

Central Oregon Biomass Team

Meeting #3

June 7, 2016 – 3:00-5:00pm
Redmond Public Works Training Room
243 E. Antler Ave., Redmond OR

Notes

Attendees: Kiley Rucker Clamons (COIC); Camara Bedell-Stiles (COIC); Scott Aycock (COIC); Vernita Ediger (COIC); Stuart Otto (ODF); Carl Jansen (Upper Deschutes River Coalition); Steve Castillo (BLM); Loren Kellogg (Intermountain Wood Energy); Marilyn Miller (Miller Conservation Consulting); William Song (Energyneering Solutions); Amy Lowe (USFS); Ed Keith (Deschutes County); Nicole Strong (OSU Extension). **Web Conference:** Matt Delaney (Delaney Forestry); Lindsey Hardy (The Environmental Center); Jeff Rasmussen (Jefferson County); Marcus Kauffman (ODF); Dusty Moller (Washington State Unversity); Katherine Mitchell (TSS Consultants).

Introductions & Agenda Review

Introductions were made and Kiley Rucker Clamons reviewed the agenda.

Central Oregon Non-woody Biomass Supply Analysis Presentation

Camara Bedell-Stiles presented on the Non-Woody Biomass report (available here: <https://coic2.org/community-development/biomass-energy-cluster-development-project/>), which focused on Brewery Spent Grains (BSG) as a source of biomass for biochemical products. Camara explained that current supplies of BSG in the region were being used by ranchers to feed cattle, ostrich, and hogs. She reported that breweries in other parts of the country were able to sell their BSG for up to \$250/ton; however, the most Central Oregon breweries sold their BSG for was \$14/ton, while most breweries gave it away. A question was asked as to why the BSG was valued so high in other regions? The scope of the report did include an answer.

Camara Bedell-Stiles reported that only half of the breweries in the region reported their spent grain volumes, so a question was asked about the potential of unreported grain volume. Camara responded that the breweries that did not respond included both large and small sized breweries, similar to the sample pool that did respond. Therefore, the volume reported is conservative.

Scott Aycock stated that although the Central Oregon Biomass Market Development project is focused on woody biomass utilization the fact that Central Oregon has other biomass sources like BSG may make it more attractive to biochemical companies, ultimately benefiting woody biomass utilization.

Central Oregon Woody Biomass Supply Availability Presentation

Katherine Mitchell presented on the Central Oregon Biomass Analysis Project report (available here: <https://coic2.org/community-development/biomass-energy-cluster-development-project/>). The report separated woody biomass feedstock into three categories: potentially available, technically available, and economically available. It was asked if the technically available feedstock referred to clean harvested biomass. Katherine replied that feedstock harvesting techniques vary and were not specifically considered in the feedstock analysis.

It was pointed out by an attendee that the cost range of harvesting biomass is nearly the same as the price range for selling it, which leaves little to no margin for profit.

There was a question about the efficiency of using juniper instead of other conifers because it has a higher Btu value. However, members of the group responded that the cost to harvest juniper is innately higher than other tree species in the region, so the higher Btu content doesn't make it more cost effective.

There was a clarification question about whether the potentially available feedstock was based on total biomass in the forest or the total amount available to harvest based on land management practices. Scott Aycock responded that all three categories of the available biomass were based on land management practices. He also noted that the economically available biomass was conservative because if new, higher-value uses of biomass were developed that could out-compete current uses of biomass then there could be more available.

Dusty Moller noted that Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance (NARA) had taken into account what was socially available when researching a location for a bio-refinery. He argued that just because biomass is close to a road, on the right type of slope, and close to the factory doesn't mean it is socially available. Dusty recommended using NARA's methodology once published as a way to evaluate "availability".

Barriers & Opportunities Discussion

Scott Aycock led a discussion on the barriers and opportunities to biomass utilization in Central Oregon. Barriers and opportunities already identified in the Central Oregon Biomass Availability Project report and from the Biomass Market Fundamentals Workshop were listed in the

document “Barriers & Opportunities List” and were used as a starting point. Attendees of the meeting also suggested these barriers and opportunities:

Barriers	Opportunities
Need to develop social support for biomass utilization.	Knott Landfill and other biomass producers in the region have stockpiles of mulch not being used and it could be used for water retention and to help with erosion issues.
There is not a year-round need for biomass heat for most facilities in the region.	The City of Bend is developing a Climate Change policy that could promote sustainable energy uses like biomass heat/energy.
Tax credits and incentives for solar, wind, and thermal are higher or more prevalent than biomass.	Bend-La Pine School District is expecting a 20% growth, which means more schools that could potentially use biomass heat.
Harvesting juniper has a higher cost associated with it.	Outreach and engagement to improve social support of biomass utilization.
Need research to determine how much biomass should be left on the land for ecological/environmental value.	Juniper has a high Btu value.
Federal land managers don’t have the capacity to produce smaller contracts.	Capture material leaving the region.
	OSU – Cascade Campus is conducting a feasibility study for using biomass district heating.
	Natural gas prices are higher in Central Oregon compared to other regions, which makes biomass heat more competitive in the region compared to other areas.
	Bend Parks and Recreation’s Juniper pool could be a year-round use of biomass.
	Saw dust could be produced onsite since closing saw mills are creating product scarcity.
	EPA is looking at biochar for filtration purposes.
	Provide greater source of supply for existing small businesses.
	Create a buyer cooperative.

Wrap-Up

It was suggested that the next step in the project would be to interview current business owners in the region to understand their needs better.

The meeting adjourned.