

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #97 Meeting Summary

DATE: February 10, 2016

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
Larry Cochran	WA. Assn. of Conservation Districts	Conservation Districts
Karen Wood- Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Julie Oliver	Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities
<u>Members Absent</u>		
Sverre Vedal	University Of Washington	Public Health
Bill Johnston	Washington State University	Academia, (Crop & Soil)

Introductions, Announcements

The 97th Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on February 10th, 2016, 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 2015-2017 biennium are beginning the funding cycle and researchers were invited to share their preliminary results at this meeting. The presenter discussed what they had accomplished over the past 6 months and how their research was progressing. The presentation is in PDF format and are located below:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research.htm>

This presentation was followed by one by Robert Elleman of the Environmental Protection Agency providing preliminary results from an in-depth field smoke research project on smoke from agricultural field burns conducted in Idaho and Washington in 2013.

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. In the last three full fiscal years, 2013-2015, the permit fee revenue averaged about 93% of the costs of the program.

Ag Burn Task Force Governance

The Task Force voted to change the governance to reflect the schedule change agreed to at the previous Task Force meeting (#96). In the future, meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of February, June, and November.

Best Management Practices

Ecology presented a draft version of a proposed Non-orchard Pile Burning Best Management Practices (BMP) document. The Task Force members had several suggestions to improve the document. The next step will be to incorporate those improvements, and then to share the draft with the Task Force members, conservation districts, local clean air authorities, and potentially affected stakeholders (Christmas tree farms, vineyards) prior to the next Task Force meeting in June.

The next meeting will be held June 8, 2016.