

HTM Joint Action Team Call Minutes
September 11, 2018
1:30 PM CT

Call participants: Al Doering (AURI); Becky Philipp (AURI), Kevin Hennessy (MN Dept. of Agriculture), Brent Bailey (25x25), Jay Solomon (University of IL-Extension), Dan Skogen (AURI), Ron Gagner (Northwest Manufacturing/WoodMaster), David Neumann (MI DNR), Gregg Mast (Clean Energy Economy MN/Earthtech Energy)

Welcome/Roll Call. Gregg welcomed participants to the call.

Approval of Call Agenda. Gregg reviewed the agenda for the call. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the call agenda.

Review of Minutes/Action Items. There was no call held in August. July meeting minutes were not available for review.

HTM Steering Committee Update. Gregg and Becky provided a brief update for participants regarding the most recent HTM Steering Committee meeting that was held in August. Conversations are being had regarding strategy and approach for the 2019 HTM Conference. Options being considered include date, location, venue, opportunities for co-location with another conference, changing the event format, and also identifying other conferences taking place in/around the usual time that HTM normally holds its conference. The [National Bioenergy Day](#) video was shot at various locations around the Minneapolis/St. Paul area and will feature Koda Energy in Shakopee, Minnesota. As part of National Bioenergy Day on October 24, folks are encouraged to host their own event or attend an event that may be in their area. Koda Energy will be hosting an event at their facility in Shakopee and all are welcome to attend and exhibit if they'd like. A webinar is also being planned for the MBioX site to generate interest and use of the new platform. Also, the Minnesota State Wood Energy team has officially sunset so any potential Minnesota projects should be referred to Kristen Bergstrand of the Minnesota DNR. Lastly, on a national front, the Farm Bill is the major item and very important. BTEC will also be supporting the Alliance for Green Heat's stove competition on the National Mall in Washington D.C. November 9-12, 2018.

Biomass Policy & Benefits Action Team Discussion. Participants discussed the latest on the Farm Bill. Minnesota Congressman Peterson and Walz are on the conference committee. Peterson has indicated he is leaning towards the Senate language in the Farm Bill and is more supportive. There is cautious optimism that the Farm Bill will get done by September 30. The GAO is waiting on numbers for what it will cost and there has been no recent conference committee meeting.

Biomass Resources & Demographics Action Team Discussion. Conversation focused on the MBioX exchange. We are still searching for a developer to address outstanding glitches on the site. There is an error that prevents users to sign-up, create an account, and use the system.

Listings can be viewed but users are unable to contact anyone who has listed biomass as available or create a listing until they are able to create an account. A developer is needed to fix the issue. Bids have been received ranging from \$70-80/hr to \$140/hr from potential developers who have been contacted. No decisions have been made and additional conversations will continue to take place regarding the best approach for getting this issue remedied.

Discussion was also held regarding a proposed team project. Becky provided background on the proposed project. It would focus on developing a wood boiler dealer list and include manufacturers, dealers, contractors, type, size, equipment, etc. but also by geographic area. Likely would need to start with manufacturers – commercial and industrial is easier but residential is harder. WI State Wood energy Team has a list of small boilers but locations are still needed. AURI has gathered information over the years and did contract with an individual to put together a list of biomass stove manufacturers that is on the AURI website. More focus was placed at the time on agricultural residues versus wood due to wood's higher prices. Scott Sanford would like to discuss the idea further and Becky will continue to reach out to him to see if he could join future calls to further vet the idea. Initial reaction from participants indicated that this would be useful.

Biomass Combustions Technology Team Discussion. No new items were presented.

Current Happenings/Needs of the Industry. Participants discussed if there was additional follow-up activities taking place regarding poultry and biomass in regions served with propane. Emphasis on productivity and bird health should be highlighted. Becky mentioned she had planned to circle back with Fritz Ebinger on this topic. Jay also mentioned some greenhouse conversations to biomass taking place in Illinois.

Brent mentioned 25x25 coordinated a biopower work session with the MS PSC. Insights were provided on biomass power, opportunities for forestry and biomass feedstock, and how surplus volume has impacted health of the resource. Brent will send Becky and Gregg some links to circulate regarding the work session.

Given the dialogue on consumer resources, it was suggested that we populate the consumer resources section on the HTM site. Participants were encouraged to take a look at the site before the next call to determine what other materials or information should be included or may be missing.

Next Conference Call is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16 at 1:30 PM CT.

Call was adjourned at 2:30 PM CT.

Respectfully submitted by Gregg Mast.