

**BIOCHAR INITIATIVE AGENDA**  
**APRIL 24, 2019**  
**9:00-11:00 AM CST**  
**Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce**  
**(712) 775-7035**  
**Access code: 279742#**

- I. Call to Order, Introduction of participants
- II. Opening Remarks
- III. Summary of February 27, 2019 meeting
- IV. Report on Grant Activity
- V. Review Task Group Assignments
  - A. Task-1: Generate a resource assessment report and heat maps to identify and quantify regional available feedstocks and to support business attraction and preliminary information for project feasibilities.  
Timeline - May 2019/July 2019
  - B. Task-2: Begin the engagement process with related feedstock stakeholder to initiate feedstock supply agreement planning and documentation to attract business development; if there are complementary advantages for co-location, make assessments on site locations and availability; Provide technical assistance on determining optimal incorporation to existing business, ongoing activities and associated programs.  
Timeline -May 2019/April 2020
  - C. Task-3: Assess infrastructure and logistics for collecting and processing dairy wastes. This process will involve determining whether piping systems are available, manure pits, lagoons, and how the dairy material will be collected and transported. Road infrastructure and availability of vehicles and trained workforce also will need to be assessed.  
Timeline -May 2019/April 2020
  - D. Task-4: Engage with six identified industry segments of stakeholders through a series of community stakeholder meetings, industry segment specific forum, and ongoing steering committee meetings; Provide education and training on the technology, processing, and material quality including beneficial use for market creation and utilization in the immediate area as well as for export from the region.  
Timeline -May 2019/April 2020

- E. Task-5: Work directly with partnering businesses, technology companies, and biodigesters/biochar manufacturers to provide technical assistance, connecting to regional markets, supplementing with information to determine project feasibility, supporting workforce needs, and other business planning aspects.

Timeline - May 2019/June 2020

VI. Website Update

VII. Next Steps

VIII. Review 2019 Calendar (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, every other month, 9 AM Central)

- June 26, 2019
- August 28, 2019
- October 23, 2019
- December 18, 2019

IX. Adjourn

**ADVANCING THE BIOECONOMY IN NORTHCENTRAL TEXAS  
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2019**

**INTRODUCTION**

Wes Jurey, ATIP CEO, opened the meeting by announcing several modifications, in terms of organizational structure and broadening the initiative and its focus.

First, the Initiative would become formally known as “Advancing the Bioeconomy in Northcentral Texas”, significantly broadening the focus well beyond biochar. In essence, this broadening encompasses three important documents: (1) the Federal Report titled *Federal Activities Report on the Bioeconomy*, released in February 2016 by USDA Under Secretary Cathie Woteki on behalf of the Biomass Research & Development Board (BR&D); (2) a report submitted to BR&D by the ATIP Foundation and Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce titled *Addressing the Challenges & Opportunities of Advancing the Billion Ton Bioeconomy: A Report to Participants in the SW Regional Bioeconomy Forum* that resulted from a September 26, 2016 co-hosted forum; and (3) *The Bioeconomy Initiative: Implementation Framework*, released in March, 2019. Our Regional Initiative supports the latter document purpose to “... accelerate innovative and sustainable technologies that harness the nation’s biomass resources to enhance U.S. security, economic growth, job creation, and environmental quality.”

Second, the Initiative has received an additional Federal Grant from USDA Rural Development in support of the Initiative, under the Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP), Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA). In this national competition, USDA made only 22 awards; our grant application received the 4<sup>th</sup> highest score nationwide.

Third, County Steering Committees would be formed to support this Year 2 Work Plan of the Initiative, each to be led by the participating Economic Development entity in each County.

**COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEES**

Wes next explained that the primary focus of the meeting would be to discuss and begin the establishment of the County Steering Committees, and to review the five enumerated tasks that would comprise the work of our second year of the Initiative.

The Committees would be formed inclusive of the six stakeholder sectors, led by (1) Economic & Workforce Development; inclusive of (2) Academia; (3) Municipal & County Elected Officials; (4) Financial Services; (5) Business & Industry; and (6) the Supply Chain, from biomass source to end user.

Each County would convene an initial meeting in May to form the committees, outline the 5 tasks and time frame, and launch Task 1, with a projected completion date of July 31, 2019. First, it was agreed that Leadership of the county committees would be provided by:

1. Palo Pinto County - the Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce, supported by the Mineral Wells Industrial Foundation; meeting scheduled for May 21, time to be determined;
  
2. Erath County-the Stephenville Economic Development Authority; meeting scheduled for May 9, 10:00-12:00 noon; and,

3. Hood County-the Granbury Chamber of Commerce; meeting scheduled for May 15, 8:30-9:30 am.

## **SECOND YEAR WORK TASKS**

The 5 “work tasks” were reviewed with their projected time frames as follows:

- A. Task-1: Generate a resource assessment report and heat maps to identify and quantify regional available feedstocks and to support business attraction and preliminary information for project feasibilities.  
Timeline - May 2019/July 2019
- B. Task-2: Begin the engagement process with related feedstock stakeholder to initiate feedstock supply agreement planning and documentation to attract business development; if there are complementary advantages for co-location, make assessments on site locations and availability; Provide technical assistance on determining optimal incorporation to existing business, ongoing activities and associated programs.  
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- C. Task-3: Assess infrastructure and logistics for collecting and processing dairy wastes. This process will involve determining whether piping systems are available, manure pits, lagoons, and how the dairy material will be collected and transported. Road infrastructure and availability of vehicles and trained workforce also will need to be assessed.  
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- D. Task-4: Engage with six identified industry segments of stakeholders through a series of community stakeholder meetings, industry segment specific forum, and ongoing steering committee meetings; Provide education and training on the technology, processing, and material quality including beneficial use for market creation and utilization in the immediate area as well as for export from the region.  
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- E. Task-5: Work directly with partnering businesses, technology companies, and biodigesters/biochar manufacturers to provide technical assistance, connecting to regional markets, supplementing with information to determine project feasibility, supporting workforce needs, and other business planning aspects.  
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## **WEBSITE UPDATE**

Rick Brenner, ATIP Director, reviewed recent website updates. In the ensuing discussion, there was agreement that Rick would create a spreadsheet to support Task-1, which is the development of an extensive inventory of resources within each county to support the initiative. The spreadsheet will be accessible for input by the participating Economic Development entity in each County

**NEXT STEPS**

Each County Steering Committee will meet monthly, beginning in May.

The Regional Steering Committee will meet bi-monthly, from 9:00-11:00 AM Central, primarily via teleconference call, as follows:

June 26

August 28

October 23

December 18

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.