



# THIRD ANNUAL LEGISLATORS FORUM

For Manitoba, Minnesota,  
North Dakota, and South Dakota

Brookings, South Dakota, July 16–17, 2003



Row 4: Senator Rod Skoe: Minn.; Senator Joel Heitkamp: N.D.; Honourable Eric Robinson: Manitoba; Senator David Knutson: Minn.; Representative Ole Aarsvold: N.D.; Representative Ken Svedjan: N.D.; Representative David Monson: N.D.

Row 3: Representative Larry Frost: S.D.; Senator Jay Duenwald: S.D.; Representative Mary Ellen Otremba: Minn.; Honourable Rosann Wowchuk: Manitoba; Ms. Theresa Oswald: Manitoba.

Row 2: Mr. Larry Maguire: Manitoba; Representative Morris Lanning: Minn.; Representative Jim Peterson: S.D.; Senator Paul Dennert: S.D.; Representative Gary Hanson: S.D.

Row 1: Mr. Jack Penner: Manitoba; Representative Jon Nelson: N.D.; Senator Arnold Brown: S.D.; Representative Orville Smidt: S.D.; Mr. Jim Rondeau: Manitoba.



# Steering Committee AND 2003 MEMBERS

The steering committee, appointed to continue activity between annual meetings, is composed of two legislators from each of the four jurisdictions. Members are Manitoba: Honourable Rosann Wowchuk and Mr. Jack Penner; Minnesota: Senator David Knutson and Senator Rod Skoe;

North Dakota: Senator Tom Fischer and Representative Ole Aarsvold; South Dakota: Senator Arnold Brown (chairman) and Representative Gary Hanson (treasurer).

## Manitoba

- Honourable Rosann Wowchuk, Deputy Premier, Minister of Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives, and Minister of responsibility for Cooperative Development.
- Honourable Eric Robinson, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism
- Ms. Theresa Oswald, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Seine River
- Honourable Jim Rondeau, Minister responsible for Healthy Living, Minister Responsible for Seniors, Minister responsible for Healthy Child Manitoba
- Mr. Jack Penner, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Emerson Constituency; Opposition Agriculture Critic
- Mr. Larry Maguire, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Arthur-Virden
- Mr. Kelvin Goertzen, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Steinbach
- Ms. Bonnie Mitchelson, Member of the Legislative Assembly for River East
- Honourable Jon Gerrard, Leader of the Liberal Party of

## Minnesota

- Representative David Dill (D)
- Senator Dennis Frederickson (R)
- Senator David Knutson (R)

- Representative Morris Lanning (R)
- Representative Mary Ellen Otremba (D)
- Representative Maxine Penas (R)
- Senator Rod Skoe (D)
- Senator Ann Rest (D)

## North Dakota

- Representative Ole Aarsvold (D)
- Senator Tom Fischer (R)
- Senator Joel Heitkamp (D)
- Representative Jon Nelson (R)
- Representative Ken Svedjan (R)
- Representative David Monson (R)
- Senator Tom Trenbeath (R)

## South Dakota

- Senator Arnold Brown (R), president pro tem
- Senator Paul Dennert (D)
- Senator Jay Duenwald (R)
- Representative Larry Frost (R)
- Senator Brock Greenfield (R)
- Representative Gary Hanson (D)
- Representative Jim Peterson (D)
- Representative Orville Smidt (R)

# Third Annual Legislators Forum

BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA  
JULY 16-17, 2003

The Third Annual Legislators Forum began with a steering committee meeting, a bus tour of wind turbines in western Minnesota, and a pre-Forum press conference with leaders from each jurisdiction: Senator Arnold Brown (S.D.), Minister Rosann Wowchuk (Manitoba), Senator Tom Fischer (N.D.), Senator David Knutson (Minn.), and Governor M. Michael Rounds (S.D.). Dick Gross of the Consensus Council in Bismarck, N.D., served as facilitator for the Forum.

Legislators introduced themselves and reviewed the agenda. Working groups then presented their findings and accomplishments from the past year.

## Energy Transmission & Energy Renewables

Shaun Loney, Manitoba Department of Energy, Science and Technology; Rolf Nordstrom, Upper Midwest Hydrogen Initiative; Brad Crabtree, Great Plains Institute for Sustainable Development; Dale Osborn, Midwest Independent Systems Operator; and Jim Burg, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, presented.

Midwest ISO (Independent Systems Operator) is an independent, non-profit, transmission system. MISO allows states to act in concert on issues relating to electricity generation and transmission systems. The MISO goal is one set of rules for 14 states and one province that will avoid the necessity of dealing with many different organizations.

The group also presented a briefing on “Powering the Plains” (PTP). The mission of PTP is, through policy recommendations, innovative projects, and collaborative public-private ventures, to add value to the Northern Plains economy while reducing the risk of climate change and other environmental concerns. PTP includes provincial/state government officials, executives from the region’s largest investor-owned, cooperative and public power companies, individual farmers and ranchers, and leading renewable energy and sustainable agriculture advocates. All decisions are made by consensus, and PTP participants intend to have decisions implemented while the group is still together.

The Upper Midwest Hydrogen Initiative (UMHI) is an initiative of PTP. Its mission is to accelerate North America’s shift toward clean, domestic hydrogen production and use through market-based pilots, research, public education, and policy reform. Hydrogen is the lightest, most abundant material we know. There is no shortage of hydrogen, but it needs to be harvested. In this region the most abundant way to produce it is with wind, biomass (plant matter), coal gasification, and hydropower.

PTP proposes a Regional Renewables Work Group to work in partnership with the Legislators Forum by establishing a collaborative mechanism to develop and recommend policies to the Legislators Forum on a regional, cross-jurisdictional basis. PTP suggestions for Legislators Forum action include:



LEFT: Governor Mike Rounds: South Dakota.  
ABOVE: Lieutenant Governor Dennis Daugaard: South Dakota.

- Empower PTP to establish a Renewables Work Group that will recommend new policies to the Legislators Forum.
- Authorize one Legislators Forum legislator from each jurisdiction to serve on the work group.
- Formally endorse the Upper Midwest Hydrogen Initiative.
- Write a letter to MISO encouraging transmission that supports renewables. If the Legislators Forum agrees, the Energy working group would draft a letter for the steering committee to consider.

### Energy Q&A

Legislators asked Dale Osborn, the MISO representative on the panel, whether PTP's suggestions are feasible. Dale replied that they are feasible. The key is the fuel cell, which is 68% efficient, as opposed to an internal combustion engine, which has about 14% efficiency. Hydrogen will become a player in the energy field, and this geographic area has great potential to produce it.

Legislators noted that North Dakota had passed a bill to have its university system scientists studying hydrogen as a farming source for wind.

The working group responded that different approaches are being considered in the Northern H corridor of Minnesota, Manitoba, and North Dakota. Some areas may use hydropower to generate hydrogen, other areas may use biomass. The important element is that hydrogen be produced from clean renewable energy sources. The group wants to test the approaches in real world settings.

The possibility exists that mainstream, fossil-based energy cor-

porations will become involved in renewables. There could be no consensus or progress in the region unless they are part of the picture. There are huge coal reserves in the region, and PTP is also exploring coal gasification. Integrated Gasification and Combined Cycle is a consistent supply of electricity. In a carbon restrained world, there is not much future for combustion coal; however, there is potential for coal gasification.

### Areas of agreement among the legislators on the Energy Transmission and Energy Renewables report:

Legislators:

- Adopt two joint statements in support of Powering the Plains and the upper Midwest Hydrogen Initiative.

Requested:

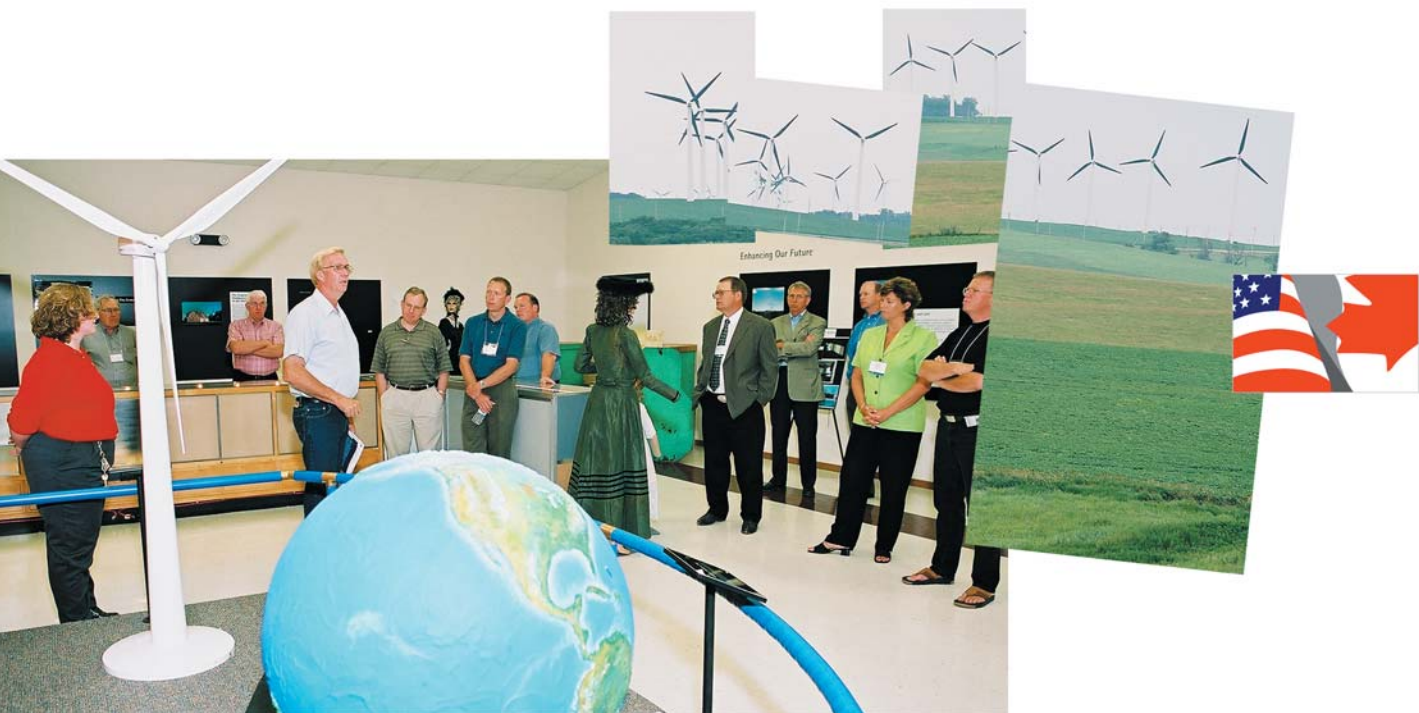
- Continuing updates on energy transmission issues.

### Animal Health & Food Safety

Dr. Allan Preston, Director, Veterinary Services Branch, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives; Dr. Larry Schuler, North Dakota State Veterinarian; Kevin Elfering, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; and Dr. Sam Holland, South Dakota State Veterinarian, presented.

They discussed the Manitoba perspective on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Canada is the first country to have had a BSE case. There was no adverse reaction of the public to the safety of the food supply and no drop in the beef consumption.

In Spring 2003, BSE was diagnosed in one cow in Canada. Since then, the U.S. has closed its border to Canadian ruminants and ruminant products.





The working group proposed a graduated re-entry of animals and animal products with an open border based on science-based risk analysis, assessment, and an orderly rule-making process rather than political/administrative actions. The Canadians will be faced shortly with “welfare” slaughter and disposal issues. They will need to look at a variety of ways to address financial issues, possibly including payment deferrals, interest-free loan guarantees, and tax options.

The working group pointed out that if this had been the other way around and BSE had been found in the U.S., Canada would have been bound by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) regulations, and the border could have been closed to U.S. beef for 7 years.

Working group members suggested that the Legislators Forum ask that Canada adopt a process similar to that of USDA. In the meantime, they would like a system for gradually opening the border and that would send the message to our trading partners that they are receiving safe products. An administrative provision gives the Administrator the authority to permit products to cross the border when he or she determines such action will not endanger the livestock or poultry of the U.S. The process of US CFR 92.2 with full risk assessment, public input, formal hearings, and then informed decisions will build confidence in producers, consumers, and trading partners and should be applied by Canada and the U.S. in the event BSE is found.

The working group also discussed West Nile Virus (WNV) as an example of how emergency response works. WNV was introduced into the western hemisphere in 1999. The virus circulates between birds and mosquitoes, which can transmit the disease

to primarily humans and horses. The working group also discussed interagency cooperation, including that of veterinary diagnostic laboratories, state/provincial departments of health, and state/provincial veterinarians, in addressing WNV.

Food safety is directly related to animal health. *Salmonella* and *E. coli* O157:H7 are significant issues. Influenza viruses can be spread from birds to swine to humans. States and provinces try to prepare; but in an outbreak, more resources are usually needed than anticipated. For example, 1,000 staff hours were expended on a Cub Foods *E. coli* outbreak in Minnesota. Budgets usually do not cover the extra time and work.

The working group asked if the infrastructure was in place to cope with a major outbreak of foot and mouth or Exotic Newcastle Disease. Group members also said that perception and reality become very blurred by the press. For example, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is not a food safety issue, but food safety departments spend a lot of time and effort answering questions about it.

### Animal Health & Food Safety Q&A

Panelists clarified that all of the research done up to this point indicates that CWD is not transmissible to humans.

Recommendations are given to avoid the infected tissues. Legislators asked if CWD and BSE would be transmitted in meat if an infected animal were properly slaughtered. Panelists said that in both BSE and CWD, Prion resides in central nervous tissue, not in muscle tissue. They emphasized that it is important to remember that BSE and CWD are two distinct diseases.

Legislators asked if there is a human vaccination for West Nile Virus. There is none at this time, although one may be available next year. At this time, vaccinating horses is successful.

### Areas of agreement among the legislators on the Animal Health & Food Safety report:

Legislators agreed:

- That Canada and the United States strengthen their efforts to harmonize their regulatory systems and policies on BSE, such as exist under the United States Department of Agriculture’s Code of Federal Regulations, part 92.2.
- That these fully harmonized regulations and policies be communicated to the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) and the international community.
- That animal health and food safety disasters in North America require immediate and adequate federal disaster compensation to the industry to ensure its continuance and cooperation in ongoing surveillance and reporting of BSE.
- That the federal governments of Canada and the United States should agree to establish normal trade on the basis of sound science, science-based risk assessments, and recommendations provided by animal health and food safety officials.

## Tourism

John Edman, Director of the Minnesota Department of Tourism, presented. Deanne Keller, North Dakota Department of Tourism, Patty Van Gerpen and Maureen Droz, South Dakota Office of Tourism, and Howard Gurevich, Manitoba Department of Culture, Heritage and Tourism, were also available for questions.

John gave a 2-Nations Tours progress report. He explained that state and provincial tourism departments are trying to find ways to maximize resources, do more with less money, and work together to promote each other's jurisdictions.

Dramatic changes have occurred in the travel and tourism industry in the last two years. Changing weather patterns, the economy, and the tragedy of September 11th have all affected tourism. Business travel has been down; people traveling for leisure are visiting small towns and rural areas. People are not making travel decisions as far in advance as they once did.

A tourism working group survey ranked tourism infrastructure and other concerns in the four jurisdictions. Common issues were difficulties in border crossing, interstate transportation issues, and motorcoach taxes and fees. An increase in taxes in the motorcoach industry hurts tourism, so the hope is that the taxes will at least remain flat.

2-Nations Tours has also developed bilateral agreements. Manitoba has agreements with Minnesota and North Dakota. North Dakota and South Dakota have an agreement. Others are pending.

Panelists presented the legislators with a copy of the tour operator resource guide, which has sample multi-state/province motorcoach itineraries and includes descriptions of the various

tours available in our jurisdictions. The guide has just been mailed to 150 tour operators.

## Tourism Q&A

Legislators' suggestions included:

- Tourism could focus more on water, fishing, lakes, and reservoirs, which have a national appeal.
- Those involved in tourism in each jurisdiction should issue more press releases and information to media outlets in other states and provinces, in hopes that they would provide free publicity.
- Newspapers could publish what's going on in the other states and province.
- Sensitivity in states and provinces should be heightened to festivals and big events, so they are included on itineraries.

Legislators commended the Tourism working group, and recognized that 2-Nations Tours ties us all together and that the group has done an excellent job. They said that this is the direction we need to go, not only in tourism, but in other issue areas. This is a demonstration of what can be done if we can agree to work together and cooperate.

## Areas of agreement among the legislators on the Tourism report:

Legislators suggested that tourism officials consider:

- Joint consumer marketing of hunting and fishing, joint licenses and regional reciprocity.
- Golf packages.
- Joint advertising and discounts on regional travel.
- Using joint (tourism department) letters to head up events.
- Promotion of cultural events.

Legislators also asked the steering committee to discuss whether the Tourism group needs to present next year.



## Emergency Management

Chuck Sanderson and Paul Anderson from the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization presented.

They said that Canada and the U.S. now have agreements to share information and provide access to emergency operations centers. There are formal and ad hoc working relationships between agencies on either side of the border and emergency responder agreements between border communities and border crossings.



## Emergency Management Q&A

Legislators asked whether the Atlantic Compact covers both volunteer and professional responders. It does. The key is that the volunteer emergency workers must have received appropriate training and certification before they are considered for deployment in their own or other jurisdictions.

Legislators asked whether emergency measures/management departments deal with animal health and food safety crises. They do not in all states/provinces. Presenters suggested that Emergency Measures Organizations (EMO) or the equivalent should be coordinators for all emergency situations, with the department heads in the lead chairs. This would not take away the responsibilities of the department heads.

They called for policies and structure that lay out exactly how these agreements will be put into action, so responders are not put at risk when they go to help other jurisdictions. The proposed model is based on a similar and successful agreement called the Atlantic Compact, which has been developed between Atlantic states and provinces. It is an agreement to share resources and personnel as requested to respond to serious emergencies.

The Atlantic Compact applies to all disasters; all areas are impacted by the mutual agreement. It establishes the possibility of providing mutual aid, but it does not commit the parties to helping each other; when, for example, there is a large scale disaster, jurisdictions may need their own resources at home.

Presenters want to make sure that resources are inter-operable. For example, British Columbia loaned some medical equipment to the state of Washington for use in the forest fires. The equipment loaned would not fit in the Washington helicopters.

Present obstacles include the differences in legal and regulatory environments across borders and the recognition of credentials. This compact would spell that out for us.

The benefits of mutual aid include:

- Shared resources.
- Broader and deeper base of knowledge.
- Better training.
- Formalized and organized work.
- Greatly enhanced response capabilities for all areas of the region.

One legislator said we should not set our standards too high and need to be careful when we start passing legislation and instituting rules. Another legislator pointed out that it was Manitoba that wanted to get this on the table, and the members of the Legislators Forum steering committee can decide whether there should be a new working group.

### Areas of agreement among the legislators on the Emergency Management report:

Legislators agreed that the steering committee should explore:

- Homeland Security talks across borders.
- Feasibility and scope of an emergency mutual aid compact.
- They also asked that state emergency management representatives work together with Manitoba on this and present at the next Legislators Forum meeting.

### Agriculture Harmonization

Mark Goodwin, Pulse Canada; Jim Gray, N.D. Department of Agriculture; and N.D. Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson presented. President Don Sissons, of the Manitoba Pulse Growers Association, was also available for questions.

Roger Johnson explained that, in July 2002, a small group of North Dakota farmers were caught importing Canadian Liberty herbicide. Prices are lower in Canada, but it is illegal to move pesticides across the border.

He suggested that there are three ways to address such problems: administratively, judicially, and through legislation. North Dakota has tried every conceivable way to make it legal to bring

products in from Canada, but the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would not allow it. North Dakota also tried through the judicial system, and the court case was thrown out. The only remaining possibility appears to be legislation.

Jim Gray said that one way would be to pass federal legislation to create a system to access Canadian pesticides without the consent of pesticide registrants (S.332). Another way is through NAFTA pesticide labeling. The Pesticide Harmonization Act (S.332 in the 108th Congress), sponsored by Sen. Byron Dorgan (N.D.), is a bipartisan bill. It would desegment markets and allow U.S. growers to access Canadian pesticides.



The EPA and Canada's Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) have developed the first-ever joint pesticide label. Currently it is a voluntary option, so it will do little to eliminate price disparities unless we can demonstrate that there is a real industry benefit or we make it mandatory. There is currently a bill in the U.S. Congress to do this. A fear is that it will pass in the U.S. and not in Canada.

To address equal access issues, the joint review subcommittee will continue to foster interagency cooperation and look for process efficiencies. Grower organizations need to clearly identify differences in pesticide users.

Pulse Canada is trying to attain one streamlined regulatory process for pulse crops (edible beans, peas, chickpeas, and lentils), presenting pulse crops as a candidate for NAFTA's Technical Working Group on Pesticides (TWG) pilot project. Four issues include difficulty attaining crop protection tools, difficulty defending crop protection tools, Minimum Residue Levels (MRLs) in Europe, and pricing/regulatory interactions.

In summary, Pulse Canada's proposal is to use pulse crops as a NAFTA pilot, helping the regulatory agencies in these three countries as they embark on the next five years of harmonizing regulations.

### **Agriculture Harmonization Q&A**

Legislators asked the panelists to explain more about environmental sustainability issues. Panelists replied that the focus at TWG meetings is shifting from agriculture issues to broader pesticide related issues. The main concern growers have is that limited federal resources will be shifted from grower issues to other areas.

One legislator noted that the EPA designates areas around the country for soil testing and asked if that process is still in place. It is, and residue zone maps have been finalized. If a residue

study is done in a given area, the resulting data can be applied to all areas included in that zone.

Legislators said that despite federal pesticide licensures, states still have the right to stricter certification requirements. The panelists said they are aware of that, and the regulators have been working very hard on it. We are very close to being harmonized across all three countries. There are groups very active in the educational aspect of this.

Legislators pointed out that Chapter 11 of NAFTA has allowed companies to sue, and asked if there is a reverse process for growers to do the same thing. At this point, no growers have sued a company for trans-border pricing issues. There are suits in Minnesota because of a company that has marketed identical products under different prices for different crops.

Legislators asked if consumers are involved in this process. Panelists said that NAFTA TWG meetings involve the Sierra Club and that consumer protection organizations also attend. The process is similar to that used by the pharmaceutical industry, and many of the companies are the same. One difference is that for a long time Americans have gone to Canada for prescription drugs and everyone knew about it. That has never been possible for U.S. producers who want to access Canadian pesticides.

The working group asked the Legislators Forum to write a letter of support to the NAFTA TWG Secretariat, requesting that the Secretariat undertake a pilot project with pulse crops and the pulse growers. The working group hopes that the Legislators Forum will request that the pilot project be aimed at rapid registration of reduced-risk, safe pest management tools, harmonized MRLs (import tolerances), and that the project be carried out so that regulatory barriers do not serve to distort prices.



## Areas of agreement among the legislators on the Agriculture Harmonization report:

Legislators agreed to:

- Write a letter to major commodity groups in these jurisdictions to make them aware of what we have done here to raise the profile.
- Write a letter of support to NAFTA TWG Secretariat, requesting that the Secretariat undertake a pilot project with pulse crops. The Legislators Forum will request that the pilot project be aimed at rapid registration of reduced-risk, safe pest management tools, harmonized MRLs, and that the project be carried out so that regulatory barriers do not serve to distort prices.

The group also asked the Legislators Forum to renew last year's endorsement of Senate Bill 332.

## Water Issues

Genevieve Thompson, Greenway on the Red; Chuck Fritz, Red River Basin Institute; Steve Wennblom and Hope Deutscher, Prairie Public Broadcasting; and Lance Yohe, Red River Basin Commission, presented.

Chuck Fritz said that the Red River Basin Institute has been developing a memorandum of understanding among research universities and organizations within the Red River Basin. This MOU will encourage a comprehensive research framework across the three states and two nations of the basin to conduct applied flood damage reduction research and watershed education. The proposed signatories include North Dakota State University\*, University of North Dakota, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, University of Minnesota Crookston\*, University of Minnesota Northwest Research and Outreach Center Crookston\*, University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, University of Minnesota Moorhead, and Concordia College\*. (\*Have signed the MOU).

Lance Yohe discussed the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC). He said that the reorganization of the RRBC as presented at the second annual Legislators Forum is complete. The Commission is developing an approach for a comprehensive flood mitigation plan framework, using the IJC/International Red River Board's 2002 report, Living with the Red, as a foundation.

Lance said that the RRBC has worked to develop a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) application for both Minnesota and North Dakota for state consideration to submit to the USDA.

Genevieve Thompson explained that the Commission is trying to help people look at issues collectively. A GAP analysis will assess what has been done, and what has yet to be done since the 1997 flood.

The Greenway on the Red is focused on the 600 river miles from Lake Traverse to Lake Winnipeg. The development of tools, which include Digital Elevation Modeling (DEM) and the Red River Basin Decision Information Network (RRBDIN), will be of great assistance in prioritizing areas of focus for Greenway implementation. The Greenway on the Red is asking for legislative support to develop and use these tools in all of our jurisdictions.

Genevieve said that N.D. Senator Tim Mathern introduced Senate Bill 2283 to amend the North Dakota Century Code and enable long-term conservation easements in riparian areas of the Red and Missouri rivers. This would have enabled more cost-effective financial remuneration to landowners who provide long-term conservation protection for their land. The bill did not pass, but awareness and support are growing.

Genevieve explained that Manitoba has a Lake Winnipeg Nutrient Management Strategy and a Buffer Strips Initiative. Manitoba has taken a strong lead in marketing the Greenway as a tourism destination.

To move new initiatives forward, the water issues group asked that legislators develop and support far-sighted legislation that promotes basin-wide planning and cooperation. They also requested support for CREP, DEM, and RRBDIN. They asked that the universities along the Red River sign the MOU to look further into the water/flooding initiative.

Chuck described an ongoing challenge in the basin: Proponents of a given proposal or project fund a study to show it is a good project; opponents of the project will often fund a subsequent study to disprove the project's worth. To add objectivity, we need to step away and let the scientists give us the conclusions. We need true data to make intelligent decisions on both sides of the border. Some issues, such as Devils Lake, are divisive across the border. There are many other projects that entail a great deal of collaboration.



Prairie Public Broadcasting has developed and successfully implemented the RiverWatch project, which includes technical assistance, television coverage, and an extensive website. RiverWatch includes river and flood related news, posted daily. The Bremer Foundation provided the funds to get the project started a few years ago. Riverwatch requested legislative support to identify and secure additional Bremer Foundation and other funding to maintain the project.

The water issues panel requested the legislators support the CREP and Buffer initiatives in Manitoba (with 100,000 acres in the four jurisdictions); support permanent easements, particularly in riparian areas; pass a resolution of support for a watershed approach; and support Prairie Public Broadcasting's new grant application to the Bremer Foundation.

Legislators discussed a date for next year's meeting. The Fourth Annual Legislators Forum will likely be held in Fargo, N.D., in the week prior to the week of Memorial Day weekend. That would be Thursday and Friday, May 20-21, 2004.

**Contributors:**

Several organizations have made generous contributions of in-kind services and funding to enable us to hold this Third Annual Legislators Forum in Brookings, South Dakota. The legislators of the four jurisdictions of Manitoba, Minnesota and North and South Dakota are grateful for these contributions and wish to recognize them and thank them for the assistance:

- Alliance Pipeline
- Banner Associates
- Brookings Chamber of Commerce, Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Economic Development Corporation
- Brookings Municipal Utilities
- Cenex Harvest States
- Daktronics, Inc.
- DMI Industries
- Johnson & Johnson
- Lignite Energy Council
- Mills Construction
- Missouri River Energy Services
- Noridian Mutual Insurance Company
- Otter Tail Power Company

**Areas of agreement among the legislators on the Water Issues report:**

Legislators agreed to:

- Support CREP initiatives and the Buffer initiative up to 100K acres, with no specific dollar amounts.
- Support a Bremer (or other) grant continuation for RiverWatch.
- Support the gathering of seamless data, and sharing of that data up and down the Red River.
- Support flexible easements.
- Support a basin-wide watershed approach and working through RRBC.

- Pfizer, Inc.
- Presentation Sisters/Avera Health
- Sioux Valley Hospitals & Health System
- South Dakota Beer Wholesalers Association
- South Dakota Rural Electric Association, on behalf of Touchstone Energy Electric Cooperatives
- South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems
- South Dakota State Medical Association and Dakota Care
- South Dakota State University
- State of South Dakota Governor's Office
- Taipei Economic & Cultural Office
- Traverse Electric Cooperative
- Xcel Energy





# Joint Statements

THIRD ANNUAL LEGISLATORS FORUM

## Establishment of a Regional Renewables Work Group in Partnership with Powering the Plains

Brookings, South Dakota, July 17, 2003

In recognition of the Northern Plains' vast wind, biomass, and hydropower resources, and the Powering the Plains (PTP) project's important role in bringing together key governmental, industrial, agricultural, and environmental stakeholders in our four jurisdictions (plus Iowa) to take advantage of our regional energy opportunities, we request that PTP establish a regional renewables working group with the Legislators Forum (LF).

We further request that this working group report back to us next year with regional policy recommendations in two priority areas for provincial and state legislative consideration in the 2005 legislative sessions:

- Regional renewable energy standard and credit training system, with potential inclusion of high-energy consumption states of Illinois and Wisconsin.
- Package of provincial/state hydrogen policy recommendations to accelerate our region's shift to renewable and carbon-neutral hydrogen production.

We also authorize the LF Steering Committee to select four LF delegates, one from each jurisdiction, to participate with other stakeholders in the working group and report back periodically to the Steering Committee.

Through the regional policy recommendations of the working group, we look forward to helping our region realize its comparative advantage and long-term economic opportunities in renewable energy and hydrogen production.

## In Support of the Upper Midwest Hydrogen Initiative

Brookings, South Dakota, July 17, 2003

On behalf of our constituents, and to ensure the long-term energy security and economic vitality of the Northern Plains, we strongly endorse the formation and mission of the Upper Midwest Hydrogen Initiative (UMHI).

As an industry-led public-private coalition representing business, academic, government, and civic organizations, UMHI is an excellent vehicle for capitalizing on the Upper Midwest's vast hydrogen production potential from clean, carbon-neutral sources, including wind, biomass, solar, hydropower, and coal (gasification plus carbon sequestration).

In particular, we support the "Northern H" corridors initiative to develop hydrogen infrastructure along the major transportation routes of I-35, I-94, and 75/I-29.

We believe that UMHI, working with other initiatives in the region, can help establish the Upper Midwest as a continental leader in clean hydrogen production and may, over the long-term, yield:

- Jobs and economic development.
- Greater energy independence and security.
- Improved environmental conditions.

