

Summary of Minutes  
Renewable Fuels Commission  
May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008

- Director Koivisto opened the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of Commissioner Dick VandeVusse.
- The commissioners then introduced themselves and received a quick update from Director Koivisto.
  - The Director announced Liesl Clark's move to the Governor's Office and MDA's desire to compile an inventory of biofuels development.
  - The Director also recognized the commissioners for their efforts to dispel the food vs. fuel debate.
- Liesl Clark then thanked Michigan State University for hosting the meeting, gave a brief overview of the agenda, and offered a legislative update.
  - Clark also outlined some goals for the meeting – prioritizing the recommendations and formulating some thoughts on the inventory and the commission's direction.
- Dr. Chris Peterson presented a Food vs. Fuel analysis, offering some very relevant information on trends in food and fuel prices, as well as implications for Michigan's agriculture and economy.
  - The commissioners asked Dr. Peterson about the breakdown of food prices, feedstock options, and long-term growth opportunities.
- Commissioner Jim Croce gave a presentation on the status of biodiesel in Michigan, providing an interesting overview of the production process.
  - Croce elaborated on cultivation issues, and the importance of feedstock innovation, which built on Dr. Peterson's comments.
  - The commissioners highlighted opportunities in switchgrass, yellow grease, tropha, and alfalfa.
- Jerry Moreheart from Marathon Oil also presented, giving the commissioners' a look at the concerns of oil companies and their developments in alternative fuels.
  - Moreheart emphasized Marathon's logistics work, further developing transportation systems for ethanol.
  - Marathon is concerned with a rapid increase in ethanol use for two reasons: hard-to-meet ASTM standards for E85, and the lack of UL standards for pumps.
  - Moreheart also elaborated on his desire for less government subsidization of ethanol, and letting the market pick the "winners and losers".
- After these presentations, the commissioners broke into their taskforces to discuss the initial report's recommendations. They then prioritized the recommendations, and decided to create three subgroups (Low Carbon Fuel Standard, Green Retailers Program, and Biobased Product) to meet later for further analysis and discussion.