

Speaker Bios

Bio-Energy Production
Through
Anaerobic Digester Technology

Tuesday, January 15th, 2008
Lansing, Michigan

Stanley “Skip” Pruss: Office of the Governor

Stanley "Skip" Pruss, a graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School, now serves as Governor Granholm's Special Advisor on Renewable Energy and the Environment. Mr. Pruss served as Deputy Director of the Department of Environmental Quality from January 2003 until August, 2007.

Prior to that appointment Mr. Pruss was the Assistant Attorney General in Charge of Michigan's Consumer Protection Division and Chair of the Public Protection Practice Group within the Department of Attorney General. Mr. Pruss practiced environmental protection and natural resource law for 13 years and was the legal advisor to the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Pruss has received numerous public service awards and citations for legal advocacy during his career including selection by the American Bar Association as the 2001-2002 recipient of the Mary C. Lawton Award for Outstanding Government Service and the Michigan United Conservation Clubs Special Conservation Award.

Charles Gould: Michigan State University Extension

Charles Gould provides relevant expertise and resources to producers and growers in five West Michigan counties that enable them to maximize the benefits of manure in their farming operations. Over the past five years, much of his focus has shifted away from manure nutrient utilization on growing crops to using manure to produce energy and value added products such as compost, medium density fiberboard, and decking. This is due in large part because of cropland with high soil phosphorus levels. Since 2004, he has been successful in securing over \$152,000 in grants to support this focus area.

He has served in many leadership capacities, most recently being the Chair of the 2007 NACAA Sons and Daughters program that was hosted by Michigan State University Extension Educators. He received his Bachelors degree from Utah State University and his Masters degree from The University of Georgia. He has been with Michigan State University Extension for almost 13 years. He is happily married to Jane and they have three children, two daughters who are still at home and a son who is serving a church mission in California.

Dr. Steven Safferman: Michigan State University, Bio-systems & Agricultural Engineering

Steven Safferman joined the faculty in the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department at Michigan State University as an Associate Professor in August 2005. Formerly, he was also a faculty member at the University of Dayton, served as an environmental engineer in the U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development, and has project experience in the consulting and manufacturing industries.

Dr. Safferman has a MS and Ph.D. in environmental engineering and a BS in civil engineering, all from the University of Cincinnati. He is a professional engineer in the state of Ohio.

His research and teaching experience revolves around agricultural and human waste treatment, ecosystem engineering, waste to resource, and pollution prevention. Dr. Safferman is author or co-author on 1 patent, 4 book chapters, 22 peer-reviewed journal articles, 18 conference proceedings, and over 40 conference presentations/poster sessions. He is an associate editor for the ASCE Journal of Environmental Engineering and a member of the NSF CLEANER (Collaborative Large-Scale Engineering Analysis Network for Environmental Research) Education Planning Committee.

John Cuttica: Midwest CHP Application Center, University of Illinois @ Chicago

John Cuttica is presently the Coordinator of Energy and Environmental Programs at the Energy Resources Center located at the University of Illinois at Chicago. John also serves as the Director of the Midwest CHP Application Center, which was established by DOE in 2001 as the first of its kind Center to promote the use of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) in the 12 State Midwest Region.

John has been in the energy field for over 25 years, with most of his career spent in the energy R&D area, having held the position of VP of End Use Research at the Gas Research Institute for more than ten years.

Mr. Cuttica holds an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from the Catholic University of America in Washington DC and a Masters in Engineering Administration from the George Washington Univ. also located in Washington DC.

Tom Stanton: Michigan Public Service Commission

Tom Stanton is Coordinator of the Michigan Public Service Commission's Michigan Renewable Energy Program. He has worked in state government for over 29 years, in the fields of public utility regulation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. Tom has also been Adjunct Professor at MSU and is a regular lecturer for the Institute of Public Utilities at MSU.

Mr. Stanton earned a B.A. in Communications and M.A. in Journalism, both from MSU, and is presently completing his Ph.D. in Public Administration at Western Michigan University. Mr. Stanton's Ph.D. research centers on the application of ecological design

principles and advanced decision support systems to the planning and public policy decision making for future electric utility infrastructure for Michigan.

Gene DeRossett: USDA Rural Development

Gene DeRossett served in the Michigan Legislature as a State Representative from 1999-2004. As a lawmaker, he chaired the Agriculture and Resource Management Committee and the Transportation Committee. He became a licensed Realtor in 1968, and has been a licensed contractor since 1970. He is also the founder and President of DeRossett Construction, Inc.

DeRossett was appointed State Director for USDA Rural Development in Michigan in February 2006. He supervises 130 full-time federal employees, managing \$2 billion in total assets. Last year, the agency provided \$424 million in loans, grants and loan guarantees to rural Michigan residents.

DeRossett resides with his wife Sandy in Manchester, Michigan and has two grown children, a daughter Lorie and a son Alan and five grandchildren.

Larry Urban: GreenStone Farm Credit

Larry Urban is a Vice President of Commercial Lending for the GreenStone Farm Credit Services with over 25 years of agricultural finance experience. Larry currently manages a loan portfolio in excess of \$100 million consisting primarily of large commercial farms in the swine, dairy, and layer industries. Larry has been involved in the financing of several bio-energy projects.

GreenStone Farm Credit Services is Michigan's largest agricultural lender, with several locations in Northeast Wisconsin as well. Headquartered in East Lansing, MI, GreenStone is the country's fourth largest association in the Farm Credit System. They are a \$3.9 billion organization of 16,000 members with 37 branches throughout Michigan and Wisconsin.

Frank Ruswick: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Frank Ruswick is the Senior Policy Advisor for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). As such, Mr. Ruswick advises and provides direction on policy and program issues across the breadth of DEQ responsibilities. His role includes analysis of legislative proposals and representing the Department in legislative negotiations and in discussions with other agencies, governmental units, and private organizations. He facilitates the DEQ Environmental Advisory Council.

Frank formerly served in the DEQ Waste and Hazardous Materials Division, most recently as Assistant Division Chief. He supervised the Division's solid waste,

hazardous waste, storage tank, and radiological protection programs. He also oversaw the Division's enforcement efforts including administrative and civil proceedings.

Mr. Ruswick has been employed by the Departments of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources since 1987 and has served as the Assistant to the Deputy Director for Environmental Protection and Chief of the Office of Special Services.

Previously, Frank served as the Executive Director of the West Michigan Environmental Action Council (1982-1987) and as an Attorney for the United States Department of the Interior (1980-1982).

Frank Ruswick holds Juris Doctor and Master of Science degrees from the University of Michigan. His undergraduate degree in Political Science is from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. He is a member of the Michigan and Wisconsin Bars.

Todd Parker: Delta Institute

Todd Parker is an Associate for the Delta Institute, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose missions is to implement projects that integrate environmental quality and community economic development. Todd coordinates the Michigan Conservation and Climate Initiative, an innovative program that allows landowners to earn carbon offset credits for implementing certain conservation practices.

In addition, Todd manages Delta's Managed Forest Carbon Offset and Trading Program, a new initiative that quantifies the carbon sequestration potential of existing forestlands and allows landowners to earn carbon credits for sustainably managed forestlands.

Todd holds a Master of Studies degree in Environmental Law from the Vermont Law School and a Bachelors degree in Forestry from Michigan State University. Todd lives in Lansing and manages the Delta Institute's Michigan office.

Michelle Crook: Michigan Department of Agriculture

Michelle is the Engineering Specialist with Michigan Department of Agriculture, Environmental Stewardship Division. She provides engineering assistance to the department on a variety of issues related to the development of anaerobic digester systems and certification of anaerobic digester operators.

Michelle also works with the local conservation districts to provide technical assistance to landowners in the design and construction of conservation practices. Prior to MDA, Michelle worked for Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on drinking water distribution and wastewater treatment systems, and with Michigan Department of Transportation on environmental contamination investigation and remediation.

Michelle has a BS in environmental engineering from Michigan Technological University and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Michigan.

Norma McDonald: Phase 3 Developments & Investments LLC

Norma grew up on a 100-acre farm in Zeeland, Michigan, She graduated from University of Wisconsin and then served as an officer in the US Marines, before joining Procter & Gamble of Cincinnati. During her 21-years at P&G, she held a variety of positions in chemical purchasing and business development, including five years focused on the commercialization of biodegradable plastics derived from fermentation and three years purchasing the company's \$400 million+ of detergent enzymes.

She has now returned to her agricultural routes, with a passion for commercialization of farm waste to energy systems and synergistic bio-based products. She is currently the Operating Manager and member of a start-up company, Phase 3 Developments & Investments, LLC, focused on working with farmers primarily in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana to simultaneously address growing environmental challenges and create new profit centers. Phase 3 currently has 3 projects under construction, including two on-farm systems and one at a cheese factory.

Melissa Dvorak: GHD Inc.

Melissa Dvorak is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she earned a B.B.A. in accounting. Melissa obtained her CPA and worked as an auditor at two large accounting firms in Minneapolis for five years. She then returned to school and completed the MBA program at Indiana University in 2004, majoring in marketing and strategy. Upon graduation, Melissa joined her family's business, GHD, Inc., and assumed the role of Marketing Manager.

GHD is located in Chilton, Wisconsin and has over 23 digester systems installed throughout the country.

Sarah Lineberry: Entec Biogas USA

Effective January 1, 2008, Reynolds, Inc., the General Contractor for the Digester Plant at the den Dulk Dairy Farm in Ravenna, and Entec, the Austrian technology company, partnered together to form Entec Biogas USA. Entec is a proven leader in the European biogas digester market having experience in the design and construction of numerous facilities involving animal, food processing, and other organic wastes for over 30 years. Reynolds, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary company of Layne Christensen Company (LAYN), which specializes in providing sophisticated services to the drilling, mining, energy, water and agricultural sectors. The newly formed partnership has based their initial operations out of the MAREC facility located in Muskegon, MI, and has hired Sarah Lineberry to act as their business developer to develop relationships, understand the market, and find new projects.

Sarah Lineberry is a Biochemist graduate from Michigan State University. Upon graduation, Sarah worked in the semiconductor industry at Micro C Technologies, Inc., the cancer research industry at the Van Andel Research Institute, and the pharmaceutical industry at Corium International, Inc. Her latest opportunity came when Dr. Imad Mahawili, the executive Director of Grand Valley State University's Muskegon SmartZone/MAREC, was awarded a \$1 million grant to demonstrate a commercially

viable anaerobic digester technology in Michigan. Sarah was hired as the Biomass Project Manager and worked with GVSU for over two years to manage the successful completion of the Entec Biogas Anaerobic Digester Plant at the den Dulk Dairy Farm in Ravenna, Michigan.

Dana Kirk: Wilcox Inc.

Dana Kirk is Project Director of Agricultural and Waste to Energy Services for Wilcox Professional Services, LLC. Dana received BS degrees from Michigan State University in Animal Science and Bio-systems Engineering in 2000. In 2002, Dana received a MS degree in Bio-systems Engineering from Michigan State University. Dana is currently pursuing his PhD in Bio-systems Engineering, also from Michigan State. His advance degree research has included sand manure separation, nutrient management and anaerobic digestion. Dana is a Certified Crop Advisor.

Since 2000, Dana has worked as a consultant involved with nutrient management, environmental compliance and facility planning on production livestock farms around the Midwest. In 2005 Dana co-authored a grant from the Michigan Public Service Commission that assisted in the construction of a 3 million gallon anaerobic system on a commercial dairy using sand bedding. The project was constructed at Green Meadow Farms, Inc. Dana also served as a project engineer assisting in the design and overseeing the project construction.

Dana has also coordinated a feasibility study for Michigan State that evaluated the potential for developing a treatment system for the South Campus Farms. The feasibility study included collection, transfer and treatment of various animal manures at a central location. The goal of the project was to reduce odor and export phosphorus. In the study, anaerobic digestion was used as the primary or cornerstone treatment step. The study was presented to the University in October of 2007.

Dan Fields: Coca Cola North America

Dan is the Safety, Environmental & Security Manager at Coca-Cola North America in Paw Paw, Michigan. He is responsible for implementation of policies and programs to ensure compliance with safety and environmental regulations, company requirements, and plant security.

Dan has been with Coca-Cola for 8 years, first as a project engineer (1999 – 2004), and now a the Safety, Environmental and Security Manager (2004 – present).

Mr Fields holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from The Ohio State University, in 1997. Dan lives in Paw Paw, is a member of the Van Buren County Local Emergency Planning Committee, and is also a Certified Safety Professional.

Nick Fortune: Microgy, Inc.

Nick has been involved in water and energy management for 14 years with 3 of those years spent specifically in process simulation and efficiency improvement activities. He now specializes in farm solutions for renewable energy.

Nick is employed by Microgy Inc. Microgy and its parent company Environmental Power Corporation, have several anaerobic digester systems installed in the US. For example they have the Five Star Dairy facility in Wisconsin and the large 8 digester facility in Huckabay Ridge, Texas.

Mike DiBernardo: Economic Development Specialist, Michigan Department of Agriculture

Mike DiBernardo is an economic development specialist, currently works for the Michigan Department of Agriculture in the Agriculture Development Division (AgD). He started in the Fairs, Racing, and Expositions Division and progressed to the Finance and Administrative Services Division before working in AgD.

Michael now works on the Julian-Stille Value-Added grant program, bio-economy issues, the promotion of new products, businesses, and emerging technologies.

He facilitates with other state/ local/ federal governmental agencies, financial institutions, industry groups, food processors, Michigan's universities and other outside organizations to enhance the Michigan food and agriculture industry.

