

# Iowa Carbon Sequestration Task Force Task Force Meeting #1 Meeting Report



**Meeting date:** August 20, 2021

**Meeting location:** Iowa State Fairgrounds

## Chair

Kim Reynolds, Governor

Mike Naig, Secretary of Agriculture, Vice-Chair

## Task Force:

1. Kellie Blair, Blair Farm LLC.
2. Nick Bowdish, Elite Octane
3. Steve Bruere, Peoples Company
4. John Crespi, Iowa State University
5. Debi Durham, Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) & Iowa Finance Authority
6. Sam Eathington, Corteva Agriscience
7. Kelcey Brown, MidAmerican Energy Company (Proxy for Task Force member William Fehrman, Berkshire Hathaway Energy)
8. Sam Funk Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
9. Kent Hartwig, Renewable Energy Group (Proxy for Task Force member Cynthia 'CJ' Warner, Renewable Energy Group)
10. Geri Huser, Iowa Utilities Board
11. Adam Kiel, Soil & Water Outcomes Fund
12. Justin Kirchhoff, Summit Ag Investors
13. John Larsen, Alliant Energy
14. Kayla Lyon, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
15. Scott Marler, Iowa Department of Transportation
16. Jill Sanchez, John Deere
17. Bryan Sievers, Sievers Family Farms
18. Craig Struve, SoilView
19. Annette Sweeney\*, Iowa Senate
20. Alison Taylor, ADM
21. John Wills\*, Iowa House of Representatives
22. Jill Zullo, Cargill

\*Ex officio

## Core Team:

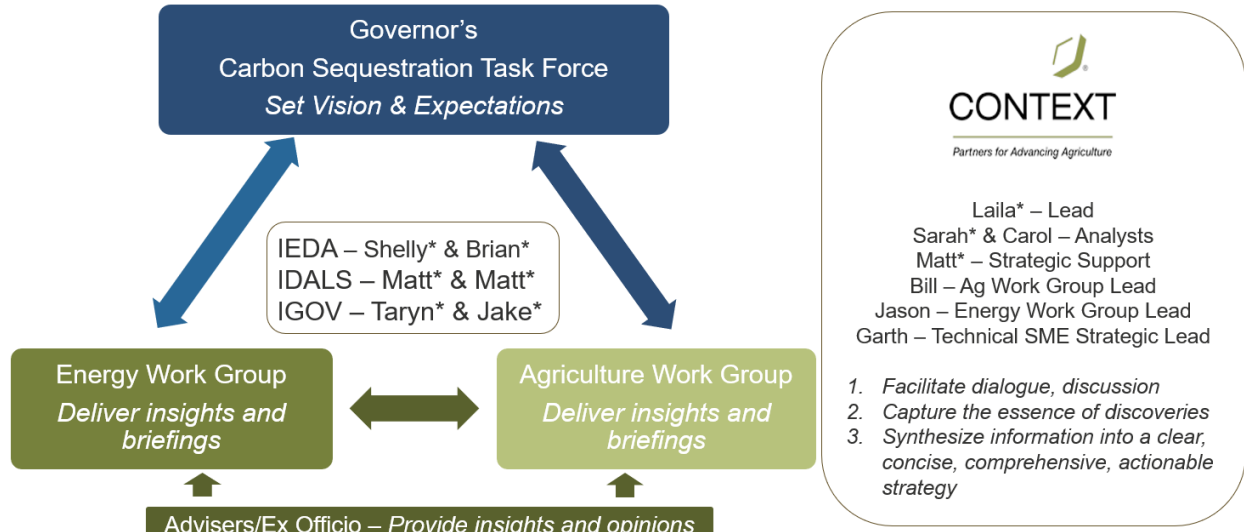
1. Taryn Frideres, Office of the Governor (IGOV)
2. Jake Swanson, IGOV
3. Matt Gronewald, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS)
4. Matt Lechtenberg, IDALS
5. Shelly Peterson, IEDA
6. Brian Selinger, IEDA

The Context Network – Laila Down, Sarah Frank, Matt Sutton-Vermeulen, Bill Northey, Jason Delambre  
Rob Christensen, IEDA – Technology support

## Key Takeaways

1. **OPENING REMARKS** – Carbon sequestration presents opportunities for the Iowa agriculture and energy sectors to create more value and expand on our leadership in agriculture and renewable energy.
2. **TASK FORCE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES** – The graphic below demonstrates the relationship between the Task Force, Work Groups, and the Core Team. The Task Force will set expectations for the Work Groups and deliver policy recommendations with the final report. The Work Groups will deliver insights and briefings to the Task Force to help them build a sound strategy. The Core Team – IGOV, IDALS, IDEA – will help to coordinate between the Task Force and Work Groups to ensure the groups work cohesively and seamlessly bring forth recommendations.

Project Team Map – How we get work done



3. APPROACH – A back-casting model will be used as a process to accomplish the objectives with the Task Force setting the vision for success and the Work Groups determining the current state. The Work Groups will identify constraints and barriers and the critical success factors that stand between the current state to reach the Task Force's vision for success.

**TASK FORCE & WORK GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES – DRAFT**



4. DELIVERABLES – The Task Force and Work Groups are responsible for six deliverables, shown in the graphic below.

<b>1. IOWA'S CARBON POTENTIAL</b>	Assess Iowa's carbon generation across multiple sectors based on data from DNR and other sources
<b>2. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SOIL CARBON</b>	Evaluate Iowa's opportunities for carbon reduction and carbon offsets, with a particular emphasis on integrating soil carbon sequestration into Iowa's agricultural economy and forecast the economic impact of carbon sequestration on farmers, rural communities and the state based on current and future cropping scenarios
<b>3. ENERGY INNOVATION OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Evaluate Iowa's opportunities with innovative clean energy technologies that can provide baseload power
<b>4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</b>	Gather feedback from stakeholders on issues, such as enabling carbon markets, identifying gaps in science and technology, and overcoming barriers to carbon management
<b>5. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	Prepare a report and set of policy recommendations which address paths forward on carbon strategies and impact mitigation across sectors for Governor Reynolds, Secretary of Agriculture, IEDA's Executive Director and General Assembly (Oct/Nov)
<b>6. AG CARBON TRACKING</b>	Create a process to track growth in the number of Iowa farmers and crop acres enrolled in carbon sequestration markets.

5. **WORK GROUP QUESTIONS** – The Task Force discussed questions to pose to the Work Groups regarding carbon evaluation methodologies, practice adoption and implications, baseline quantification, and future modeling considerations. The questions will be brought forward to the work groups for further clarification and included in a Frequently Asked Question and Glossary document.

6. **SURVEY RESULTS**

- a. **IMPORTANCE OF THE INITIATIVE** – The survey dispersed before the meeting asked the Task Force members why the initiative was important to them and their company/organization. The themes that were received and discussed included:
  - i. **CREATE VALUE FROM CARBON** – Establish Iowa as the leading state for carbon value creation
  - ii. **CREATE VALUE FOR FARMERS** – Enable Iowa farmers to benefit from ecosystem services including carbon
  - iii. **CLARIFY UNDERSTANDING OF CARBON MONETIZATION** – The FAQ and Glossary will provide clarification of carbon accounting, credits, offsets, insets, charismatic carbon, green loans, etc.
  - iv. **CONTINUE TO ENHANCE OUR LEADERSHIP IN CLEAN ENERGY**
- b. **OUTCOMES OF THE INITIATIVE** – The survey asked the Task Force members of hopeful outcomes of the initiative. The themes received and discussed included:
  - i. **POLICY ENABLING IOWA TO LEAD IN CARBON VALUE CREATION** – Leverage federal policies to enable Iowa to compete and lead in carbon value creation to address a serious global issue while enhancing Iowa's economic development
  - ii. **COMMON UNDERSTANDING** – Create a common understanding of the science, baseline, goals, and roles organizations can play

- iii. CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH – Create growth opportunities in Iowa for collaboration and partnership
- c. QUESTIONS FOR THE WORK GROUPS AND CORE TEAM – The survey asked the Task Force members of topics and questions they would like to pose to the work groups and consulting team. The questions were discussed with the Task Force and will be circulated in a separate document entitled Questions for the Work Groups. This will be a separate working document from the FAQ that houses the most appropriate answers to frequently asked questions. The recurring themes in the Task Force questions included:
  - i. DEFINITION OF SUCCESS – Establish clear goals for this initiative. The draft coming out of the discussion is, *“Iowa will be the leading state for creating carbon value through agricultural stewardship and energy generation.”*
  - ii. CURRENT STATE – What is the current state, working definitions, monetization options, baselines, opportunities, and policies?
  - iii. CONSTRAINTS AND BARRIERS – How can we address specific constraints and barriers (e.g., credible carbon accounting, viable markets, business models, educational and decision-making tools, coordination with federal policies, economic feasibility)
  - iv. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS – Critical success factors were discussed and included: farmer-focus, not penalizing early adopters, innovation, information platforms, the collaboration between agriculture and energy, science-based, market-based, and sound, supportive state and federal policies
7. IMPORTANCE OF CARBON TO BUSINESSES/ORGANIZATIONS – The Task Force discussed why carbon is important to their shareholders and customers. Reasoning included: Shareholders are expecting transparency and risk mitigation. ESG reporting and ratings are becoming more robust. Brands are expecting credible visibility into their supply chains regarding GHG, renewable energy, water quality and several other indicators and metrics.
8. ENERGY & AGRICULTURE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT – The Task Force identified opportunities within the energy and agriculture sector to lead in carbon (e.g., verification, certification, registry, policy, energy innovation). The Task Force and Work Groups will also seek to develop synergies that leverage the leadership in Iowa energy and Iowa’s agriculture value chain.