

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #91 Meeting Summary

DATE: February 11, 2014

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

<u>Members Present</u>		<u>Representing</u>
Jay Penner	Washington Association of Wheat Growers	Agricultural Community
Dan McCarthy	Okanogan Horticultural Association	Agricultural Community
Michael Bush	WSU Extension	Academia, (Tree Fruit)
Michael Ingham	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community
Don Potts	WA. Dept. of Agricultural	WA. Dept. of Agriculture
Bill Johnston	Washington State University	Academia, (Crop & Soil)
Sverre Vedal	University Of Washington	Public Health
<u>Alternates Present</u>		
Kary Peterson- Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Matt Holmquist	Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities
<u>Members Absent</u>		
Karen Wood- Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Larry Cochran	WA. Assn. of Conservation Districts	Conservation Districts
Gary Pruitt	Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities

Introductions, Announcements

The 91st Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on February 11th, 2014, 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).

Research Update Presentations

The research projects Ecology funded during the 2013-2015 biennium are beginning the funding cycle and researchers were invited to share their preliminary results at this meeting. The presenters discussed what they had accomplished over the past 6 months, how their research was

progressing, problems they had encountered, and solutions they were trying. The presentations are in PDF format and are located below:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/StrawMgt_Pres_Spring2014.pdf

And

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/CanolaRes_Pres_Spring2014.pdf

Agricultural Burn Program Costs and Revenues

Kary Peterson, from Ecology's Eastern Regional Office, presented a chart showing the costs of the Agricultural Burn program and the revenue received from permit fees to the program. One highlight was that due to the increase in agricultural burning permit fees instituted on July 1, 2012, the budget for the Ecology's Agricultural smoke management program for fiscal year (FY) 2013 was closer to being neutral than it has ever been. In FY 2013, the permit fee revenue was about 87% of the costs of the program, steadily up from 33% in FY2010, 34% in FY11, and 67% in FY12.

BMP's

Ecology presented the Task Force with a summary of the acres burned in Fall 2013 for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) take-out and acres which had been "chem.-fallowed." After discussion, the task force asked Ecology to draft changes to the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Cereal Grains and to the field burn permit application which would clearly require growers to meet minimum residue requirements at the time of permitting, rather than at the time of harvest. These draft changes are to be shared with the Task Force members and conservation districts prior to the next Task Force meeting in June. The task force saw no need for changes to the BMPs regarding the burning of CRP take-out, but preferred that this continued to be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The next meeting will be held June 10, 2014.