

**Quarterly Meeting –
Committee Business**

**Elliott Levine
DOE Biomass Program
March 1, 2012**

Travel Process

- Natalie Roberts is the point of contact for all questions related to TAC travel and reimbursement. She can be reached at natalie.roberts@ee.doe.gov or 202-586-2325.
- Reimbursement deadline for the March meeting: **April 15, 2012**
 - Be sure to submit all receipts (i.e. hotel, taxi, airfare, etc.). Do not submit restaurant receipts. You will be reimbursed as part of the per diem.
- Airline Reservations
 - If you depart from a destination other than your official duty station, you are responsible for the difference in airfare cost for that deviation and must provide a justification.
 - If you pay for your airline ticket out-of-pocket, and it is not a government contract carrier, you are responsible for the airfare cost.

Future Meeting Dates

- Tentative meeting dates for 2012 are tentatively scheduled as follows:
 - May 21-25
 - August 20-24
 - November 5-9

Agenda at a Glance – Thursday, March 1st

Overview

- 9:30-9:45: Committee Business – Elliott Levine (DOE)
- 9:45-10:00: 2012 Workplan – Ronnie Musgrove and Steve Briggs (TAC Co-Chairs)

DOE/USDA Updates

- 10:15-10:45: DOE Updates – Elliott Levine (DOE)
- 10:45-11:15: USDA Updates – Todd Campbell (USDA)

Presentations

- 11:15-11:45: BRDI Solicitation – Carmela Bailey (USDA)
- 11:45-12:15: USDA Feedstocks Readiness Tool – Jeff Steiner (USDA)

Lunch

- 12:15-1:15: Lunch to be provided for Committee

Presentations

- 1:15-1:35: OBP FY13 Budget and Anticipated FOAs – Valerie Sarisky-Reed (DOE)
- 1:35-2:00: Overview of the National Biofuels Action Plan – Alicia Lindauer (DOE)

Subcommittee Breakouts

- 2:00 pm – 3:45 pm: Breakout: Subcommittees
- 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm: Breakout: Subcommittees

Agenda at a Glance – Friday, March 2nd

Breakfast

- 8:00-8:30: Breakfast to be provided for Committee

Committee Discussions

- 8:30-10:30: Subcommittee Report Outs
- 10:45-11:00: Discussion of topics for future committee meetings

RFS Panel

- 11:00-11:30: EPA Fundamentals – Paul Argyropoulos (EPA)
- 11:30-12:00: Oil Crop Producers Perspective – Bryan Sherbacow (AltAir Fuels, LLC)
- 12:00-12:30: Refiner's Perspective – Rick Weyan (Tesoro)

Public Comment

- 12:30-12:45: TBD

Closing Comments

- 12:45-1:00: Steve Briggs (Co-chair)

Lunch

- 1:00-2:00: Lunch to be provided for Committee

Adjourn

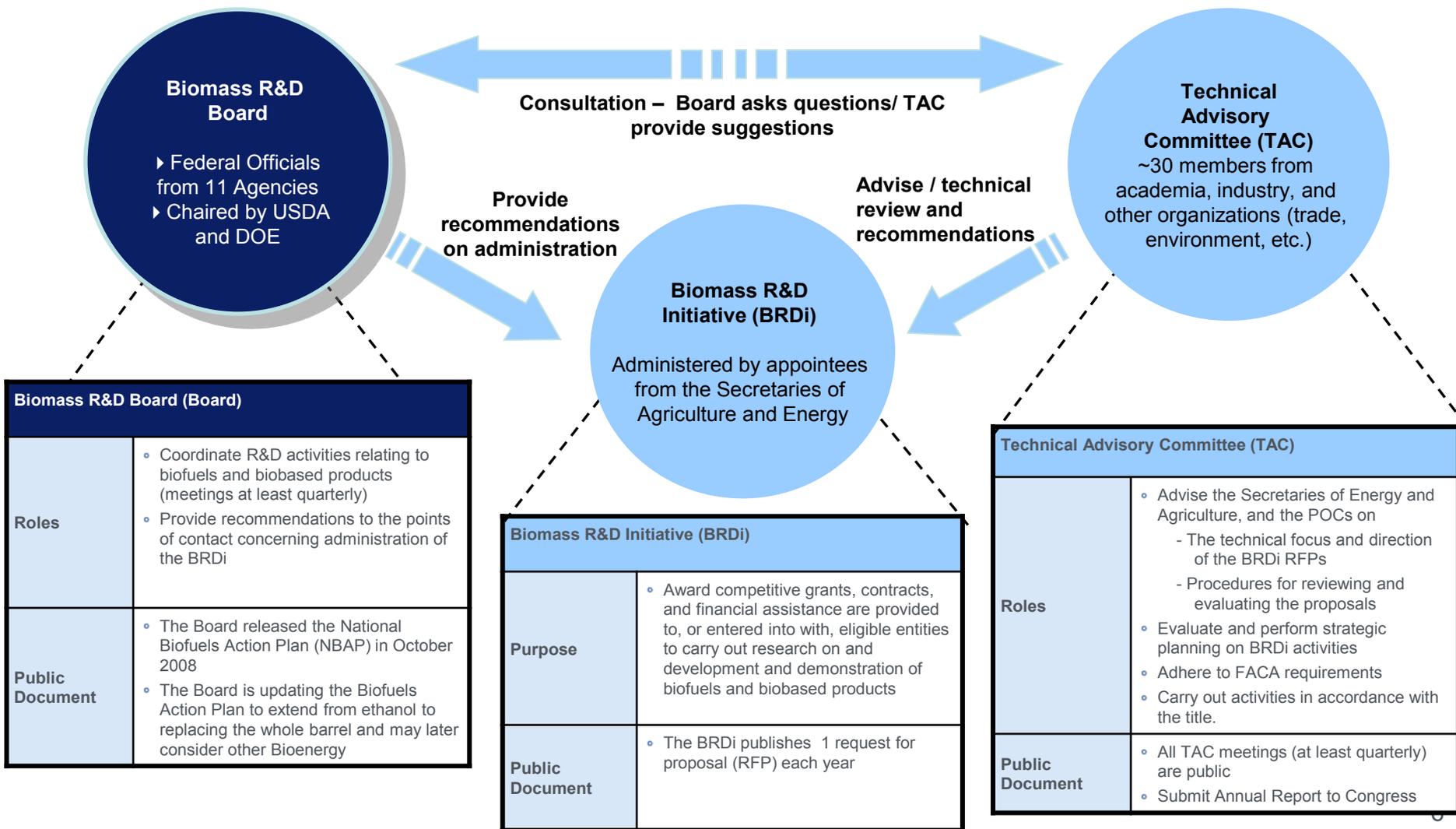
Authorizing Legislation

- The Biomass R&D Board (Board), the Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Biomass R&D Initiative were established by the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 (Biomass Act) and continued by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA).

Purpose of the Biomass R&D Initiative

- Competitively award grants and other financial assistance for eligible entities to carry out RD&D of technologies and processes necessary for the abundant commercial production of biofuels and high-value biobased products at prices competitive with fossil fuels, and to develop economically and environmentally sustainable domestic sources of renewable biomass.

BRDI Organizational Structure



The 2011 Biomass R&D Board included:

Co-Chairs:

- USDA Undersecretary Dallas Tonsager
- DOE Undersecretary Steven Koonin (*currently vacant*)

Other members:

- USDA Undersecretary Cathie Woteki
- EPA Assistant Administrator Paul Anastas
- Assistant Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Steve Fetter
- DOT Administrator Peter Appel

Other representatives from:

- National Science Foundation
- Department of Interior
- Office of the Federal Environmental Executive
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Defense

The TAC must be comprised of individual(s) affiliated with the following:

- Biofuels industry
- Biobased industrial and commercial products industry
- Institution of higher education with expertise in biofuels and biobased products
- Engineers or scientists from government or academia that have expertise in biofuels and biobased products (2 individuals)
- Commodity trade association
- Environmental or conservation organizations (2 individuals)
- State government with expertise in biofuels and biobased products

And individual(s) with expertise* in the following fields:

- Energy and environmental analysis
- Economics of biofuels and biobased products
- Agricultural economics
- Plant biology and biomass feedstock development
- Agronomy, crop science, or soil science

*Experts are considered Special Government Employees (SGEs)

Official functions of the BRDI TAC include:

- Advise the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, and their Points of Contact concerning:
 - The technical focus and direction of requests for proposals issued under the Initiative.
 - Procedures for reviewing and evaluating the proposals.

- Facilitate consultations and partnerships among federal and state agencies, agricultural producers, industry, consumers, the research community, and other interested groups to carry out program activities relating to the Initiative.

- Evaluate and perform strategic planning on program activities relating to the Initiative.

Annual Reports to Congress

- The Biomass Act requires the Secretaries of Energy and Agriculture to jointly submit an annual report to Congress on the Biomass R&D Initiative, for any year funds are provided to USDA.
- The Annual Report describes all awards funded under the BRD Initiative and describes the progress of bioenergy R&D and the status of interagency cooperation on bioenergy.
- The Annual TAC Recommendations to the Biomass R&D Board are a key component of the Annual Reports to Congress.
- Authorizing legislation also requires that the DOE and USDA respond to each recommendation by the TAC.

The TAC is explicitly charged with Recommendations to ensure:

- Funds authorized for the Initiative are distributed and used in a manner that is consistent with the objectives, purposes, and considerations of the Initiative.
 - Solicitations are open and competitive with awards made annually.
 - Objectives and evaluation criteria of the solicitations are clearly stated and minimally prescriptive, with no areas of special interest.
 - Funding proposals are selected on the basis of merit, as determined by an independent panel of scientific and technical peers predominantly from outside the Departments of Agriculture and Energy.
- Although the Charter calls for the TAC to make recommendations related specifically to the BRD Initiative, DOE and USDA General Counsel have advised that a broader biomass R&D scope is permissible.

New Resources for TAC Members

DOE Must Read

Biomass Program Multi-Year Program Plan

DOE Recommended Reads

Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 – Excerpt

U.S. Billion-Ton Update

Presidential Memorandum Establishing the Biofuels Interagency Working Group

The Biofuels Interagency Working Group “Growing America’s Fuels Report”

The National Research Council’s “Renewable Fuel Standard: Potential Economic and Environmental Effects of U.S. Biofuel Policy.”

BRD National Biofuels Action Plan (currently being updated)

Other Useful Information

Biomass Program Platform and Peer Reports

Biomass Research and Development Initiative Past Solicitations and Awards

Past DOE FOAs and Award Information

The new TAC library is available here:

http://www.usbiomassboard.gov/committee/tac_library.html

Binder Contents:

Please find the following information included in your binders:

Tab #	Contents
1	Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
2	Biomass R&D Act (as amended)
3	Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee Charter
4	Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee Members
5	Biomass R&D Board Members
6	Speaker Bios
7	DOE and USDA Biomass Updates
8	2011 Approved TAC Recommendations
9	TAC Library
10	Proposed Meeting Dates for 2012
11	Site Visit Options