

TO: Attendees and Contacts

FROM: Jere Melo

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary, Potential Biomass Plant Near Fort Bragg  
January 16, 2009

DATE: January 16, 2009

The meeting began at 9:40 Am, and it continued to about 11:40 PM. Attending were Doug Heitmeyer (Georgia-Pacific), Stephen Levesque (Campbell Timberland Management), George Reinhardt (NHUDG), Craig Blencowe (MCRCD), Harold Sipila (MCRPD), Jere Melo, Meg Courtney and Marie Jones (City of Fort Bragg). Bill Carlson sent an e-mail report. Jerry Garvey and Steve Dunncliff had earlier indicated an inability to attend.

Under agenda review, an item was added by George Reinhart about Biochar, and the written report was added from Bill Carlson.

George provided two, spiffy, color handouts about Biochar, "Biochar Production" and "Biochar Can Be Carbon-Negative". Both are products of the International Biochar Initiative, Biochar-International.Org, on the web. Biochar production uses pyrolysis to use up about 50% of the biomass input to produce energy and/or fuels (plus some other products), with the remaining 50% provided for soil amendments or as potting soil. The carbon-negative aspect of production is the actual banking of carbon, not used for fuel or energy production, in soils.

Bill's e-mail contained the following points:

- There is an expedited process through the state ISO for electric transmission projects smaller than 20 megawatts. Further, the waiting list has been shortened by withdrawal of some projects and "clustering" of others.
- On January 29, the CA PUC will vote on a program of Tradable Renewable Energy Certificates"
- An "environmental group" has filed a CEQA lawsuit against the Roseburg Forest Products biomass plant at Weed. The suit followed 5-0 votes by the Siskiyou County Planning Commission and an appeal of that decision before the Board of Supervisors.
- The federal "stimulus package" is in three drafted forms, at least. The best for biomass is to get an extension of the Section 45 Production Tax Credit beyond 2010 and to put it on a parity with wind and geothermal projects at 2 cents per kilowatt, rather than the current 1 cent for biomass.

Harold Sipila provided a map indicating the sale of 6.1 acres of MCRPD property along Highway 20 for residential development. While the CalFire folks are hassling the District about the sale, the timber harvest plan and conversion permit and other details, the sale adds three residential lots to the access road to the MCRPD property and the G-P Bark Site.

Stephen Levesque introduced some written information about a new company in the biomass business, ADAGE. The company is a partnership between AREVA, a firm that has designed and built more than 100 bio-energy plants around the world, and Duke Energy, a major U.S. company that operates all types of energy facilities. He indicated that the new company has new technology that does not require water for cooling, and that they will have representatives in Fort Bragg on February 4. The group has scheduled a meeting for 10:00 AM, Fort Bragg Fire Department conference room, to hear a presentation by ADAGE and to conduct two other business items (see below). Stephen also provided an open letter sent to Dr. Steven Chu, nominated as Energy Secretary by President Obama. The group will review a letter to Dr. Chu on February 4, indicating that Fort Bragg may be a good place to show the positive effect of a biomass plant in the highly forest production area of Mendocino County.

The report by either Jerry Garvey or Zeke Sechrist from Redwood Empire sawmills for an initial estimate about waste wood available from Mendocino County sawmills was delayed until the next regular meeting, because neither could attend.

The group spent quite a bit of time reviewing the 4<sup>th</sup> draft for a public workshop. Following is a summary:

- The time is for an April Friday, in the afternoon, beginning at 1:00 PM and ending by 4:30 PM. The location is Town Hall, 363 North Main Street. Jere Melo and Marie Jones are responsible to make the reservation.
- Sponsors from government are to be the City of Fort Bragg, County of Mendocino and the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District. Melo will contact the City and County, and Blencowe will contact the MCRC.
- Sponsors from private industry or landowners are Hawthorne Timber, Usal Redwood, Mendocino Redwood, Redwood Empire Sawmills, Willits Redwood and Agwood, which will be contacted by Stephen Levesque. Melo will contact PG&E. Blencowe will contact the Conservation Fund. Reinhart will contact North Coast Brewing for a social hour following the close of the workshop.
- Melo will revise the workshop outline based on discussion.
- Reinhart will contact Dr. Greg Morris at UCD, a heads-up for April.
- Jones will coordinate with city staff for support.

**The next meeting will be a special meeting, on Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 10:00 AM to Noon, Fort Bragg Fire Department Conference Room. Agenda items will be:**

- **Presentation by AREVA.**
- **Review and edit draft letter to Dr. Steven Chu for City Council approval.**
- **Review and finalize outline for the April workshop.**