

# Speaker Biographies for the MGA Maximizing Bioenergy in the Midwest Meeting

## **Jeff Broin, POET**

Jeff Broin is the Chairman and CEO of the world's largest producer of renewable fuels, POET. The 27 POET plants have a combined production capacity of 1.8 billion gallons of biofuel and 10 billion pounds of distillers grain and other co-products annually. In 1987, Broin and his family purchased a foreclosed ethanol plant in Scotland, SD where Broin served as the plant's General Manager. The facility quickly became a success which led to the development of dozens of production plants and the formation of several business entities that allow POET to operate a vertically integrated business system. The business entities include project development, design and construction, plant management, research and development, ethanol marketing and distiller's grain marketing.

POET has also partnered with Royal DSM in a joint venture to commercialize and license cellulosic bio-ethanol at Project LIBERTY in Emmetsburg, Iowa. This project added one of the first cellulose plants in the world that converts corn waste products into fuel while exporting energy to an existing POET grain-based facility.

Broin has taken the initiative to actively promote renewable fuels by serving on several boards of directors and committees including his current role as Co-Chairman of Growth Energy. Broin is also strongly involved in charitable efforts outside the renewable fuels industry. His family recently formed Seeds of Change which is a non-profit foundation that supports Mission Greenfield, a project which spreads agriculture technology throughout Africa, and Mission Greenhouse, a multi-year project to grow a school for disadvantaged girls in Kenya, Africa.

## **Martin Adkins, U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Marty Adkins serves the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Iowa as Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships. In this position, he works to develop working partnerships with other organizations in all sectors to benefit conservation. He also directs NRCS programs dealing with water resources.

During his 36 year career with NRCS in Iowa, he has also served in a variety of capacities at the state and local level, in locations across Iowa. He also worked for two years as a professional farm manager.

Marty, his wife Carol and their family live in Knoxville, Iowa. He graduated with a degree in Agronomy from Iowa State University in 1980. He grew up on a grain and livestock farm near Council Bluffs, Iowa.

## **Emily Heaton, Iowa State University**

Emily Heaton is an Associate Professor of Agronomy at Iowa State University (<http://faculty.agron.iastate.edu/heaton/>). She received her PhD in Crop Sciences from the University of Illinois, then worked for a plant genetics company called Ceres before joining Iowa State University in 2008. Her group aims to understand the growth and productivity of perennial C4 grasses, and how they can be managed to provide multiple ecosystem services, especially bioenergy.

## **M. Cristina Negri, Argonne National Laboratory**

During her more than 20 years at Argonne, M. Cristina Negri conducted and directed laboratory to full-scale multidisciplinary projects developing technologies and concepts for environmental remediation and stewardship, including soil remediation and water treatment. She has researched sustainable technologies for urban environmental improvement.

As well, Cristina works on the integration of bioenergy within working agricultural landscapes to address the food, energy, water, and land nexus. Her work focuses on developing sustainable, multifunctional landscape concepts, which aim, by design, at the creation of ecosystems services. Her interests are in systems approaches where industrial ecology concepts are applied to water and land management and green infrastructure.

Cristina is a Senior Fellow with the Energy Policy Institute at the Harris School and a Fellow of the Institute of Molecular Engineering, both at the University of Chicago. She is also a Fellow of the Northwestern University—Argonne Institute of Science and Engineering. She earned her Dottore in Scienze Agrarie Degree (Agricultural Sciences) at the University of Milan in Milan, Italy.

Prior to joining Argonne, Cristina worked in private industry in Italy as a research and development manager and as a liaison with universities and other Italian national research organizations. Her research focused on developing methods for the sustainable, beneficial reuse of industrial and urban waste and for pollution mitigation in agriculture. This work was in support of a state-of-the-art, innovative, large facility for the treatment and beneficial recovery of waste products in agriculture. She also served as the Convener of a CEN (the European Standardization Organization) Working Group, leading experts from European Union Nations toward the creation of European environmental standards for agricultural commodities.

## **Dave Broihahn, Unison Solutions, Inc.**

Dave Broihahn is the co-founder of Unison Solutions Inc. a Dubuque, IA company that specializes in the design and manufacturing of biogas conditioning systems. Dave received his electrical engineering degree from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and has 30 years of engineering, construction and operations experience.

### **Paul Cammack, Black Hills Energy**

Paul Cammack is a key Account Representative for Black Hills Energy in Nebraska, along with unofficially managing the biogas projects across our company. Paul has been with BHE for more than eleven years, starting as a gas distribution engineer. Prior to BHE, he worked for a consulting firm and the Nebraska DOT. Registered Professional Engineer with a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Nebraska.

### **Stephanie Weisenbach, Iowa Economic Development Authority**

Stephanie Weisenbach is the coordinator of the Iowa Clean Cities Coalition, a program supported by the US Department of Energy, focusing on alternative fuels and transportation efficiency. Housed at the Iowa Economic Development Authority's Energy Office, Stephanie is engaged in other state-led energy initiatives. Her background includes sustainability initiatives, community development and non-profit programs.

### **Chris Roach, Roeslein Alternative Energy**

Chris Roach – Director, has over 20 years of experience in the energy, environmental, and manufacturing sectors as an engineer, manager, project developer, business developer, and director. Chris has led the development of next-generation biofuel, biochemical and bio power technologies and projects, including sustainable, large scale biomass production and supply chains. He also led the development of one of the first cellulosic ethanol projects to ever be built, a 25 million gallon per year enzymatic hydrolysis facility, utilizing corn stover, wheat straw, and energy crops such as switchgrass. Chris' breadth of energy experience also includes solar, wind, hydro-kinetic, and gasification.

### **Robert Brown, Iowa State University**

Dr. Robert Brown is Anson Marston Distinguished Professor in Engineering and Gary and Donna Hoover Chair in Mechanical Engineering at Iowa State University (ISU). Dr. Brown is the founding director of the Bioeconomy Institute (BEI), which coordinates ISU's activities in biorenewables. His own research focuses on thermochemical processing of biomass.

### **Erin Hazen, University of Iowa**

Erin Hazen is the Renewable Energy Business Development Manager with University of Iowa Facilities Management. Erin is responsible to develop a robust, sustainable biomass supply chain to provide a diverse set of biobased fuels to eventually replace coal on campus. She brings nine years' experience in the renewable energy industry, notably building new supply chains for wind turbine manufacturing, as well as managing wind and solar energy project development. Prior to this, Ms. Hazen has thirteen years of experience in Materials Management in the manufacturing sector.

### **Allen Philo, BioStar Organics**

Allen Philo is Vice President of Sales & Operations for BioStar Organics. A farmer with a decade of experience in fertilizer sales and organic farming, Allen holds a B.S. in Soils from the University of Wisconsin. He has worked both in managing large organic farms to acting as a crop consultant for farms from North Dakota to Ontario. In addition to his work with BioStar Allen and his wife Cherrie manage their own farm in Dodgeville, WI raising Norwegian Fjord Horses and various other livestock.

### **Jay Van Roekel, Vermeer**

Jay Van Roekel is a Commercial Business Manager for Recycling & Biomass at Vermeer Corporation. He has worked at Vermeer for 30 years and has been focused on biomass opportunities since 2007, primarily focused on agricultural residue and energy crops. Vermeer works with projects around the globe providing equipment to harvest, chip and size biomass feedstocks.

### **Cliff Haefke, U.S. DOE Midwest CHP Technical Assistance Partnership**

Cliff Haefke has over 16 years of experience in the energy industry and currently serves as the Director of the Energy Resources Center (ERC), located at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). The ERC is an interdisciplinary public service, research, and special projects organization that works to improve energy efficiency and the environment, providing expertise in the areas of energy efficiency, distributed generation, utilities billing management, and biofuels and bioenergy. As Director, Cliff oversees the Center's business and research efforts and is responsible for the Center's strategic direction. At the ERC, Cliff serves as the Director of the U.S. Department of

Energy (DOE) sponsored Midwest CHP Technical Assistance Partnership, a technical outreach program that promotes combined heat and power (CHP), waste heat-to-power (WHP), and district energy CHP technologies in the industrial, commercial, and institutional market sectors in the 12 State Midwest Region. In addition, Cliff serves as the Assistant Director to the UIC's U.S. DOE Industrial Assessment Center, a program that provides no-cost energy assessments to small-to-medium sized manufacturing facilities and trains student engineers in the activities of energy assessments. Cliff has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a MBA, both from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Cliff also serves as President of the Midwest Cogeneration Association (MCA).

### **Royce Hammitt, Wastewater Specialist**

Royce is a graduate of the University of Iowa with 30 years of wastewater treatment experience, most recently as the manager of Operations and Maintenance at the Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Facility. In 1993, they began experimenting with accepting high strength hauled waste in order to enhance biogas production and benefit local industry. Their success with hauled wastes led to an evolving practice of looking for new ways to use biogas in order to produce the greatest economic and environmental benefit. Education includes: Clemson University, Reliability Engineering, 2012, University of Iowa, B.S., General Science, 1981

## **Jeff Hove, Iowa Electric Auto Association**

Jeff Hove is a serial environmental entrepreneur with a long track record of success. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a degree in Hydrogeology and emphasis on contaminate transport modeling, remediation, and chemistry. After completing his education he worked on several projects for the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Defense, among other federal agencies. He was even appointed as a board member by the governor of Iowa on projects for expanding renewable fuel infrastructure across the state.

In 2007 he was the primary developer of the RINAlliance Program that helped fuel marketers blend lower-emission renewable fuels while increasing margins — a real win-win for the economy and the environment. The compliance and market-making technology they developed helped hundreds of companies use billions of EPA-certified credits to maximize value while reducing millions of tons of emissions.

He soon recognized the need for the owners and drivers of electric vehicles (EVs) to have the opportunity to be supported in a similar way. Jeff founded EVOH in 2016 to bring his vision for a win-win strategy to EV owners and business with shared value and shared responsibility for the environment.