

A summary of the first meeting of the Western Climate Initiative Industry Working Group held Monday January 7, 2008 in Salem at ODF Headquarters.

Present: Jay Morey – ODF, Jim Cathcart – ODF, Dave Van't Hof – Governor's Office, Cameron Smith – Governor's Office, Linc Cannon – OFIC, Mike Gaudern – OSWA, Matt Donegan – Forest Capital Partners, Keith Balter – Forest Capital Partners, Steve Zika – Hampton Affiliates, Mike Hollern – Brooks Resources Corp., W. Ray Jones – Roseburg Forest Products, and Greg Miller – Weyerhaeuser Company

Dave and Cameron from the Governor's Office provided a brief background of the WCI, how it is set up, and the timelines for the WCI

- WCI is divided into five committees: offsets, electricity, allocations, scope, and reporting
- A draft of recommendations should be put together by approximately May 2008
- There is a 4-5 month window now for the majority of the input to take place
- Working towards a favorable common view and set of recommendations to influence Federal Policy
- No real dialogue has taken place yet between the WCI and Federal Representatives
- Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia can be the main drivers in broadening stakeholder support for carbon offsets and forests

Discussion ensued of realistic goals to accomplish in the next 4-5 months

- Matt Donegan and others felt it would be a good idea to get the environmental and conservation groups involved right away to gain credibility and alleviate contentious arguments down the line which could lead to limited effectiveness of the working group's inputs
- Conservation Fund – Evan Smith, Pacific Forest Trust – Connie Best, The Nature Conservancy – Russ Hoeflich, and OSU and UW were resources discussed to involve at either the next or future meetings (Jay Morey and Linc Cannon will work on making this happen)

Additional Discussion points the group had a general consensus on:

- Get arguments settled early to enhance credibility as Washington has had some problems in this area
- Make this a Washington and Oregon strategic effort, we can work through WFPA to accomplish this
- Avoid dueling scientists and grabbing hold of a certain science or study to advocate a position
- The idea of keeping forests as forests is a good avenue to gain involvement and support

Policy, Economic, and Silvicultural Discussion:

- There are really three directions we can go to gain support for carbon credits, land use being most likely the easiest, fire mitigation being moderately difficult, and silviculture being the most challenging.

- The topic of land use is a unifying issue non-foresters can get their arms around and may be the best approach being there is a narrow window (4-5 months) for input.
- Matt Donegan mentioned The Nature Conservancy has a very well thought out take and presentation on the issue of carbon credits, fiber farming maximizes carbon sequestration, however, biodiversity suffers. They don't really know where to go from here.
- Matt Donegan raised the question of whether local contentious issues are similar at the international level, more investigation through the IPCC Report should answer this question.
- What protocols and path should we go? Chicago Climate Exchange with SFI or FSC certification for sustainability is a well thought out path and other protocols should be examined as well. (Steve Ruddell from Forecon, Inc. will hopefully be able to attend the next meeting to help with this question)
- Are we solving the problem of greenhouse gases or just generating revenue? We want to accomplish both.
- Is WCI just a recommendation? How can it influence the 2009 Legislative Session in Oregon

The direction and goals for the next meeting:

- Synthesize the working group to involve Oregon, Washington, and California incorporating academic, environmental, and conservation interests.
- Figure out what protocols and direction would be best to go, CCX or others? Steve Ruddell will hopefully be able to make the next meeting.
- What should we focus on, land use, fire mitigation, or silviculture?
- Should decisions be made as a consensus or a majority?

The group plans to meet every couple of weeks for the next 4-5 months since we are operating in a short time frame. The next meeting we are looking at January 28th or 29th to have Steve Ruddell present; however, those dates are very tentative at this point. Linc Cannon from OFIC and myself are working on organizing and pulling together details for the next meeting. I will have more details to come soon. Any questions feel free to contact me.

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