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## **Final Report for TX RBDG No. 51-020-09633577 on all 5 Tasks covering July 1, 2019 through Oct. 12, 2020**

### **Overall Project (100% Complete)**

We are pleased to submit our Final Report, summarizing our work from July 1, 2019 through the extension of time including October 12, 2020. Please see “Addendum A\_Compilation of TX RBDG Q Reports (through June 30, 2020) for Final Report 10.15.20.pdf” (attached) for a comprehensive chronicle of progress during this grant performance period.

### **Task 1: Identify and analyze business opportunities [REDA covers biomass inventory, not other services], available capital and technical training; (100% Complete)**

This Task was considered the most essential to the project, in that all other Tasks were dependent on having the geospatial inventory of (1) biomass feedstock resources in the region, and (2) those companies that could provide ancillary services in support of the bioeconomy cluster, especially those that would secure and process biomass feedstock inventories. We have incorporated all publicly available data into the various layers of an Environmental Sciences Research Institute (ESRI) GIS database in the ArcGIS Pro version. Each layer is properly identified as to data source, data timeframe, and credit to organizations and individuals that have provided the data. This geospatial database is available in two formats:

A publicly-available exploratory version is available on a website

( <https://arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e4e4ae3e65304d3593a03819f3915ece> )

- (1) It is accessible to anyone having this URL link; our intention is to make this widely available. This web map allows users to become familiar with GIS data layers which they can view and probe/mine the underlying attribute tables of each layer for specific data on each entry (e.g., manure production, food waste, municipal solid waste, sewage sludge, and service providers to the region in the financial, educational, workforce, economic development, local & state government sectors.
- (2) The most robust detailed and data-analysis-ready version is available only through the ATIP Foundation. Containing all information that is in the public website database, this version also includes more data on contact information for biofeedstock providers and corporations that intend to process these feedstocks. In many cases these data are deemed business confidential, thus, specific information has been withheld from the public version of the database. More importantly, for corporations desiring to develop strategic positions in this region to process biomass and produce bioenergy and valuable co-products, the ATIP Foundation will use this database interactively with corporations under contract with the Foundation to evaluate optimal locations for accessing biomass and delivering product and co-products at least economic expense; additional services offer access to local/state/and federal connections necessary to obtain permits for operation, strategic planning on fiscal

resource acquisition, as well as access to several economic development organizations in the region that can facilitate all local arrangements as well as local political support.

**Task 2: Community engagement regarding the bioeconomy outside of biogas and biochar ("to build the capacity of our primary economic development entities within the region, to ensure their staff has the knowledge to understand how to (1) engage with companies in the bioeconomy; (2) utilize and secure state and federal resources;(3) understand what must be done to build the necessary supply chains; (4) understand what will be needed from their independent school districts and community colleges to train and build the workforce; (5) gain the knowledge necessary to work with their financial services sector and the USDA Loan Guarantee Programs; and (6) understand what support services and suppliers will be needed within the region to support the growth of the primary bioeconomy sector."**  
**(100% Complete)**

The primary focus of this task has been to build the capacity of the primary economic development entities within the region to ensure their ability to lead and support the growth of the Bioeconomy in their region.

Our accomplishments include the following.

We have actively engaged the following organizations: in Erath County, the Stephenville Economic Development Authority; in Palo Pinto County, the Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce, and the Mineral Wells Industrial Foundation; in Parker County, the Parker County Economic Development Corporation and the Weatherford Economic Development Corporation; and in Hood County the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

We have worked with them to provide all manner of information, counsel, and briefings with their staffs; we have worked with and through them to conduct community outreach and awareness with public and private sector stakeholders, inclusive of (1) workforce development; (2) academia; (3) financial services; (4) business & industry; (5) elected & appointed officials at municipal and county levels; and (6) the supply chain, from biomass sources to end users.

We have (1) trained their staffs on the use of the GIS Database; (2) engaged them with Bioeconomy companies indicating interest in the region; (3) discussed and provided information on how to utilize and secure state and federal resources; (4) discussed and provided understanding about what's needed to build the supply chain; (5) met with the School Districts, Community Colleges and the North Central Texas Workforce Board to establish the training programs to support development of the workforce needed; (6) engaged the financial services sector in their counties to aid their understanding of USDA Loan Guarantee Programs; and (7) counseled them on the types of suppliers and service providers that will be needed.

**Task 3: Assist in the creation of new rural business. (July 12, 2019 - July 11, 2020)**  
**(100% Complete)**

The primary focus of this task was to assist in the creation of new rural business opportunities.

Our accomplishments include the following.

We have actively cultivated business interest in the Initiative and the region during the past year. We did so at several national conferences and events pre-COVID-19; we have done so virtually since. The result is a database of prospective companies locating to this area; (1) two of which (in addition to 2 companies on manure conversion, claimed as an outcome in REAP REDA) that have indicated they intend to establish a business, locate a business or relocate their business in the next three years, and (2) others that will consider the region we are working in, in Texas, as a possible site.

We have established a formal management system, defining how we will manage prospects, moving them from Suspects to Prospects to Clients to Projects to Finalists. The System includes co-management with the Economic Development Corporations (EDCs); a definitive set of services we provide in support; and a formatted approach for vetting Prospects, providing formal reports to our EDCs and their communities.

Collectively to date (RBDG and REDA grants), we have secured 3 formal commitments. One is finalizing a land purchase to begin operations; the other two indicate they expect to begin developing facilities in the first quarter of 2021.

Of the remaining # prospects;

- 1 is a Finalists
- 1 is in Projects status
- 8 are Clients
- 10 are Prospects
- 29 are Suspects

Attached is a spreadsheet, reduced in specificity to protect confidential information of corporations, but sufficiently describes the nature of each business, and the status of our recruitment efforts (TX RBDG ATIP Status of Corporate Interest.xlsx).

**Task 4: Strategic community planning with economic development groups. (July 12, 2019 - July 11, 2020)**  
**(100% Complete)**

The primary focus of this task has been strategic community planning with economic development groups. Our primary deliverable was to develop a strategic approach, Regional in nature, supported by the stakeholders in the 6 primary sectors we previously identified.

Our accomplishments include the following.

We have secured the full support of all the participating Economic Development entities for “Advancing the Bioeconomy in Texas: A Strategic Approach for Regional Rural Economic Development.pdf” (attached). This document fully describes our approach; the critical stakeholders; the primary elements; engagement of the stakeholders; availability and utilization of USDA Resources, other federal and state resources; and the creation of regional capacity.

In Texas we have briefed and secured support from the Texas Department of Agriculture; the Governor’s Office of Economic Development; the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; and the Texas Workforce Commission.

We have also briefed and secured support from the US Department of Energy.

The Stephenville Economic Development Authority (SEDA) has agreed to provide regional leadership to the plan’s implementation.

**Task 5: Establish centers for training, technology and trade. (July 12, 2019 - July 11, 2020)  
(100% Complete)**

The primary focus of this task has been to establish centers for training, technology and trade.

Our accomplishments to date include the following.

We worked with the Mineral Wells Regional Airport and Texas UASWERX, a nonprofit, supported by the Mineral Wells Chamber, Palo Pinto County, the Mineral Wells Industrial Foundation, and the City of Mineral Wells to secure funding to establish an Unmanned & Autonomous Systems Training Academy; a UAS Test Center; and an Advanced Technology Center.

We have worked with the North Central Texas Workforce Board to secure their designation of both Agribusiness and Unmanned & Autonomous Systems Aviation as demand occupational sectors, enabling training funds to be allocated for those sectors.

We have worked with Hill, Ranger and Weatherford Colleges, and Mineral Wells and Stephenville Independent School Districts to establish training related to both sectors primary needs. This included securing a \$170,000 JET Grant from the Texas Workforce Commission to purchase training equipment.

We have supported the establishment of a Consortium of 14 Independent School Districts in the region, inclusive of the Region 11 Education Service Center; led by the Ft Worth ISD, funded by a \$750,000 grant from the Texas Education Agency, to establish the training needed to support Unmanned & Autonomous Systems Sector Training, inclusive of Career Awareness Programs, important to the Precision Agriculture Sector.

By my signature, I attest to the work accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,



Wes Jurey, President & CEO  
ATIP Foundation

Attachments:

Addendum A\_Compilation of TX RBDG Q Reports (through June 30, 2020) for Final Report  
10.15.20.pdf

Advancing the Bioeconomy in Texas\_A Strategic Approach for Rural Economic Development (final)  
v.7.9.2020.pdf

TX RBDG ATIP Status of Corporate Interest.xlsx