Jay Vroom

Non-Members (EPA)

Christopher Ashcraft
Robin Dunkins
Mark Joyce
Alicia Kaiser
Sally Shaver

Members of the Public

Noel Gurwick
Tom Hance
Pat Hipple (USDA)
Janet Kopenhaver
Paul Martin
Jess McCluer
Aaron Lovell
Anna Pavlova
David Perin
Kathleen Logan Smith

4:00 Jim Moseley welcomed the Committee to conference call:

Today we will review and approve the advice letter on the Biofuel Strategy to the EPA. Jim Andrew led this effort as the chair of the Climate Change and Renewable Energy Workgroup, and I want to thank him, the workgroup, and the EPA staff for all of their hard work in drafting this advice letter.

Jim Moseley conducted the above roll call and stated that we reached a quorum of the FRRCC Members. (We had a majority of the members needed to conduct the call). He then handed the call-line over to Alicia Kaiser.

4:05 Alicia Kaiser provided the ground rules for the conference call:

Alicia Kaiser covered the ground rules. Everyone received the agenda, and Alicia went over the agenda.

4:10 Jim Andrew conducted an overview of the FRRCC Draft Recommendations on EPA's Draft Biofuels Strategy:

Jim Andrew described the letter's origin, and discussed how the Climate Change & Renewable Energy Workgroup was charged by EPA to provide advice on the Agency's draft Biofuel Strategy. The workgroup decided to do this in the form of an advice letter. The best way they saw to do this was to have the entire workgroup read over the entire Strategy and to render their comments back to the Workgroup. Otto Doering collected all of these comments, which make up the appendix of the letter. This allowed for everyone to give their comments with none being left out. The letter process was made as transparent as possible, and everyone on the Workgroup was given the opportunity to submit input. The main body of the letter was an overview of all of the comments and of the EPA's Biofuel Strategy. The entire Workgroup reached consensus on the advice letter and felt that it was ready for the entire Committee to review and approve.

Jim Andrew: Prior to our conference call today, I received a new comment from Karri Hammerstrom and Dave Nelson.

Karri Hammerstrom: In further review of the letter and in an email discussion with Committee Member Dave Nelson, I would like to offer the following suggested edits in regards to the paragraph in the letter that starts, "*The feedstock production discussion must consider the indirect economic impacts of food and feed costs, food and resource security, greenhouse gases, water quality and availability. This discussion should also cover the differing direct and indirect impacts of a broad array of feedstocks.*"

As we have learned in the California Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) process, quantifying indirect effects of any sort is nebulous at best. And you have to know HOW to measure "indirect effect X" accurately and precisely before you can properly make judgments about the impacts of the effect.

I would recommend that the first sentence be amended with the following addition:
"*The feedstock production discussion must consider supporting the development and refinement of analytical tools to assess and quantify the indirect economic impacts of food and feed costs, food and resource security, greenhouse gases, water quality and availability. This discussion should also cover the differing direct and indirect impacts of a broad array of feedstocks.*"

With this amendment, I believe it allows for a more logical progression of analysis, rather than recommending that indirect effects be considered before it's determined how and what impacts are to be considered, thus putting the cart before the horse.

Jim Andrew: Asked if the Committee agreed with this amendment, and all present did agree.

Tom McDonald: Felt that any acronyms in the letter should be spelled out the first time they are used to avoid confusion. Jim Andrew. The Committee agreed and will make the change.

4:25 Public comments on FRRCC Draft Recommendations on EPA's Draft Biofuel Strategy

Paul Martin had some concern that the paragraph Jim read above did not cover anything dealing with air emissions.

No other members of the public had any comments

4:40 Discussion and Approval of FRRCC Draft Recommendations on EPA's Draft Biofuel Strategy provided by Jim Andrew

Jim Andrew asked if any of the Committee members felt that the above public comment should be taken into account in the advice letter.

Ralph Grossi felt that it should be added in the paragraph that was changed. He suggested that air and water quality be inserted there.

Jim Andrew asked if the Committee would like the first sentence in the second page to have the air and water quality language be added.

Cliff Snyder accepted the comment as well, but felt that it did not need to be noted since it is not specifically mentioned in the appendix. He did not see anything in the strategy or advice letter mentioning air quality in the original biofuel strategy.

Sally Shaver pointed out that the fifth bullet down in the appendix made a reference to air quality. Jim Andrew said this was true. Cliff Snyder agreed.

Jim Andrew asked if this new line was agreeable to the whole committee. Everyone in the Committee agreed with the public comment and agreed to incorporate it into the advice letter.

The paragraph with the new changes incorporated from the public comment now read: *“The feedstock production discussion must consider supporting the development and refinement of analytical tools to assess and quantify the indirect economic impacts of food and feed costs, food and resource security, greenhouse gases, air quality, and water quality and availability. This discussion should also cover the differing direct and indirect impacts of a broad array of feedstocks. The strategy document and tables should also address the environmental issues surrounding crop residues, soil quality, soil carbon, and fertility implications where residue is harvested for cellulosic biofuel production.”*

Jay Vroom pointed out that there was a typo on the appendix 5th bullet down.

Jay Vroom said the last bullet in the appendix on land use and in the main body dealing with land use is for state regulation and that there is no EPA authority to deal with this in the US. He wanted to insert some words that the EPA does not have the authority to regulate this, but that they take it into account.

Jim Andrew responded to Jay Vroom's comment on the last bullet of the appendix and said he did not want to change it since it came from the members. Jay Vroom agreed and just wanted to make sure that the EPA did not have authority over this. He agreed to leave the language as it was.

Jay Vroom said that on the second page of the letter at the bottom of the page it should read: *“The best science available must be employed in determining indirect land use issues.”* and not

“ongoing”. Everyone in the Committee agreed and approved the change. Jim Andrew reread the new sentence as amended.

Jim Andrew asked if there were any other Committee comments and there were none.

Jim Moseley now asked the Committee to approve the advice letter to the EPA:

Jim Moseley felt that Jim Andrew did an outstanding job, and wanted to know if the members of the Committee would agree with the finalizing of the advice letter.

Jim Moseley asked if any member of the Committee did not approve of the advice letter as amended on the teleconference.

No members objected and the amended advice letter was approved.

4:56 Adjourn.

Meeting Participants

Committee Chair:

James R. Moseley
Owner
Jim Moseley Farms, Inc.

Members:

James O. Andrew
Owner
Andrew Farms, Inc.

Marion Long Bowlan
Farmer
Long-Bowlan Farms

Garth W. Boyd, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President
Camco Global

Senator Mike W. Brubaker
Senator
Pennsylvania State Senate

Christine Chinn
Manager
Chinn Hog Farm

Gary A. Cooper
Owner
Cooper Farms

Thomas M. Franklin
Senior Vice President
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Earl J. Garber
President
Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts

Ralph Grossi
President
American Farmland Trust

Karri M. Hammerstrom
Co-Owner
Hammertime Ranch

Michele Laur
National Atmospheric Resource Specialist
Natural Resource Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Tom McDonald
Vice President for Environmental Affairs
Five Rivers Ranch Cattle Feeding

Dave Nelson
Chairman of the Board
Global Ethanol

Dawn R. Riley
Owner
Dawn Riley Consulting

Cliff S. Snyder, Ph.D.
Nitrogen Program Director
International Plant Nutrition Institute

Jeffrey R. Vonk
Secretary
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish,
and Parks

Jay Vroom
President
CropLife America

Designated Federal Officer:

Alicia Kaiser

Special Assistant for Agricultural Policy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Christopher Ashcraft

Junior Designated Federal Officer FRRCC
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Participants:

Robin Dunkins

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Mark Joyce

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Sally Shaver

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Members of the Public:

Noel Gurwick

Tom Hance

Pat Hipple (USDA)

Janet Kopenhaver

Paul Martin

Jess McCluer

Aaron Lovell

Anna Pavlova

David Perin

Kathleen Logan Smith

These minutes are an accurate depiction of the matters discussed during this meeting.

James R. Moseley February 17, 2009

James R. Moseley
Chair
Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee

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