

Green Tier Advisors  
September 8, 2008  
101 S Webster Street (Building known as GEF 2) Room G-09  
Madison, WI

**Present:** Linda Bochert, Mark Borchardt (by phone), Kristine Euclide, Rita Hayen, John Imes, Art Harrington (by phone) Pat Henderson (until 1:00), Margaret Krome (until 3:00), Rebecca Power, Lyman Wible

**Absent:** Denis Collins, Paul Kent,Carolynn Leaman, Mike Simpson, David Stegeman, Marilou Martin

**Staff:** Mark McDermid, Al Shea, Carla Wright

### **Announcements & Housekeeping Items**

- Linda Bochert reported the agreement between WI Association of Independent Colleges & Universities and US EPA has been signed; all auditors have received training, and audits on 16 campuses are scheduled for next Spring.
- Rebecca Power reported on the University of Wisconsin developing a Bachelor's degree in Sustainable Managements for five campuses across the state. It will be delivered in a distance learning format. Rebecca will also be working with the UW to see if there might be other internship opportunities to benefit students and the Green Tier program.
- Program participation status report was distributed (available on DNR website). The report provides numerical information about applications and enrollments, and also includes a summary of the results of the Legislative Audit Bureau's audit of the Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program.
- Green Tier Advantage 2009 event will be in Milwaukee or Waukesha in early March 2009. In organizing the event, DNR will be partnering with UW-M (Continuing Ed that includes their Office of Corporate Development and Office of Environmental Sustainability), and are sharing costs to have Bob Willard as keynote (see <http://www.sustainabilityadvantage.com/>.) Development of conference sessions is underway, including work on a session about the availability of land trusts to partner with businesses on GHG/carbon sequestration as a Green Tier benefit. Advisors suggested approaching other agencies for their participation, including EPA headquarters. There is also interest to use the event as a draw for CEO's interested in responding to the Midwest Governors initiative for regional carbon trading registry, and to emphasize the opportunities of early action in this regard. Another suggestion was to have a session on water supply/water conservation strategies. The Advisors requested time on their December meeting agenda to more thoroughly discuss the Green Tier Advantage 2009 event.
- The August 9, 2008 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel editorial by John Torinus was discussed. An aspect of the discussion focused on EPA's engagement in Green Tier. The following follow-up grew out of the discussion:
  1. The Advisors want time on their December meeting agenda to discuss/identify a strategy for approaching EPA to strengthen that agency's involvement in Green Tier and the Environmental Audit programs.
  2. Advisors also suggested the department consider a follow-up editorial responding to the Torinus editorial.

3. The Advisors asked whether language could be crafted within the compliance audit language in 299.85 to align with recent changes made by USEPA on the Audit policy. Art Harrington, Rebecca Power, Paul Heinen and possibly Linda Bochert will provide assistance as needed to the small group working on the legislation with Senator Miller's office.

**Charters** – The list of potential charters developed during the June 2008 Advisors meeting was reviewed; two potential charter areas were added: transportation and citizen action/neighborhoods. Advisors then identified criteria to use in assessing the types of charters. Following a group process to identify the five highest ranked potential charter-types, the Advisors had an initial discussion about the ways that these ideas for the use of charters might be implemented.

**Proportionality Recommendation** – This topic was deferred due to time constraints.

**Green Tier Reporting** – Advisors discussed a draft template for a comprehensive presentation of the annual reports submitted by Green Tier participants to the Department. The template was developed by a summer intern and although it will require significant amount of work before finalization the Advisors' suggestions will be very useful as the department proceeds in working with Green Tier participants on their annual reports.

**Funding Support for Stakeholder Participation in Tier 2 Contracts and Charters**  
The Advisors and the department are interested in strengthening public and stakeholder participation in Green Tier local contracts and charters. The Green Tier law describes a process for interested persons to participate in negotiations concerning a participation contract. The law requires the department to determine whether a person may participate in negotiations based on whether the person has demonstrated sufficient interest in the issues raised by the letter of intent to warrant that participation.

The Advisors requested the department pursue a mechanism for funding participation by interested persons, and that efforts to build stakeholder capacity should be funded. The Advisors directed staff develop options on the structure and vehicle for developing a program to fund capacity building for stakeholder participation in Green Tier Charters and local Contracts, and that it be discussed at the December meeting.

**Legislation** – This Discussion was deferred due to time constraints.