



Bioenergy Technology Subcommittee

Meeting Date: October 18, 2011

Location: Los Angeles, CA

The Bioenergy Technology Subcommittee of the Residuals & Biosolids Committee (RBC) met on October 18, 2011 at WEFTEC in Los Angeles, CA.

Introduction and Welcome

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chair Dave Parry with a final attendance of 42. Attendee breakdown by employment type:

University:	1
Regulatory:	1
Vendor:	15
Utility:	5
Consultant:	19
Professional Organization:	1

Minutes from the last subcommittee meeting held at the WEF Residuals and Biosolids Conference in Sacramento, CA were approved.

Bioenergy Technology Subcommittee Mission:

The current mission statement is as follows:

The Bioenergy Technology Subcommittee promotes biosolids and energy technologies associated with municipal, agricultural, and industrial wastewater residuals for the protection of the environment.

It was suggested that the mission statement be changed as follows:

The Bioenergy Technology Subcommittee promotes biosolids and energy technologies associated with municipal, agricultural, and industrial wastewater residuals to sustain a healthy environment.

Conferences & Workshops

There was a discussion of the upcoming 2013 WEF Residuals and Biosolids Conference being combined with the Energy and Water Conference. It was pointed out that the Energy and Water conference is focused on energy, water reuse, and industry with a strong emphasis on energy conservation. It was pointed out that combining the conferences has the advantage of decreasing travel and costs to attendees interested in attending both conferences. Dave Parry is going to interface with WEF and defer to the Specialty Conference Committee on this matter.

Task Force Notes:

1. **High Performance Digestion**
 - a. Focus on developing a more robust model for anaerobic digestion.
 - b. DOD developed a model with food waste using Matlab.
2. **Biofuels.**
 - a. Biofuel State of the Industry document submitted on October 19, 2011.
 - b. Considering submitting a 2012 workshop on Biosolids as a Biofuel
 - c. Nate Turner is working with Algae Biofuel Task Force on development of fuel from algae.
3. **Thermal Drying**
 - a. Significant shift to Belt Drying equipment using a lower grade heat source such as CHP waste heat.
 - b. Trends to be addressed. Lower drying temps, other sources of heat for drying, waste heat as source.
4. **High Temperature Pyrolysis**
 - a. What is the emerging technology in pyrolysis?
 - b. Question remains whether there is enough data to prove less NOx emission than incineration.
 - c. Char/dried product is being investigated as well.
5. **Thermal Oxidation**
 - a. SSI rules impact industry. WEF/NACWA have crafted a response to EPA, but motion denied.
 - b. One of the short-term outcomes might be that the MHF will be cheaper to upgrade than converting to FBI.
 - c. More interest in energy recovery from thermal oxidation.
 - d. Heat drying in combination with thermal oxidation is being further explored.
6. **Value Added Products**
 - a. Workshop at 2012 RBC: "How to make a product not a waste."
 - b. Biopolymers from biosolids is an area of interest.
 - c. Need to ensure we are coordinating with struvite recovery.

Hot Topics

SSI Rule: NACWA has filed a petition for reconsideration of the ruling, which was denied. The regulations for FBI are 100 times more stringent than European Union Regulations; however, as more data are collected, regulations are likely to relax.

Rob Whitson/Imagine H2O is conducting an innovation in wastewater competition. Funding will be available. Contact Rob at rob@imagineh2o.org for more information.

Closing Items

Next meeting: WEF Residuals and Biosolids Conference, March 25-28, 2012

The meeting ended at 8:30am.