

Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

Crowne Plaza

4402 East Washington Avenue

Madison, Wisconsin

Thursday March 11, 2010

### **Bioenergy, Conservation and the Wisconsin Landscape**

#### Mission Statement

The next few years will be a “watershed period” for Wisconsin as the science and application of bioenergy continues to develop. Science gives us the opportunity to increase the sustainability of the Wisconsin landscape in a way that enhances the viability of our agricultural systems, addresses persistent environmental problems, and provides opportunity for local economic development. There is also the potential that poor or ill-informed choices will lead to an accelerated rate of loss of Wisconsin farms, continued degradation of our environment, and lost business opportunities for Wisconsin business. The questions we choose to investigate and discuss today will influence our policy choices of tomorrow. There are many paths to the future of which only a few lead to enhanced sustainability. The function of this conference is to help all of us be pathfinders for bioenergy, conservation and the Wisconsin landscape.

#### Agenda

- 9:00 Welcome and Setting the Stage, Jerry Griswold, President, Wisconsin Chapter SWCS
- 9:10 Moderator, **Pete Nowak**, Professor, Nelson Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 9:30 Plenary Session 1: Challenges and Opportunities in Bioenergy, **Gary Radloff**, Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 10:15 Break
- 10:45 Panel: Science and Future Opportunities in Bioenergy. **Alan Fish** (invited), Associate Vice Chancellor of Facilities Planning and Management, University of Wisconsin- Madison; **Tracey Holloway** (invited), Director, Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 12:00 Luncheon

1:00 SWCS Awards Ceremony, **Pat Murphy**, State Resource Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Madison, Wisconsin.

1:30 Plenary Session 2: The future of bioenergy in Wisconsin: What is the state doing to promote bioenergy, how do we enhance the sustainable outcomes of these efforts, and what are some of the major barriers faced in this effort? **Judy Ziewacz**, Executive Director, Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence.

2:00 Plenary Session 3: Private sector perspective: How the advancement of environmental and social aspects of bioenergy be accomplished while still meeting profitability (“triple bottom line”) expectations? **Jonathan Barry**, Farmer/Businessman.

2:30 Break

3:00 Conservation Panel: Based upon what you have heard so far, what are the implications for conservation in Wisconsin? What opportunities should we pursue, and what are some of the pitfalls that will degrade conservation efforts? **Richard Cates**, Farmer/Faculty member of the Soil Science Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison; **Gordon Stevenson**, Chief, Runoff Management Section, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; **Jennifer Giegerich**, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

4:00 Adjourn and door prize drawing

Hotel Rates at the Crowne Plaza: \$70 single, \$80 double.