

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #89 Meeting Summary

DATE: June 11, 2013

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

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

Introductions, Announcements

The 89th Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on June 11th, 2013 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 June meeting of the Task Force is normally reserved for hearing research project proposals. The Task Force recommends which projects they would like to fund and the amount of funding they would like to provide. Lastly, the Task Force considers revising, amending, and approving the Best Management Practices, (BMP's) for the upcoming year.

Research Presentations

The Task Force received final reports from two research projects.

1. *Management of Wheat Residue for Irrigated Winter Canola Production*
2. *Straw Management and Crop Rotation Alternatives to Burning Wheat Stubble: Assessing Economic and Environmental Trade-offs.*

The Task Force also heard presentations from two researchers with proposals to conduct research responding to Ecology's Request for Proposals (RFP Number ECY 1335AQP)

The presentations were, in order:

1. *Management of Fresh Wheat Residue for Irrigated Winter Canola Production*
2. *Straw Management and Crop Rotation Alternatives to Burning Wheat Stubble: Assessing Crop Rotation and Weed Management Options*

Presentations and Final Reports are available online at:

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

Task Force Recommendation

The Task Force recommended funding both research proposals above.

Management of Fresh Wheat Residue for Irrigated Winter Canola Production had a total cost of \$65,102.

Straw Management and Crop Rotation Alternatives to Burning Wheat Stubble: Assessing Crop Rotation and Weed Management Options had a total cost of \$54,211.

The total for the two recommended proposals is \$119,313, whereas the Request for Proposals was sent out at \$150,000. The Task Force members also wanted answers to the following questions.

1. Are we limited to funding only what is proposed?
2. Can we use the remaining ~30,000 for another project?
3. Can we ask the researchers to amend their proposals, so they can use the ~\$30,000 to enhance or expand upon their research?
4. Can farmers receive a rebate for funds not used?

Ecology (Peterson) agreed to bring these questions to the Ecology Air Quality Program Management Team and provide the answers to the Task Force members.

BMP's

One of the required activities at the June meeting of the Agricultural Burning Task Force is either to modify or reconfirm existing Best Management Practices (BMP's), and to institute new BMP's.

There were no changes to the existing BMP's this year; they are valid until June 30, 2014.

The BMP's are available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/BMPAginfo.htm>

Public Comment

Dr. William Johnston of Washington State University presented the latest results from his study of the Development of Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars for Non-burn Seed Production. This is a study which has been in the past (but is no longer) funded by Ecology. Though this seed line development is no longer funded by Ecology, the members of the Task Force were interested to

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hear the progress. Dr Johnston's presentation is available at
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research.htm>

Next Meeting

The next meeting (Meeting #90) of the Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force will be on Tuesday, November 12th, 2013, from 10am to 4pm in Spokane, Washington.