



Renewable Energy Proof of Concept Center Update – February 2013

After a holiday slow down, the pace of the Renewable Energy Proof of Concept Center planning grant project is picking up speed on numerous fronts. Greater coordination with our federal delegation, outreach to the top level of state higher education, and Policy Reform are among several aspects of the initiative now moving forward.

An initial **meeting of the Policy Reform working group** is set for **Friday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m. to Noon, at State Office Building Room 400S**. The meeting will help identify gaps in renewable energy policy, encourage cooperation across industries, and explore changes that can assist emerging technologies in reaching market potential. Please **RSVP by Feb. 19** to jamesnrobins@yahoo.com.

The second **meeting of the Capital Access working group** is set for **Friday, March 1, 10 a.m., at the IDS Center** in Minneapolis. The group is moving toward making preliminary recommendations and putting together a partnership collaboration agreement (PCA). The PCA concept has been employed due to its more-accurate description, replacing the memos of understanding originally envisioned. Please **RSVP to the Capital Access meeting by Feb. 27** at jamesnrobins@yahoo.com.

Two meetings are expected to be scheduled in March to update groups of state officials and federal officials on the overall progress of the PoCC grant, and receive their input... Separately, BBAM President Dale Wahlstrom is in contact with U of M President Eric Kaler to set a meeting, further solidifying the central role of the University in our project. One of the primary goals of this meeting is to explore a potential connection with the Itasca Project... Michael Krause has coordinated with U of M Extension Associate Dean Brent Hales on the Metrics & Measurement goals, with Extension designated as the anchor institution. Hales is interested in further coordinating with PoCC implementation as part of Extension's Strategic Plan which includes a greater emphasis on renewable energy as one of its main components... Under the guidance of Diane Dube at William Mitchell, law students will be providing us a guide to intellectual property Do's and Don'ts from the perspective of entrepreneurs, and a toolkit of intellectual property resources in the state of Minnesota and nationally. At this time, we are not exploring a review of the current Minnesota IP research agreements...

We will be working with Bekah Kent of BBAM to integrate their Innovation Engine umbrella into our PoCC process. Specifically, an excellent opportunity exists to coordinate and integrate the extensive BBAM technology vetting process with our long-term PoCC goals for concept to commercialization. We hope to put together a partnership collaboration agreement to identify the steps necessary.