

C-AGG Meeting Agenda

Wednesday-Thursday, November 2-3, 2011

The Dupont Circle Hotel

1500 New Hampshire Avenue, NW

Washington, DC – USA

The C-AGG meeting will be held in Glover Park A Room

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

8:30 am *Breakfast served outside the meeting room (in Glover Park B Room)*

9:00 am *Welcome and Introductions*
C-AGG Overview and Background
Debbie Reed, C-AGG Executive Director

Objectives:

- Welcome new and past participants of C-AGG;
- Provide context of C-AGG's past and current activities, goals and objectives, to aid in participant understanding of C-AGG's multi-stakeholder forum and purpose, and to enhance participants' abilities to participate and contribute.

Format:

- Allow participants to introduce themselves (10 minutes);
- Introduce C-AGG staff and governance structure (10 minutes); and
- Describe C-AGG organizational goals and objectives, review past activities, and review meeting agenda, goals and objectives (10 minutes).

9:30 am *Update from USDA on Relevant GHG and Environmental Services Activities*
Bill Hohenstein, Director, USDA Climate Change Program Office

Objectives:

- Gain understanding of USDA's activities to integrate environmental services opportunities, including developing consistent data requirements and user interfaces for producers; and
- Learn about USDA's efforts to develop landowner/land manager tools for estimating environmental services.

Format:

- Presentation from USDA (40 minutes),
- followed by Q&A and facilitated group discussion (20 minutes).

10:30 am **Coffee Break and Networking Opportunity**

11:00 am ***The Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases***
Steven Shafer, Deputy Administrator
Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems
USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Objectives:

- To learn about the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, progress to date, and future plans.
- To learn more about the Alliances' activities under the Croplands Research Group, and including:
 - Quantification of net GHG emissions in cropland management systems, agricultural peatlands and wetlands;
 - standardized research datasets & data management protocols, & harmonized methods & guidelines for possible international collaboration/utilization of experimental sites; and
 - modeling of nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions, soil organic carbon stocks and changes, and evaluations of models for each.

Format:

- An overview presentation on the Alliance, and some specific efforts of the Croplands Research Group, will be delivered (40 minutes);
- Followed by Q&A and facilitated group discussion (20 minutes).
- **NOTE:** it is highly recommended that participants review the summary document describing the Croplands Research Group Action Plan prior to this discussion. The Action Plan is posted with other background documents for the C-AGG meeting at: http://www.c-agg.org/docs/resources/Global%20Research%20Alliance%20on%20Agricultural%20Greenhouse%20Gases_Croplands%20Research%20Group%20Action%20Plan.pdf

12:00 pm ***Lunch and Networking Opportunity***

- **Lunch to be served outside the meeting room in Glover Park B Room**

1:00 pm ***Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) Report on CDP Agriculture Supply Chain Pilot 2011, and Future Plans***
Betty Cremmins, Supply Chain Project Officer
Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)
Ryan Meinke, Project Manager
Common Fields

Objectives:

- To learn about CDP's experience testing their Agriculture Supply Chain Pilot with members and members' growers, including recruitment and

participation issues, participants' experiences, data collected, and members' future ambitions for agricultural supplier engagement;

- To consider remaining issues and future actions and how CDP intends to drive action in the sector; and
- To derive and discuss lessons and implications for agricultural producer participation in supply chain initiatives, offset projects, or other activities with a GHG quantification component.

Format:

- A presentation on CDP's Agriculture Supply Chain Pilot 2011, based on a forthcoming report, will be provided (40 minutes);
- Followed by Q&A and facilitated group discussion (20 minutes).

2:00 pm

National Cattlemen's Beef Association Sustainability Initiative Program
Tamara McCann Thies, Chief Counsel for Environment & Sustainability
National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA)

Objectives:

- To learn about NCBA's Sustainability Initiative Program

Format:

- A presentation on NCBA's Sustainability Initiative Program, which includes a carbon-footprint analysis, will be provided (45 minutes);
- Followed by Q&A and facilitated group discussion (15 minutes).

3:00 pm

Presentation and Discussion of C-AGG White Paper:
Additionality in Agricultural Offset Protocols
Rob Janzen, Vice President, ClimateCHECK

Objectives:

- To understand how the concept of additionality, a key component in the development of agricultural GHG reduction quantification protocols, is crucial to the engagement of the agricultural sector in carbon offset projects;
- To learn about additionality criteria of various GHG registries and initiatives, and applications for agricultural offsets and activities; and
- To discuss innovative approaches to additionality for agricultural offsets, propose criteria for discussion, and describe a case study comparing conventional and proposed innovative additionality approach.

Format:

- A white paper drafted for C-AGG based on previous discussions and additional information will be presented (30 minutes); the author will explain the concept of the paper, propose some innovative approaches for

additionality, and apply it to concrete examples of agricultural GHG mitigation projects;

- Followed by facilitated group discussion and feedback (30 minutes).

4:00 pm *Coffee Break and Networking Opportunity*

4:30 pm *C-AGG Facilitated Discussion:
Feedback, suggestions, next steps*

Objectives:

- To allow more thorough discussion of topics discussed or suggested during the course of the day, whether parked issues, discussions that were not concluded due to time constraints, or to air new thoughts; and
- to allow for dialogue on new topics relevant to the day's discussions, or to suggest topics or activities for future C-AGG meetings.

Format:

- Discussion topics from the day that were parked or not concluded will be revisited; and
- C-AGG participants can suggest relevant issues for discussion by the group.

6:00 pm *Wine and Cheese Reception will be held in Dupont A Room*

7:30 pm *Dinner on your own*

Thursday, November 3, 2011

8:30 am *Breakfast served outside the meeting room (in Glover Park B Room)*

9:00 am *Welcome new participants
Summary of Wednesday, overview of Thursday's agenda
Debbie Reed, C-AGG Executive Director*

Objectives:

- Welcome new participants;
- Provide context for previous day and goals and objectives of current day's agenda, to enhance participants' abilities to participate and contribute to discussions.

Format:

- Allow new participants to introduce themselves (5 minutes); and
- Briefly summarize Wednesday's outcomes, and describe Thursday's agenda, goals and objectives (10 minutes).

9:20 am *Overview of November 4 EPRI Workshop on N₂O Emissions Offsets*

Adam Diamant, Senior Project Manager
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

9:30 am

Agricultural Protocol Development:
Update from Voluntary Carbon Registries ACR, CAR, and VCS

Objectives:

- Gain understanding of agricultural GHG protocol development, approval, and implementation within voluntary GHG registries; and
- Provide opportunity to engage C-AGG participants, CIG GHG project representatives, and voluntary GHG registries on an ongoing basis.

Format:

- Each representative will have 20 minutes to provide an update on the development and approval of agricultural GHG protocols (60 minutes);
- followed by facilitated group discussion (30 minutes).

Presenters:

Carolyn Ching, Senior Program Officer, Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)
Nick Martin, Chief Technical Officer, American Carbon Registry (ACR)
Kathryn Goldman, Senior Policy Manager, Climate Action Reserve (CAR)

11:00 am

Presentation and Discussion of C-AGG White Paper (Final Draft):
The Role of Biogeochemical Process Models for Agricultural Offset Projects: An Approach for Capturing Uncertainty
Bill Salas, Applied GeoSolutions, LLC

Objectives:

- To assess and evaluate the sources of uncertainty from the use of GHG models in agricultural offset projects, and to determine how to capture and account for this uncertainty in the development of offset protocols.

Format:

- A final draft of the white paper, first presented and discussed at the July, 2011 C-AGG meeting, will be presented. The authors will summarize the paper and use a concrete example of how the approach would work with an agricultural GHG mitigation project (30 minutes);
- Followed by facilitated group discussions and feedback to the authors (30 minutes).

12:00 pm

Lunch and Networking Opportunity

- Lunch to be served outside meeting room in Glover Park B Room

1:00 pm **Moderated Roundtable Discussion:**
USDA Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Project Representatives

Objectives:

- Learn about unique and shared challenges and successes to date during planning phase of the CIG GHG projects, including responses to specific questions posed by/to project representatives; and
- provide a shareholder forum for grant awardees to share plans, progress, and challenges and seek suggestions and input from C-AGG participants throughout the planning and implementation phases of the projects.

Format:

- Introduction and Welcome by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) representative (10 minutes)
- Interactive facilitated panel discussion (80 minutes)

Roundtable Discussion Moderator: Jimmy Daukas, American Farmland Trust

Panelists/CIG GHG Project Representatives:

- *Bringing Greenhouse Gas Benefits to Market: Nutrient Management for Nitrous Oxide Reductions*
 - **Eliav Bitan, National Wildlife Federation**
- *Smart Nitrogen Application Program (SNAP) Demonstration Project*
 - **Rob Janzen, ClimateCHECK**
- *Bovine Innovative Greenhouse Gas Solutions (BIGGS)*
 - **Matt Sutton Vermeulen, Unison Resource**
- *Dairy Farm Stewardship Toolkit*
 - **Matt Welch, Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy**
- *Ducks Unlimited Avoided Grassland Conversion Carbon Project*
 - **Sheldon Zakreski, The Climate Trust**
- *Agricultural Soil Carbon in the Palouse Region: Developing a Large-scale Agricultural Soil carbon Transaction in the Palouse Region*
 - **David Tepper, Applied Ecological Services**
- *Demonstrating Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions in California and Midsouth Rice Production*
 - **Belinda Morris, Environmental Defense Fund**
- *Estimating N₂O Reductions from Nutrient Management in the Chesapeake Watershed*
 - **Beth McGee, Chesapeake Bay Foundation**

2:30 pm **Capitol Hill Update: US Farm Policy**
Chris Adamo, Staff Director
US Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry

3:30 pm ***C-AGG Facilitated Discussion:***
Feedback, suggestions, next steps

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4:30 pm ***Wrap-up and Conclusions and Input from Participants***
Debbie Reed, C-AGG Executive Director

5:00 pm ***Meeting adjourns***