

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #113 Meeting Summary

DATE: November 2, 2022

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting held on Teams

<u>Members Present</u>		<u>Representing</u>
David Knight-Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Larry Cochran	Washington Assoc. of Conservation Districts	Conservation Districts
Jay Penner	Washington Association of Wheat Growers	Agricultural Community
Scott Steinbacher	WA. Dept of Agriculture	WA. Dept. of Agriculture
<u>Members Absent</u>		
Bill Johnston	WSU Crop and Soil Science	Academia
Dan McCarthy	Okanogan Horticultural Association	Agricultural Community
Scott Windsor	Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities
Chris Skidmore	Whitman County Public Health Department	Public Health
Karen Lewis	WSU Extension	Academia, (Tree Fruit)
Mike Buckley	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community
<u>Alternates Present</u>		
Alyson Buckley	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community

Introductions, Announcements

The 113th Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on November 2nd, 2022 via Teams online due to limitations on travel and meeting face-to-face caused by the COVID-19 virus situation.

The November meeting is reserved for receiving an update on funded research, hearing and annual burning summary, and scoping changes to the Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Research Update

Russ Davis of Organix and Shannon Neibergs of Washington State University gave updates on the progress of their research project on the viability of using wood chips derived from orchard tear-out as a media for worms to treat dairy effluent. They have done laboratory scale studies to test the wood chips, finding that they will likely meet the requirements for the worm beds. They now look to access an appropriate chipper in order to perform a field-scale trial. The presentations can be found on the Ag. Burn Task Force page at [Department of Ecology - Committees, Boards, and Workgroups \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/Departments/Department-of-Ecology/committees-boards-and-workgroups)

2022 Burning Review

Daniel Matsche of the Washington Department of Ecology presented a review of the permitted burns so far in 2022, including a comparison of burn permits issued, acres permitted, and tons permitted from 2021 compared to 2022. There were a total of 5 complaints related to agricultural burning in 2022. Mr. Matsche also talked about the effects of long periods of poor ventilation and wildfire smoke impacts in the Fall burn season, and the challenges that brought to burners and Ecology. His presentation can be found at [Department of Ecology - Committees, Boards, and Workgroups \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/department-of-ecology/committees-boards-and-workgroups)

Best Management Practices (BMPs) Discussion

Paul Rossow from Ecology explained that there have been no calls or need of changes to the existing BMPs. When asked, the Task Force members were also not aware of any changes needed at this time.

2022 Meeting Scheduling

The 2023 regular meeting schedule of the Task Force was discussed, and the meetings were scheduled for June 7, 2023, and November 1, 2023. Ecology will attempt to schedule an in-person meeting in June.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting

The next meeting (Meeting #114) of the Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force will be on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.