

**Minutes of the Sixth Low Carbon Fuel Standard Expert Workgroup
Davis, CA
September 10, 2010**

The sixth meeting of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard Expert Workgroup was held on the campus of University of California, Davis on September 10, 2010. Bob Fletcher, Deputy Executive Officer California Air Resources Board, chaired the meeting.

Introductions

Attending the September 10, 2010 meeting were: Bob Fletcher (Chair), Jim Duffy (Co-chair), Holly Gibbs (remote), Phil Heirigs, Stephen Kaffka, Keith Kline, Jesper Kløverpris (remote), Bob Larson, Michelle Manion, Jeremy Martin (remote), Seth Meyer (remote), Jim McKinney, Steffen Mueller, Richard Nelson, Don O'Connor, Michael O'Hare, John Sheehan, Blake Simmons, Mark Stowers, Wally Tyner (remote), and Paul Wuebben.

Relevant links:

[September 10, 2010 Meeting Notice and Agenda](#)

[Expert Workgroup Members List](#)

[Subgroup membership list](#)

[All presentations and supporting documents for this meeting and previous EWG meetings](#)

Agenda

The items covered on the agenda included: Introductions; announcements; approval of minutes; presentations by John Reilly and Steven Berry, researchers that the Air Resources Board (ARB) staff has asked to provide an assessment of the Purdue modeling work; review of the Purdue modeling work by the Alternative and Comparative Modeling subgroup; review of the Purdue modeling work by the Land Cover and Elasticity subgroups; the interim report from the Food Consumption subgroup; and scheduling future meetings.

Opening Comments from the Chair, Bob Fletcher:

Bob Fletcher thanked everyone for their continuing effort. He reminded the Expert Workgroup (EWG) that ARB will be going to the Board at the November meeting with initial recommendations.

Scheduling Future Dates:

October 14 and 15 were chosen as the dates for the next meeting. A two day schedule is required to be able to hear draft reports from each subgroup. Subgroups are asked to provide a draft report on short and long term recommendations.

ARB will work with the subgroups to arrange the day of presentation for the best attendance by members of the presenting subgroup. It is likely the EWG will again meet offsite because of the furlough Fridays.

November 4 and 5 were chosen as the dates for the final EWG meeting. The objective is to have each subgroup present, in white paper form, a summary of recommendations for short term modifications and long term activities to improve the land use change and indirect effects analysis of transportation fuels.

Questions were raised about how to report differences of opinion within the subgroup, where the subgroup does not share unanimity or consensus. The chair replied that ARB would like to hear all the opinions with pros and cons for each, why the positions are important, and documentation for supporting research. Attribution of differing opinions to members is not required or requested.

Approval of July minutes:

The facilitator called for questions or comments about the minutes from the meeting of July 15, 2010. Keith Kline made a motion to approve the minutes, Michelle Manion seconded, and voting was unanimous.

Approval of August minutes:

Approval of the August 17, 2010 minutes will be considered during the October meeting.

Comments from the Chair:

ARB has asked the next two presenters to provide their assessment of the Purdue model. Their presentations are part of ARB's effort to collect the best information available.

John Reilly, Co-Director, Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change & Senior Lecturer, MIT Sloan, was one of the original peer reviewers of the Purdue model. He will be providing additional findings from a top-down modeler's perspective. He will be speaking over the phone.

Steve Berry, James Burrows Moffatt Professor of Economics Yale University Department of Economics & Cowles Foundation and NBER, will provide a bottom-up assessment for key inputs to the model.

Assessment of aspects of the Purdue modeling by John Reilly (remote)

Presentation: [Reilly presentation](#)

John Reilly presented the draft outline of his report and did not have conclusions to share, but those will be included in his final report to ARB.

Public Comment:

On the phone:

- Gbadebo Oladosu, Oakridge National Laboratory
 - Richard Plevin, UC Berkeley
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Assessment of aspects of the Purdue modeling by Steve Berry

Presentation: [Steven Berry presentation](#)

Major conclusions:

- A range of scientifically plausible GTAP results should be considered, together with the results of alternative (more empirically based) modeling approaches.
- One of the emphasized GTAP models should consider the case of near-zero crop-yield price elasticities.
- Policy Makers have to take a stand on how to treat the social welfare loss from reduced food consumption.

Public Comment

On the phone:

- Gbadebo Oladosu – Oakridge National Laboratory

Assessment of aspects of the Purdue modeling by subgroups of the Expert Workgroup - Alternative and Comparative Modeling Subgroup

Presentation: Bob Larson

[Alternative Modeling Approaches Presentation](#)

Recommendation:

- Use the 2006 Baseline version as representing both
 - Updates to GTAP (compared to the January 2009 version)
 - Updated data from 2001 to 2006
- Continue to use an external adjustment mechanism to account for improvements in crop yield and perhaps other factors

Public Comment:

On the phone:

- Gbadebo Oladosu, Oakridge National Laboratory
- Brooke Coleman, New Fuels Alliance

Assessment of aspects of the Purdue modeling by subgroups of the Expert Workgroup – Land Cover Types and Elasticity

Presentation: John Sheehan

[Estimating New Cropland Yields](#)

Short term recommendation:

- The revised Eta values for new cropland yield represent a significant improvement over previous arbitrary global assumptions.
- While further work with other Net Primary Production (NPP) models and crop models will help to further validate and provide context for current findings, the degree of improvement over previous analysis warrants considering adoption of these new estimates.

- This recommendation applies to Eta/Terrestrial Ecosystem Model methodology. Overall findings in the Purdue study are affected by many other assumptions.

Continuing refinement:

- Compare GTAP yield and NPP results for directional consistency.
- Consider management practice effects.

Public Comment:

On the Phone:

- Chris Dettore, Danisco

Interim report from Food Consumption subgroup

Presentation: Mike O'Hare

[Biofuels and Nutrition](#)

The subgroup has an [Updated Work Plan](#).

Public Comment:

On the Phone:

- Gbadebo Oladosu, Oakridge National Laboratory
- Joe Irvin, CA Ethanol Vehicle Coalition

Comments from the chair:

Bob Fletcher thanked everyone for their presentations and work. The next meeting is October 14 and 15 for the purpose of presenting, in **draft form**, the subgroup recommendations for short term modifications and long term activities to improve the land use change and indirect effects analysis for transportation fuels. The final meeting is November 4 and 5 with the purpose of the subgroup to present their recommendations in **white paper form**. ARB's charge is to take all the information and decide the next steps. ARB expects to be moving quickly to focus on the short term implications. In addition, ARB will also consider the long term aspects as we expect to be in this for the long haul.