

BM006-A

“Evaluation of Perennial Herbaceous Biomass Crops in North Dakota for Production of Ethanol and other Value-Added Products and for the Use in Coal Plant Co-Firing”

Submitted by North Dakota Natural Resources Trust

Principal Investigator: Keith Trego

Request for \$280,000; Total Project Costs \$420,000

Technical Advisor Comments

- Two reviewers recommended fund, one recommended funding may be considered.
- One reviewer expressed concerns about the length of the project. The applicant has provided a detailed response about why this methodology was chosen. If the Council is agreeable to waiting a length of time for an end product, the quality of the data will be far richer.
- Applicants will provide a 32% cash match.
- One reviewer indicated concern about the communication plan. The reviewer would like to see biannual meetings scheduled.
- One reviewer had concerns about the CRP mixture. He stated, “Weed pressures in some of these areas are intense and control may make it necessary to eliminate established legumes.” The applicant has not provided a response to this particular concern.

Technical Advisor Recommendations

Fund. The applicant has provided very thorough responses to all of the reviewer concerns. In general, longitudinal data provides the best quality of information, but often isn’t collected due to the time required. It is unrealistic to expect growers to change their business operations without access to thoroughly researched best practices on producing biomass.

If the award is granted, the Technical Advisor advises the following contingencies:

- A more detailed communication plan will be established and provided to the NDIC prior to contract.
- Applicants will provide details on how the information has been distributed to the general public in their reports.
- Industrial Commission and the Renewable Energy Program will receive recognition in all literature, and other project related public relation efforts with the following reference: Funded in part by the North Dakota Industrial Commission Renewable Energy Program.
- The project data and reports shall be provided to the Department of Commerce & Renewable Energy Council in both electronic and hard-copy formats with permission for unrestricted distribution. The electronic versions shall be in a suitable format for hosting on the Department of Commerce and Renewable Energy Council web sites.