

TO: Attendees and Contacts

FROM: Jere Melo

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary, Potential Biomass Plant Near Fort Bragg
June 19, 2009

DATE: June 19, 2009

The meeting began at 9:33 AM and continued to about 11:50 AM. Attending were Myles Anderson (Anderson Logging), George Reinhardt (NHUDG), Bill Heil (Albion resident), Christine Anderson (Office of Congressman Thompson), Steve Drake (Albion resident), Craig Blencowe (Consulting Forester), Randy Jacobszoon (Consulting Forester), Marc Jameson (Jackson Demonstration State Forest), Kendall Smith (4th District Supervisor), Jere Melo (City of Fort Bragg), Darcie Mahoney (Consulting Forester), Bob Whitney (Brooktrails resident), and Doug Heitmeyer (Georgia-Pacific).

Under agenda review, an update from Bill Carlson was deleted, as he was not at the meeting, and George Reinhardt asked to add some comments about Biochar or Agrichar.

For Correspondence or Updates, the following was discussed:

- There was a letter from Georgia-Pacific LLC indicating an interest to discuss a sale or lease of their bark site property if the project moves forward. The committee discussed whether this would have the City or County as a land purchaser, with a firm “NO” as the answer. Any dealings about the property would be either with G-P and a private developer or, perhaps, a non-profit that could then lease property to a developer.
- Supervisor Kendall Smith gave her impressions of the Ukiah Biomass Working Group from a recent meeting she had attended. She stressed the need to provide communication to avoid the coast-vs.-Ukiah valley competition. Assignments were made for Jere Melo to add Forester Steve Smith to our mailing list, and to request minutes from the Ukiah group that would be a part of each of our meetings. Bill Heil will attend meetings of the Ukiah group when convenient and report back.
- George Reinhardt indicated that the House Committee on Climate Change was now taking testimony on Biochar (or Agrichar as he now prefers). Locally, spent grain from North Coast Brewing will be processed into Agrichar as either a soil amendment or as a storm water filter element.
- Bob Whitney indicated that he will provide some information about grants to reopen biomass plants at Eureka and in Shasta County.

Christine Anderson informed the group that their office is still collecting letters of support for a Strategic Biomass Initiative, and that they expect House Committee action soon. While the appropriation is intended to serve the entire county, it was agreed that a substantial portion of the funds could be used quite soon for a Fort Bragg project. The County of Mendocino will have much to say about the use of funds for site, engineering

and environmental studies. A decision on the appropriation may call for a special meeting of the group before the next regular meeting.

Under Reports of Accomplishments from assignments made at the May meeting, the following are the results:

- For site control, we have a letter from G-P. Jere Melo will contact Marie Jones about a contact with Hawthorne Timber.
- Craig Blencowe led a discussion of the draft “EXPRESSION OF INTEREST” document, intended to create a set of contacts for wood supply. His subcommittee is Darcie Mahoney, Stephen Levesque, Randy Jacobszoon, Myles Anderson and himself. They have assigned contacts for mills, landowners and consulting foresters. Craig and Randy will redraft a letter to a much more generic style and have his committee approve a final version. A feature of this process of creating contacts for wood supply will be flexible to meet the needs and concerns for particular landowners.

Bob Whitney gave a short discussion about Eastern Partners, a commercial and industrial developer that may have an interest in the biomass project. After relating his impressions about the project to the firm, he may ask for a detailed presentation at a future meeting. His counsel was to have the County Building and Planning Department provide what studies they might need for an application for a biomass plant on FL and TP zoned land. Kendall indicated that she would take that responsibility.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at about 11:50 AM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 14, 9:30 AM to about Noon, Fort Bragg Fire Department Conference Room. If there is an actual appropriation through Congressman Thompson’s office before that date, Melo will call a special meeting.