Clean Coal Task Force Meeting
Minutes
Friday, March 30, 2012
College of Business Room 307
University of Wyoming

CCTF Members Present:
Tom Lockhart, Ron Harper, Paul Lang, Kit Jennings, Carl Bauer, Rob Hurless (Governor’s representative)

CCTF Members Absent:
Paul Matheny, Jim Kleckner, Rob Wallace

SER Staff in Attendance:
Mark Northam, Mary Byrnes, Diana Hulme, Cath Harris, Nadia Kaliszewski, Bob Ballard, Rob Hurless

Others Attending:
Wendy Lowe (Peabody Coal), Charlene Murdoch (Peabody Coal), Wanda Burgett (Peabody Coal)

Action Items from Meeting:
1. Minutes of November 18, 2011 – Approved unamended
2. Diana will get copies of the Clean Coal Technology Program final summary reports to CCTF members for their review.
3. Diana will work with Carl Bauer on a revised draft RFP for the next CCTF funding opportunity. The revised RFP will consider the research focus areas, reporting requirements and contract language. The CCTF also wanted to know what sectors of clean coal research have been funded in the past. Diana will get a summary of this to the CCTF members for the next meeting.
4. Bob Ballard and Rob Hurless will begin drafting an RFP for the $500,000 minerals to value-added products feasibility study.
5. Paul Lang motioned and Carl Bauer seconded, that Mark Northam direct SER to examine the three existing trona-to-glass studies and provide a summary report and recommendations for the Minerals Committee and the CCTF to move forward. During discussion, Kit Jennings amended the motion to allow for $5,000 of the $100,000 appropriated for this feasibility study to be used for a summary report and recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda:
1) Minutes from November 18, 2011
2) Status update on projects, budget - Diana Hulme
3) Future of CCTF, $10M
4) Discussion of next RFP
5) Advanced Conversion Technologies Fund (SF 0031)
   • Discuss Parameters
- $500K Economic Feasibility Study
- Definitions/Details /Intent - Legislators

Minutes from November 18, 2011:
Action Taken: A motion to accept the minutes from the November 18, 2011 meeting was made by Vice Chairman Lockhart with second by Carl Bauer. The motion passed unanimously.

Status update on projects, budget - Diana Hulme:
Summary: Diana Hulme noted that of the 38 projects funded by the CCTF, nine are complete. The summary reports for these completed projects should be posted on the SER website after review by the CCTF. Diana will send final summary reports for any completed clean coal projects to the CCTF.

Diana also noted that another Clean Coal project awarded to the Wyoming State Geologic Survey (WSGS) back in 2009 has been terminated before completion. Details on this termination were presented by Mark Northam. The project was terminated by the new director of WSGS as he does not have the staff to complete the project by the end date. We will receive a report on the work that has been done on this project to date and any funds remaining from the project will be returned to the state.

Comments: Chairman Harper asked if there were executive summaries for the completed projects. Diana replied that all researchers are required to submit a final summary report as well as a final technical report. Chairman Harper requested the summary reports be sent to the CCTF prior to being posted on the SER website.

Kit Jennings asked if there has been follow up with the completed projects to determine whether the research had resulted in commercialization. Diana responded that a number of researchers are coming back for additional funding to take their technology another step further. Most of the completed projects have finished up in just the last year so it is still too soon to tell how successful a particular technology will be in the commercial sector. CCTF members would like to follow-up on completed projects to showcase commercialization successes. Carl Bauer pointed out that there has not been a requirement in the previous requests for proposal to provide long-term reporting and follow-up but this may be something to consider adding to the next wave of opportunities.

Action Taken: No action taken. As follow up action, Diana will get copies of the Clean Coal Technology Program final summary reports to CCTF members for their review.

Future of CCTF, $10M:
Summary: In the 2012 Wyoming legislative session, $10 million of redirected abandoned mine land (AML) funds was appropriated to the Clean Coal Task Force for continuation of clean coal research. The new funds are to be allocated as they have in the past – through a competitive process and demonstration of a dollar-for-dollar match as a condition of award.

Comments: No comments were made on this item.
Discussion of next RFP:
Summary: A new request for proposals (RFP) to deploy the newly appropriated $10 million will be issued in the coming months. SER staff is looking for input from the CCTF on whether to add to or alter the research focus areas, reporting requirements and contract language.

Comments: Due to a time constraint at this meeting, the CCTF was not able to have an in-depth discussion about the research focus or other elements to consider for the next RFP.

Action Taken: No action was taken. As a follow-up item, Diana will work with Carl Bauer on a revised draft RFP. The revised RFP will consider the research focus areas, reporting requirements and contract language. The CCTF also wanted to know what sectors of clean coal research have been funded in the past. Diana will get a summary of this to the CCTF members for the next meeting.

Advanced Conversion Technologies Fund:

- Discuss Parameters
- $500,000 Economic Feasibility Study
- Definitions/Details /Intent - Legislators

Via conference call, Senator Eli Bebout fielded questions from the task force regarding the Legislature’s intent and expectations for funds appropriated in the 2012 session involving the CCTF. The appropriations of interest are contained in HB121/HEA25 which outlines the distribution of new, and redirection of prior, AML fund authorizations.

$500,000 Minerals to Value-added Products Feasibility Study
Summary: The Legislature appropriated $500,000 for SER to provide grants to conduct one or more studies to determine the feasibility of construction of a commercial-scale minerals to value-added products facility in Wyoming. Grants are to be issued competitively through a request for proposals. This project has a very short time frame for completion. The CCTF shall report the results of any studies funded through this process to the joint minerals, business and economic development interim committee on or before September 1, 2012.

Comments: As Senator Bebout remembered, the point of the $500,000 minerals to value-added products feasibility study legislation was to solicit proposals and fund projects using the expertise of SER and the CCTF to explore and prioritize projects while avoiding liability issues. According to Senator Bebout, the $500,000 feasibility study was also intended to solicit interest in a $9 million appropriation to the Governor’s Office to be competitively awarded for the support of construction and operation of a commercial scale minerals to value-added products facility within the State of Wyoming. Senator Lockhart noted that neither the CCTF nor SER have the expertise to review proposals that come in. He suggested using part of these funds to hire the expertise needed to review these proposals if necessary.

Mark Northam noted that the $500,000 for the feasibility study can be used primarily to look at
siting and economic feasibility in general but also to look at ways in which Wyoming might effectively and legally create incentives to attract developers of conversion plants to the state. Senator Bebout said the Legislature tried to make the language of the feasibility study legislation broad enough to give the CCTF plenty of leeway when writing the RFP.

As an additional comment, Don Richards told the CCTF that he recommended to Governor Mead to swap the $9 million AML appropriation for the commercial-scale minerals to value-added products facility with state funds as federal AML funds are more restrictive on state preferences. There are also issues with reach-in to intellectual property with federal funds. Don said the idea of swapping funds will need to be vetted with the Chairs of the Joint Appropriations Committee first.

**Action Taken:** No action taken by the CCTF. As follow-up, Bob Ballard and Rob Hurless will begin drafting an RFP for the feasibility study.

**$100,000 Natural Resources to Glass or Glass Products Feasibility Study**

*Summary:* To explore the feasibility of evaluating Wyoming natural resources (primarily trona) to manufacture glass was appropriated $100,000 in AML funds to SER. This study is to be completed by June 1, 2013. Grant(s) authorized for this study shall be awarded by the CCTF. Three studies on this topic have been completed in the past twenty years with each demonstrating that manufacturing Wyoming natural resources into glass is not economically feasible. Mark Northam suggested asking the minerals committee to consider having SER review the previous studies and look at other applications for trona besides glass manufacturing. Mark will get the three studies to the CCTF for review.

**Action Taken:** Paul Lang motioned and Carl Bauer seconded, that Mark Northam direct SER to examine the three existing trona-to-glass studies and provide a summary report and recommendations for the Minerals Committee and the CCTF to move forward. During discussion, Kit Jennings amended the motion to allow for $5,000 of the $100,000 appropriated for this feasibility study to be used for a summary report and recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm**