

Governor's Council on Biofuels

Meeting No. 1

Monday, January 27, 2020

2:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Orville Freeman Building

625 Robert Street North

St. Paul, Minnesota

Room 144

Attendance

Council members

Gary Anderson, Michael Bull, John Christianson, Elizabeth Crow, Tim Gross, Chris Hanson, Rick Horton, Kevin Lee, Lance Klatt, Jeanne McCaherty, Mick Miller, Kevin Paap, Brian Thalmann, Gary Wertish, and Bob Worth

Agency commissioners

Commissioner Thom Petersen, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA); Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT); Commissioner Steve Kelley, Minnesota Department of Commerce (COMM); Assistant Commissioner Craig McDonnell representing Commissioner Laura Bishop, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

Presenters

Governor Tim Walz (by phone); MDA Deputy Commissioner Andrea Vaubel; Commerce Government Relations Director Jonathan Kelly; Randall Doyal, CEO of Al-Corn Clean Fuel; and Mike Youngerberg, Senior Director of Product Development & Commercialization for the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was begun at approximately 2:00 p.m.

MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen welcomed the Council members and audience and introduced Governor Tim Walz, who spoke via telephone. Governor Walz provided opening remarks.

At Commissioner Petersen's request, Council members introduced themselves and stated their reasons for being part of the Council. Audience members also introduced themselves.

Overview of Executive Order & Current Status of Relevant Statutes

Deputy Commissioner Vaubel and Government Relations Director Kelly gave a presentation overviewing Executive Order 19-35 and relevant statutes.

Biofuels Industry Overview

Randall Doyal provided an overview of the ethanol industry and Mike Youngerberg provided an overview of the biodiesel industry.

Council Topics and Future Meetings

At Commissioner Petersen's request, Council members provided comments on what stood out from the Council-member comments compiled from survey results, and on topic members want the Council to consider. Following is a summary of comments by Council members:

Ideas were presented on information needs and possible presentations for the Council. Ideas included:

- What other states are doing in biofuels
- Recent Minnesota efforts and policy discussions, such as the MnDOT report, Decarbonizing the Transportation Sector, and discussions on a Midwest Clean Fuels (low-carbon fuel standard)
- Detailed overview of the biofuels sector, including all biofuels, including advanced, all feedstocks, current technologies, efficiencies, and environmental characteristics
- The state of current policy, including the freedom of Minnesota to act given federal policy constraints

A comment was made that the Council should consider holding a joint meeting with the Sustainable Transportation Committee that has been established by the Department of Transportation.

Policy options and potential areas of recommendation mentioned included:

- Moving to E15 and other higher ethanol blends
- Conducting an E30 fleet demonstration
- Informing and educating the public about biofuels, including up-to-date information on efficiencies and environmental advances
- Better marketing of biofuels
- Improved retail and wholesale infrastructure for distribution of today's and tomorrow's biofuels
- How to move forward with continued improvement in environmental performance in plants and in production of feedstock

Open Time for Public Comments

There were no comments from the public in attendance.

Wrap-Up & Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.