

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #99 Meeting Summary

DATE: November 9, 2016

LOCATION: Washington State Dept. of Ecology, Eastern Regional Office, Spokane WA.

<u>Members Present</u>		<u>Representing</u>
Karen Wood- Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Mike Buckley	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community
Dan McCarthy	Okanogan Hort. Association	Agricultural Community
Larry Cochran	WA. Assn. of Conservation Districts	Conservation Districts
Julie Oliver	Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities
<u>Alternates Present</u>		<u>Representing</u>
Scott Steinbacher	WA. Dept. of Agriculture	WA. Dept. of Agriculture
Charles Golob	Crop and Soil Sciences	Academia, (Crop & Soil)
<u>Members Absent</u>		<u>Representing</u>
Michael Bush	WSU Extension	Academia, (Tree Fruit)
Jay Penner	Washington Association of Wheat Growers	Agricultural Community
Sverre Vedal	University of Washington	Public Health

Introductions, Announcements

The 99th Task Force meeting was held at the Washington State Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office in Spokane, Washington. The Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting began at 10:00AM with the introduction of Task Force members and guests.

The November meeting is reserved for a yearly agricultural burning program recap and a discussion about the previous year's burn season. The November meeting is also scheduled for scoping changes and discussion about Best Management Practices, (BMP's). At this meeting, the Task Force also heard updates from researchers conducting research on alternatives to agricultural burning who have received fees from Ecology to conduct such research.

Research

One presentation was made on continuing research. This presentation can be found at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research.htm>

Fall Burn Season 2016 Recap

Kary Peterson, Department of Ecology, (Ecology), Eastern Regional Office presented the 2016 agricultural burning recap. The total acres permitted for agricultural burning in 2016 was just

over 100,000, compared to just under 100,000 acres last year, a small increase, but still well below the long-term average of 150,000-160,000 acres per year. The number of complaints about agricultural burning was 18 in 2016, down from 29 in 2015. Ecology's Agricultural Burn Program has been using a new tool developed with the help of ventilation forecasting modelers. The use of this tool gives Ecology better forecasts of smoke ventilation and affords improved burn decisions.

Best Management Practices

Task Force Member Julie Oliver presented Ecology staff with several suggestions on "clean-up" for the Agricultural Burning Best Management Practices (BMPs), small edits meant to improve the usability and clarity of the BMPs. Ecology staff will consider these changes and submit draft versions of the BMPs with the suggested changes highlighted for the Task Forces consideration at the next meeting.

2017 Meeting Schedule

The Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force Governance Document was changed such that future meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of February, June, and November. The vote on this change was unanimous. The regularly scheduled meetings for 2017 were set for Wednesday, February 1st, Wednesday, June 7th and Wednesday, November 1st, 2014 at the Eastern Regional Office of the Dept. of Ecology.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.