

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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**DRAFT
MINUTES
Interagency Forest Working Group
March 27, 2009**

IFWG MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Pellissier -	Deputy Director, Cal EPA
Margaret Kim -	International Climate Advisor, Cal EPA
Stephanie Tom Coupe -	Deputy Assistant Director
David Nawi -	Member, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF)
Crawford Tuttle -	Chief Deputy, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Jim Boyd -	Member, California Energy Commission
Jim Pena -	Deputy Regional Forester, Region V U.S. Forest Service
Dale Hoffman -	Deputy Director, Department of Water Resources
Lynn Terry -	Deputy Director, Air Resources Board
Kim Rodrigues-	Regional Director, Cooperative extension

Review of IFWG Agreements:

Ms. Rodrigues reviewed the key agreements from the last meeting:

- in order to expedite and facilitate- we will webcast meetings when possible
- honor time agreements- start and end on time, and get agenda taken care of
- all need to share in success of meeting, not just working group members, but public members as well
- balance results for policy recommendations
- honor and respect the collaborative relationships between agencies

Review of charter:

Mr. Gentry introduced the draft Charter and read through the changes that had been made in response to committee and public comment since the February 27, 2009 meeting.

- grammatical changes
- inserting AB 32 scoping plan, Adaptation Strategy
- Assure cross state agency cooperation and collaboration
- Unclear about Boards Research and Science committee, added their mission to show what the potential collaboration could be.
- "committee" changed to "working group" through out the entire document
- Page 3- Item C- ensure all IFWG meetings gather and utilize as much information as possible, webcast, website updates, meaningful stake holder input and the ability to comment

- Meeting Logistics- preference for using telephonic attendance or webcasting if possible
- Protection and Conservation- changed from 3 major agents to 4 major agents including Climate Change
- Fire suppression AND Fire prevention
- Forest and Range, because BOF does do Range policy, currently stricken, but should be considered to add back in
- Utilization- last line changes
- Adaptation- entire last paragraph was a change suggested by DFG
- Actions- based on a conversation from last meeting, the last lines were added
- More acknowledgement of the AB 32 plan added through out

Discussion:

- The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) will establish a standing Research Committee. The Committee will address climate change research needs, including strong outreach to the Climate Action Team (CAT) research committee, other academia, and other State and Federal agency research efforts on climate change. An initial interest will be forest carbon measurement and accounting. Funding will be an issue for this committee.
- This draft charter will be made available to the Board at its April 6 & 7 meeting for consideration and endorsement.
- The draft will include a strong connection to the "no net loss" forest sector objective stated in the AB 32 scoping plan.
- A reference will be added for a need to interface with and support other policy issues broader than the forest sector. Many other interests, such as energy, have policy issues that are affected by climate change. This group is an opportunity to make sure the linkages and interconnections of climate change policies are considered.
- The concept of the forest intersection with energy policy will be added to page 1, goal D.
- The idea of restoring riparian corridors and riparian forests for flood control will be inserted on page 5 within the concept of restoration.
- The Board has responsibility for forest and rangeland. No reference to rangeland exists in the current draft, so rangeland references will be included in appropriate locations. The question of including afforestation was also raised and will be addressed in the charter.

Public Comments:

- A question was raised as to how economic impacts to landowners were addressed in the charter. Pages 2 through 3 included the concept of "economic sustainability". New tools will be needed for small landowners to enable increased forest carbon storage.
- It was pointed out that regulatory costs are now contributing to forest land being converted to uses other than forest management. This contributes to direct and indirect emissions as well as lost storage potential. A need for market incentives to lessen this pressure was noted.
- The idea of accepting fire as part of the California landscape with the caveat that sufficient management is needed to reduce the potential of catastrophic fire is to be included on page 4. Caution was raised on the impacts of biomass removal for fuels management. The difference between natural and man caused fire will also be addressed on page 6 of the draft. The effect of fire on the carbon cycle will also be included on page 6.
- The question of smoke management for prescribed fire was raised and it was concluded that questions around this topic are better addressed in a different venue.
- A point was raised that California imports approximately 80% of the wood used in the state. The leakage implications of this need to be addressed. This will be considered in more detailed discussions on measurement and accounting by other groups.

- Questions on forest sustainability were raised. The point was raised that this needs to be viewed from the aspect of a forest management cycle across larger landscapes and not from a project level. The overall forest management approach has to be viewed as to its effect on total carbon stocks. The value of forest co-benefits (water quality, biodiversity, etc.) must also be considered in any discussion on forest sustainability.
- Mr. Gentry indicated that the points discussed at this meeting will be addressed in the draft charter and made available by March 31st.

Discussion of processes that parallel the forest work group effort:

- The Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) was raised as an effort ongoing at this time. Draft regulations are out for review at this time. Forests relate to this topic through the potential use of wood (biomass) to produce liquid fuels. The biomass pathway for liquid fuels is not completed by the Air Board (ARB) and therefore not addressed in this regulatory proposal. The question of cap and trade and how offsets for avoided fossil fuels will be handled are also under discussion. The hearing for the LCFS regulations will be conducted on April 23rd and April 24th.
- The incorporation of international offsets into a California cap and trade system is still being explored. Questions of market incentives and leakage issues are at the front of these discussions.
- The cap and trade system development process is lengthy and will be concluded until after 2010.
- The Energy Commission (CEC) biennial update of the Integrated Energy and Policy Report is not underway. This is a key point where energy and forest policy intersect and affect each other. The use of biomass as a feedstock for power or liquid fuels is main discussion of this intersects. It is clear that it will be necessary to realize the potential contribution of biomass to energy objectives set out by the Governor in his executive order and by the Bioenergy Interagency Work Group.
- The effort towards increased production and use of renewable liquid fuels under AB 118 are related to this forest workgroup. Forest feedstock's for fuels are needed to meet the program objectives but the question of biomass sustainability and net benefits is still being addressed by CEC.
- The Western Carbon Sequestration Partnership formed by the federal Department of Energy will continue to move forward. This effort addresses the potential of both terrestrial and geologic carbon storage. The terrestrial pilots will conclude this year and reports will be released later in the year or early 2010. The geologic storage effort has received additional funding and will continue for at least two more years.
- The US Forest Service has a strong research effort in place that is addressing questions on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the forest sector. In addition, a new program is in motion to establish a framework for delivery of Ecosystem Services. Addressing climate change through the development of a resilient forest will be a main thrust.
- The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is moving forward in WestCarb; a review and update of the California Fire Plan; supplemental fire suppression capability; development of "defensible space"; fuel hazard reduction research; and implementation of the federal stimulus package for fuel hazard reduction.

The committee agreed that future meeting agendas will include the opportunity to share the current actions of members to address climate change.

Discussion on future activities:

The question of workshops needed to inform the committee of climate relates forest sector issues was discussed. It was agreed that the majority of the workshops will be conducted this coming summer. The Committee agreed that questions surrounding forest inventory should be the first topic undertaken. An initial informative session for the Committee will be held in the next two

months and a more in-depth workshop will be held in June. Other workshops on topics such as wildfire, mitigation, and adaptation will be held later in the summer. The Committee will continue the discussion of workshop timing and topic order at the next meeting. It was specifically requested that the workshop on offsets be delayed to September.

A discussion was then held on how to move forward in determining what actions and policies will contribute to meeting the "no net loss" forest sector objective established in the AB 32 Scoping Plan. The Scoping Plan Appendix contains a list of activities that were identified to increase or maintain the forest carbon stocks. Staff was directed to identify those actions and provide a list for the committee member's consideration at the next meeting in April. It was suggested that these activities be divided into actions that either build carbon stocks or create avoided emissions. Examples would be reforestation and urban tree planting.

Proposed Time Line/Deadlines/Dates:

- Trying to anchor dates for workshops and meetings
- Check proposed dates, the better we can set dates in advance the more successful we will be
- Set dates and then decide what will be discussed at those meetings
- Suggested that the offset conversation be held before the end of September
- Topic timelines need to be discussed
- Proposed that the appendix get looked over and be summarized by next meeting for better understanding
- Crawford will get review of appendix done and ready to report for April meeting
- Getting materials on-line as soon as possible for review by the public

- Discussion of inventory and how it should be addressed in future meetings. It was decided that ideas, thoughts, and so forth should be written down and e-mailed for review and collaboration.

- Once the process side is taken care of, once we get working group meetings the time allotted could be changed potentially, allowing 3 hours and ending early is better.