

Texas Bioenergy Research Committee
Minutes and Notes from February 16, 2010 Meeting
Location: State Capitol Room E1.012
Time: 3:00 to 3:45 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Staples called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and a quorum was established.
 - a. Roll Call: Present- Staples, Hibbs, Kelly, Lowe, Mace, Maldonado, Orbach, Plowman, Stern, and Yaroshevich. Not Present- Gluck and Wolfe.
 - b. Calling In: Auld, Outlaw, and Weber.
- II. Commissioner Staples and members of the research committee gave introductions.
- III. Review and adoption of the bylaws.
 - a. Committee adopted bylaws unanimously following a motion by Mace and a second by Maldonado.
- IV. Discussion of committee charges and responsibilities
 - a. Commissioner Staples asked the members to review the duties and work towards the end goal of making an equitable, sustainable and defensible bioenergy industry in Texas.
- V. Status update of matters related to research committee charges
 - a. Ag Feedstocks – Dr. Auld presented a document to the committee regarding Texas Tech’s research on feedstocks grown in the arid and semi-arid climates of West Texas and the Southwest United States.
 - b. Engineering/Logistical Challenges – Dr. Maldonado said that we need to take into consideration entire life cycle of fuel including the existing harvest implements and the cost of transport to end use.
 - c. Non-Ag Feedstocks – Dr. Stern read an antitrust reminder per his in-house legal and then discussed the research regarding algae as an advanced biofuel feedstock through an alliance with Synthetic Genomics, Inc.
 - d. Federal/State Promotion of Bioenergy – Dr. Orbach distributed two handouts on research programs. First, the federal Bioenergy Research Centers and second, the Energy Biosciences Institute. Dr. Orbach also mentioned that there is an international push towards these types of organizations including one in China.
 - e. Mr. Plowman wanted the committee to not look past the successful community models for bioenergy production and consumption.
- VI. Discussion of work plan and work product
 - a. Commissioner Staples said we will work towards a status report first to comply with our Memorandum of Understanding with the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO)
 - i. This status report will entail:
 1. What current bioenergy feedstocks grow in Texas;
 2. Where do they grow;
 3. Who processes them for biofuel or biomass consumption;
 4. What is the current output of those facilities;
 5. Are those facilities operating at capacity?
 - ii. SECO has asked for this status report by May 31, 2010.

- b. The committee members will begin sending research information to Jason Modglin, Jason.Modglin@texasagriculture.gov, related to the 8 duties of the committee.
 - i. Once this information is collected, the research committee will identify gaps in research.
 - ii. The committee may then decide to seek an outside researcher by way of MOU with a state university or an RFP.
 - iii. The researcher will have their report done by September 2010 with guidance from the committee.
 - iv. The committee will finalize and submit their findings to the Bioenergy Policy Council.
 - v. The Policy Council will craft a model going into the Texas Legislative session in 2011.
- VII. Adjournment at 3:45 p.m.
- a. The committee stands adjourned subject to the call of the chair.