

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #100 Meeting Summary

DATE: February 1, 2017

LOCATION: Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office, Spokane WA.

<u>Members Present</u>		<u>Representing</u>
Karen Wood- Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Bill Johnston	Washington State University	Academia (Crop & Soil)
Dan McCarthy	Okanogan Horticultural Association	Agricultural Community
Don Potts	WA Dept of Agriculture	WA Dept of Agriculture
Mike Buckley	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community
Troy Henderson	Whitman County Public Health Department	Public Health
Larry Cochran	Washington Association of Conservation Districts	Conservation Districts
<u>Alternates Present</u>		
Robin Priddy	Benton Clean Air Agency	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities

Introductions, Announcements

The 100th Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on February 1st, 2017, at the Department of Ecology's Eastern Regional Office in Spokane, Washington. The Task Force meeting began with the introduction of Task Force members and guests.

The February meeting is reserved for updating the Task Force on the Agricultural Burning Program costs and revenues, hearing research project reports, scoping future funding needs and discussing research direction. Per the Task Force Governance Document it is also scheduled for scoping changes and discussion about Best Management Practices, (BMP's).

History of the Task Force

Karen Wood discussed some of the historical achievements of the Task Force as part of celebrating this 100th meeting.

News and Updates, Agricultural Burn Program Costs and Revenues

Jay Carmony of Ecology's Central Region presented a short review of the enhanced silvicultural prescribed burning program set out in the last legislative session. Kary Peterson, from Ecology's Eastern Regional, presented first a review of proposed legislation in the current legislative session, and also information showing how much money the Agricultural Burning Program brought in from permit fee revenue, and how much the program cost to operate over the past

several years. The results show that the agricultural burn program has brought in about 85% of what it costs to run the program on average over the past 4 complete fiscal years, but that last year (Fiscal Year 2016) the program only brought in 73% of expenditures. This shortfall was due to low revenue caused by relatively few acres burnt.

Research Update Presentations and Future Research Direction

There were no research presentations at this meeting.

Task Force Discussion

The Task Force asked to have Ecology draft a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit research grant proposals for the 2017-2019 funding cycle which begins July 1, 2017.

Submitted proposals should be distributed to Task Force prior to the next meeting.

BMP's

The Task Force did not discuss the BMPs at this meeting. Only minor bookkeeping and grammatical changes were requested at the November, 2016 meeting. These have been made and drafts including these changes were distributed to the Task Force members prior to meeting #100. Very few suggestions for changes were tendered. The Task Force will review the BMPs with the included changes at the June, 2017 meeting prior to voting and renewing each BMP.

Guest Presentation: Drew Lyon, Herbicide Resistance in Weeds

Dr. Lyon presented on herbicide resistance in weeds: the history, mechanisms, and prevention thereof. One of the key messages in preventing herbicide resistance in weeds is to vary both cropping and weed reduction strategies from year to year, not doing the same thing year after year. Washington State University has online tools available for farmers involving weed herbicide resistance and many other topics at <http://smallgrains.wsu.edu/>

Grant Pfeiffer, currently the Regional Director for the Dept of Ecology Eastern Region, and formerly the Regional Manager for the Air Quality Program in the Eastern Region, lauded the accomplishments over the last fifteen to twenty years of both Washington's Agricultural Burning unit, and of the Task Force. Together, they have helped to shape a system which is referred to and emulated not just within the United States, but worldwide.

The next meeting will be held June 7th, 2017.