

## **Green Tier Advisors**

March 20, 2009

Charters

**ISSUE SUMMARY:** Expanding the use of Green Tier Charters is one of the original items that was included in the Green Tier Advisors work plan. The objective for the item included in the Advisors work plan was to inform and guide the work that the Department and Stakeholder are doing to use charters as a tool for accomplishing greater levels of environmental performance from multiple parties. The discussion at the March 20, 2009 meeting will:

- Review the brainstormed criteria and consolidated list of potential charters that emerged from the September 8, 2008.
- Hear from 1000 Friends of Wisconsin about a developing charter that will address one of the consolidated priorities that were developed at the September 8 meeting.

Based on the review of the criteria and consolidated list along with information about the legacy communities initiative, decide what additional steps the Advisors would like to take for further development of Charters.

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**BACKGROUND:** At the June 6, 2008 meeting, there was a long, brain-stormed list of both ideas that might be used to expand charters and types of charters that might be further developed. At the September 8, 2008, 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. After narrowing the brainstormed list and selecting some key criteria, the Advisors worked through the Transportation idea to explore how a charter might be developed. There was consideration of strategies and stakeholders that would be needed to move the issue forward.

### **PROPOSAL:**

The five charters identified were:

1. Farm community (nutrient) (production agriculture)
2. Outreach to municipalities and localities
  - a. Energy Independent Communities
  - b. Community Sustainability
  - c. Municipality
  - d. Bio-cabinet engagement of communities statewide
3. Greenhouse Gas
  - a. Transportation
4. Community
  - a. Model EMS
  - b. Community Action
  - c. Outreach
  - d. GHG & Energy
  - e. Energy conservation

f. Farm Community  
5. Clean Technology

The primary criteria identified were:

- Max reduction of exposures leading to human health
- Environmental outcomes (Environmental Win)
- Leverage Staff – doability
  - Staff capacity
  - Pick some less complex & achievable
- Existing industry or area of traction (doable)
- Economic gains
- Amenable to metrics
- Willingness to consider common metrics

**DISCUSSION:**

Since last being discussed at the September 8, 2009 meeting there are several key events that have transpired. First, the Green Tier Charter with the Dairy Business Association (DBA) has begun work with the Interested Persons Group (IGP) that has the potential of expanding the scope of the charter beyond the bounds of just DBA looking at the more broad community of production agriculture in general. The work will also include a specific component that deals with nutrient management along with capacity building to deal with all sizes of farms and a progression of skills needed to effectively manage nutrients. While still in the formative stages, this has the potential of being a first step at priority #1.

Also since the last meeting, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin has secured grant funding for a “Legacy Communities” initiative which would now appear as a candidate to develop a Green Tier Charter. That is the intention of the grant. As currently constituted, the Legacy Communities Initiative is a hybrid that draws from priorities 2, 3 and 4 identified at the 9/8/2008 meeting. Steve Hiniker will be joining us for the meeting to provide an introduction to the work that they expect to do through the initiative.

Based upon the organic charter development that has occurred since September, the Advisors appear to have a number of options.

- Monitor charter development in these key areas and make recommendations to guide the development of the Charters in these key areas as the Charters mature.
- Identify gaps between the development work now occurring and make recommendations for additional work and new initiatives that would fill the gaps.
- Go through a development exercise (similar to that undertaken for Transportation at the 9/8/2009 meeting) to develop the Clean Technology item not addressed on the original list and/or the Greenhouse Gas item which is being addressed partially through the legacy communities initiative.
- Treat the list and the criteria as a recommendation and direct the DNR staff to proceed with the development of the priorities using the criteria developed thus far, to be revisited by the Advisors at some point in the future.

**DISCUSSION SYNOPSIS** (none at this time)