

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #102 Meeting Summary

DATE: November 1, 2017

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

<u>Members Present</u>		<u>Representing</u>
Kary Peterson-Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Larry Cochran	Washington Assoc. of Conservation Districts	Conservation Districts
Julie Oliver	Benton Clean Air Agency	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities
Troy Henderson	Whitman County Public Health Department	Public Health
Dan McCarthy	Okanogan Horticultural Association	Agricultural Community
Scott Steinbacher	WA. Dept of Agriculture	WA. Dept. of Agriculture
Mike Buckley	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community
<u>Members Absent</u>		
Michael Bush	WSU Extension	Academia, (Tree Fruit)
Jay Penner	Washington Association of Wheat Growers	Agricultural Community
Bill Johnston	Washington State University	Academia (Crop and Soil)

Introductions, Announcements

The 102nd Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on November 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. Sitting Chair Kary Peterson announced two changes to the membership of the Task Force. Former Chair, Karen Wood, has moved to a different position within Ecology. Dave Knight replaces her as head of Ecology's Air Program in the Eastern Regional Office, and as such will fill the role of Chair of the Ag Burn Task Force starting with meeting #103 in February. Mr. Peterson also introduced Scott Steinbacher, who will represent the Washington Department of Agriculture on the Task Force.

The November meeting of the Task Force is normally reserved for the annual burning summary and hearing proposals for changes in the Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Research Presentations

The Task Force received final progress reports from two research projects.

Management of Fresh Wheat Residue for Irrigated Winter Canola Production

And

Alternatives for Managing Wheat Straw: Assessing Soil Water Storage, Nutrient Status and Removal, and Weed Management

Presentations and Reports are available online at:

<https://www.ezview.wa.gov/?alias=1962&pageid=37051>

Denial of Grass Seed Filed Burn Permit Application

Derek Aubrey of the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency presented the Task Force with a summary of the application for burning of a field of grass grown for seed. He detailed how the laws and rules on Agricultural Burning in Washington preclude this activity and how the permit was not issued.

Question about Exempt Agricultural Burning

Task Force Member Larry Cochran brought to the task force's attention an incident which happened recently in Spokane County. The incident involved exempt agricultural burning and whether this type of burning required a permit. With the help of fellow task force member Julie Oliver, Spokane Clean Air Agency employee Derek Aubrey, and Washington Association of Wheat Growers representative Lori Williams, it was determined that the incident was caused by a misunderstanding. The solution is to continue communications between clean air agencies (responsible for air quality) and fire districts (responsible for fire safety.)

Introduction of Ecology Smoke Planner

Kary Peterson introduced Dave Grant, who started as Ecology's smoke planner, based in Lacey, in September. Mr. Grant gave a review of the impacts of wildfire smoke to Washington's air quality over the past several years, and discussed how silvicultural burning practices have the potential to impact agricultural burning in the future.

2017 Burn Review

Kary Peterson presented a review of Agricultural burning for 2017. He mentioned that the number of acres and tons permitted were up slightly from 2016, and that there were 24 NO BURN days in Eastern Washington caused by impacts from wildfire smoke this year.

BMP's

There were no suggested modifications to the BMPs at this time.

2018 Meeting Schedule

The Task force members agreed to schedule the meetings for 2018 on February 7th, June 6th, and November 7.

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Next Meeting

The next meeting (Meeting #103) of the Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force will be on Tuesday, February 7th, 2018, from 10am to 4pm in Spokane, Washington.