

Minutes of the  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL**

Thursday, December 13, 2007  
North Dakota Department of Commerce, Icelandic Room  
1600 E. Century Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58502

**CALL TO ORDER**

The renewable Energy Council meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

**Members Present:** Shane Goettle, Al Christianson, Terry Goerger, Mark Nisbet, Randy Schneider.

**Others Present:**

Bill Huether, Department of Commerce  
Justin Dever, Department of Commerce  
Brandi Schoenberg, Department of Commerce  
Karlene Fine, ND Industrial Commission  
Valarie Kummer, American Lung Association of North Dakota

**WELCOME**

Shane Goettle welcomed the members of the Renewable Energy Council. Roll call was taken and introductions were made by those present followed by a review of the meeting agenda.

**It was moved by Christianson, seconded by Schneider, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the September 18, 2007 meeting be approved as distributed.**

**STATUS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM APPLICATIONS**

Goettle called on Karlene Fine, ND Industrial Commission, to go over the status of the renewable energy program applications. Fine reported that 12 applications totaling \$3.2 million had been received and initial screenings by Commerce may eliminate some applications. Areas of request include three wind, one ethanol, three biofuel and five biomass. Bill Huether is in charge of putting together a list of technical reviewers. Commerce will compile applications and provide a list of recommendations to the Council. Proposals to the technical reviewers will be distributed by the end of December. The council will also receive proposal, technical review and applicant's response to the technical review.

In response to a question from Schneider, Goettle stated that he does not anticipate all applications to move forward so interested parties are encouraged to continue preparing applications. Goettle clarified that other state funds will not be accepted as a match. Fine added that the next grant deadline is May 1, 2008.

**BIOMASS PROGRAM**

Karlene Fine outlined the Biomass Program. Fine pointed out that the Industrial Commission has requested the council to make recommendation to approve funds concerning a biomass program which includes developing priorities, policies and recommendations regarding the implementation of HB1515. To fund the program, money will be transferred from other programs. In HB1515, Fine explained two components of NDCC 54-17-38 and 54-17-39 which include the FEED study for cellulosic ethanol and biomass feedstock. Fine outlined background information on the law which included no continuing appropriations for this biennium, no confidentiality provisions, and no one-to-one match requirements. It was explained that the mission statement was modeled after the renewable energy mission statement without the reference to education and marketing.

**It was moved by Christianson, seconded by Schneider and carried on a voice vote to approve the biomass program mission statement.**

Fine outlined significant policy changes which incorporated the Biomass Program mission, a maximum grant application to be within legislative appropriation, removal of one-to-one matching, and deadlines will be in February, May and November 2008. The application process will be similar to the renewable energy program as recommendations from the Renewable energy council will be needed.

Goettle called for discussion on 3.01 and 3.02. Schneider made recommendations to be careful not to replicate the research being done at SDSU. Use the money on other research and then collaborate with SDSU.

In response to a question from Goettle, Fine stated that the Beginning Farmer Loan Fund and the Biofuel PACE programs would be tapped into for funding.

**It was moved by Christianson, seconded by Schneider and carried on a voice vote to insert into 2.02 the language "In all cases, projects must demonstrate a high probability of advancing to a commercially viable stage and not be duplicative of other research or demonstration projects in the Upper Great Plains Region."**

