

## Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #103 Meeting Summary

DATE: February 7, 2018

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

<b><u>Members Present</u></b>		<b><u>Representing</u></b>
Dave Knight- Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Bill Johnston	Washington State University	Academia (Crop & Soil)
Dan McCarthy	Okanogan Horticultural Association	Agricultural Community
Julie Oliver	Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities
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
Scott Steinbacher	WA. Dept of Agriculture	WA. Dept. of Agriculture

### **Introductions, Announcements**

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The 103<sup>rd</sup> Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on February 7th, 2018, 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).

### **News and Updates, Presentation from Okanogan Conservation District**

Jay Carmony presented a summary of how Ecology's Central Region is working with local governments, the Colville tribe, Okanogan county and local schools to develop community-based voluntary programs to reduce particulate pollution from burning. Leslie Michel, a soil scientist from the Okanogan Conservation District discussed a project she has been working on involving a small grant to investigate chipping and composting as an alternative to orchard tear-out burning.

### **Agricultural Burn Program Costs and Revenues**

Kary Peterson, from Ecology's Eastern Regional Office, presented 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 83% of what it costs to run the program on average over the past 4 complete fiscal years, and that last year (Fiscal Year 2017) the program brought in 82% of expenditures.

### **Research Update Presentations and Future Research Direction**

There were no research presentations at this meeting.

### **BMP's**

No changes to the BMPs were discussed or requested at this meeting.

The next meeting will be held June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.