

## Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #96 Meeting Summary

DATE: November 10, 2015

LOCATION: Washington State Dept. of Ecology, Eastern Regional Office, Spokane WA.

<b><u>Members Present</u></b>		<b><u>Representing</u></b>
Karen Wood- Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Julie Oliver	Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities
Michael Ingham	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community
Bill Johnston	Crop and Soil Sciences	Academia, (Crop & Soil)
Larry Cochran	WA. Assn. of Conservation Districts	Conservation Districts
Don Potts	WA. Dept. of Agriculture	WA. Dept. of Agriculture
<b><u>Alternates Present</u></b>		<b><u>Representing</u></b>
Mary Palmer Sullivan	Cereal Grain Industry	Agricultural Community
<b><u>Members Absent</u></b>		<b><u>Representing</u></b>
Sverre Vedal	University of Washington	Public Health
Dan McCarthy	Okanogan Hort. Association	Agricultural Community
Jay Penner	Washington Association of Wheat Growers	Agricultural Community
Michael Bush	WSU Extension	Academia, (Tree Fruit)

### **Introductions, Announcements**

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The 96<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting was held at the Washington State Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office in Spokane, Washington. The Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting began at 10:10AM with the introduction of Task Force members and guests.

The November meeting is reserved for a yearly agricultural burning program recap and a discussion about the previous year's burn season. The November meeting is also scheduled for scoping changes and discussion about Best Management Practices, (BMP's) as well as scheduling the meetings for the upcoming year.

### **Fall Burn Season 2015 Recap**

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Kary Peterson, representing the Department of Ecology (Ecology) presented the 2015 agricultural burning recap. The total acres permitted for agricultural burning in 2015 was slightly less than 100,000. This is about 40,000 acres less than in the average year. About 7000 acres of this amount was the burning of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) fields. The number of complaints about agricultural burning was 29 in 2015. There were 66 complaints related to non-agricultural outdoor burning. These numbers are about average over the last several years.

Seven of the complaints resulted from several burn days in February, during which the communities of College Place and Walla Walla were impacted by smoke from alfalfa seed field burning. Ecology contracted with Gary Bennett, a meteorologist, to examine the burn decision on the worst of those days with the purpose of this examination being that Ecology learn what happened on that day to allow for smoke from agricultural burning to impact Walla Walla. Bennett had several suggestions for Ecology, including using the meteorological model which is issued on the morning of the burn (which is available slightly too late for use on many days) rather than the one issued the night before. Paul Rossow (Ecology) let the Task Force members know about some work Ecology is doing with Northwest Air Quest, a consortium of agencies which funds meteorological modelling at the University of Washington. Ecology is advocating for a model run which will be available at the time Ecology needs it to make the daily burn decision, and is also working with the modelers to develop a graphic which better illustrates when and how much burning to allow on a given day. Ecology recommended and the Task Force agreed to extend the contract for Professor Schillinger's research project involving canola, and to not issue an extra Request for Research Proposals in the 2015-2016 timeframe.

### **Best Management Practices**

After some discussion of the Orchard Burn Best Management Practices (BMP) and how some burning issued a Pile Burn Permit doesn't fall under that Pile Burn BMP, Karen Wood directed Ecology staff to work with locals to develop a draft "Pile Burn BMP".

### **Task Force Governance and Membership**

Karen Wood encouraged task force members to suggest alternate members, if alternates for their positions have not already been appointed.

### **2016 Meeting Schedule**

The Task Force Members agreed to the meeting dates below for 2016. The regularly scheduled meetings for 2016 were set for Wednesday, February 10, Wednesday, June 8, and Wednesday, November 9, 2014 at the Eastern Regional Office of the Dept. of Ecology.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.