



Biomass Research & Development
Technical Advisory Committee
2018 New Member Introduction

August 22, 2018

- Why does the Biomass R&D Initiative Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”) exist?
- Who makes up the TAC?
- What does the TAC actually do?
- To whom are we directing our advice and recommendations?
- How do we go about evaluating, advising and making recommendations?
- What else do we need to be reminded of?

Why have a “TAC”?



- Because Congress said so, twice
- Congress thought it was important for:
 - The proper conduct of BRDI programs
 - Getting farther, faster, given resource constraints
 - Breaking open silos

What does the TAC actually do?



- Statutory requirements
- Reports back to BRDI Board
 - Delivers quarterly and annual reports
 - Participates in BRDI Board meetings (quarterly or as scheduled)
- Periodic interaction with agencies through RFIs
- Evolving activities / focus

- TAC functions under FACA rules
- TAC meetings are public meetings
 - Meeting notices appear in the Federal Register
 - Opportunity for non-Committee attendees (general public, special interest, agencies, etc.)
- Subcommittee meetings are not public meetings
- Elevate public service and collective benefits over personal/private interests and objectives
- Role of the Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
- Role of the TAC support staff

Who makes up the TAC?



- **Diverse group:**
 - Perspective: academia, government, private industry, NGO (missing finance)
 - Objective: R&D, commercialization, policy
 - Interest/Expertise: biomass, conversion technologies, products, markets (upstream, midstream, downstream)
 - Stage/Phase: from early ideas to steady/growth stage
 - Regional Interests: diverse geographies
- **With commonalities:**
 - “Enlightened” about the potential benefits that can be realized with a robust and smart bioeconomy
 - Well seasoned in our respective fields, industries, perspectives
 - Willing to “donate” valuable time to the work of the TAC
- **All members are selected, vetted and appointed**

Who is our audience?



- Statutorily: DOE and USDA
 - Specifically, BRDI program leadership and staff
- Other federal agencies
 - Specifically, Biomass IWG and OpsCo
- Congress
 - Considering reauthorization and/or funding
- Administration
 - Particularly a new Administration

HOW do we conduct TAC business?



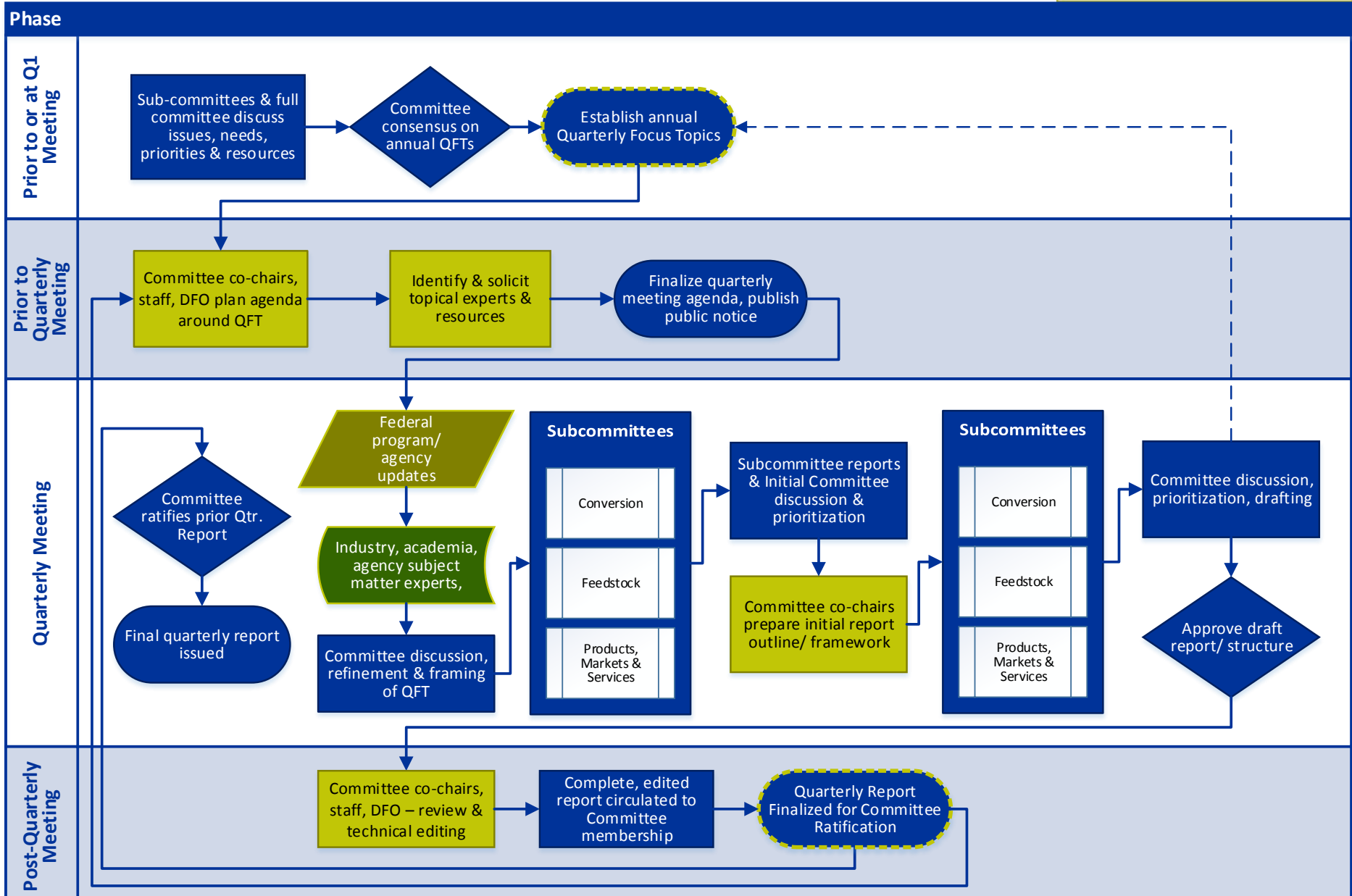
- Within FACA guidelines & requirements
- It's up to the Committee to determine
- Evolves over time
 - Have moved from an annual report to a set of quarterly topical reports
 - Provides more interaction with BRDI Board and more in-depth focus on timely, specific topics
- Precedent for holding quarterly meetings in D.C.
 - In most years, have held one quarterly meeting outside D.C., at a location facilitating hands-on exploration of specific sites, programs, facilities, technologies, etc.

Quarterly Focus Topics



- Committee staff and leadership will use each Quarterly Focus Topic (QFT) to plan the Committee's quarterly meeting agenda.
 - Invite agency staff and outside experts to help the Committee collectively understand, frame, and discuss each QFT.
- During each quarterly Committee meeting, the Committee will break out into more focused sub-groups (e.g., Feedstocks, Conversion, Products/ Markets/ Systems) to discuss the QFT in more granular detail or from a particular perspective.
- Collectively, the Committee develops a framework and key themes/ideas on each QFT for preparation and dissemination of a written brief on each QFT.
 - Reports synthesize the Committee's discussion in an issue brief, ideally 2 pages or less.
 - All Committee members review and comment and adopt the QFT issue brief.

Committee Process



- General:
 - The topic should be highly relevant for our stakeholders.
 - The topic should be balanced in depth and scope.
 - The topic should lend itself to timely distillation into an external communication.
 - Ideally, at least some of the QFTs should be actionable.
- Current QFT:
 - *Opportunities & Challenges for Biobased Plastics R&D*

- Remember that all full Committee meetings are open, public meetings
- Sub-Committee Co-Chairs generally synthesize and present the sub-committee's input to the larger group
- Professional staff assist with note taking & synthesis
- Cooperative efforts to hold organized, respectful, open discussion appreciated
 - Recognition by a Co-Chair to speak
 - Raise placard sign
 - Co-Chairs keep a running list of requests to speak/ comment
 - Try to observe the “rule of thirds”