

**Report of the Woody Biomass Task Force
To the
Wisconsin Forestry Council by
Bill Horvath, Chairman
June 13, 2006**

The Task Force held its last meeting on March 21st in Stevens Point and will meet again on June 20th.

The Task Force in March toured the UWSP heating facilities and heard from the Chevron Corporation relative to the potential to convert the heating plant to wood fuel and their potential involvement role in a “Fuel for Schools” program in Wisconsin.

The main focus of the Task Force meetings is to continue discussion on the 31 potential components identified for comprehensive legislation for the production and utilization of woody biomass in Wisconsin. The goal is to have our initial review efforts completed with two more meetings with a target date of September.

The Task Force is awaiting the final report of the biofuels consortium to ascertain how our proposed legislation interfaces with this effort.

Other highlights of the Task Force include:

1. Meeting with the staff of our two National Forests, Gene Francisco, the Professional Loggers Association and Collette Mathews, Wisconsin County Forests Association to discuss Forest Stewardship contracting in the USFS.
2. Meeting with the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, Wisconsin Association of School Administrators, Governor’s office staff and Chevron to discuss a statewide Fuel for Schools program.
3. Preliminary discussion with the Vernon County Land Conservation Department and Wild Turkey Federation to develop a project to increase biomass production for possible use by Exel Energy and achieve other forest management and wildlife benefits.
4. Meeting with Marth Industries, manufacturer of wood shaving, wood flour and wood pellets. They plan to expand production in Northern Wisconsin to complement production at their facilities in Marathon County.
5. The Governor announced \$75,000 grant for the Task Force’s proposed Upper Great Lakes Timber and Biomass Commodity Exchange to produce a feasibility report. The Task Force authorized, Clean Tech Partners, Inc., (formerly Center for Technology Transfer, Inc.) to submit a Department of Energy/Department of Agriculture grant application for that purpose earlier. We have been requested having made it through the preliminary review, to submit a full proposal, which is due by this week. Rob Benninghoff, WPS member on the Task Force has the lead since he authored the proposal.