

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #81 Meeting Summary

DATE: November 9, 2010

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

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

Introductions, Announcements, Dates for meetings in 2011

The 81st 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 10:00AM with the introduction of Task Force members and guests. Kary Peterson is representing Ecology at this meeting, acting as an alternate for the Chair, Karen Wood.

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).

The Task Force agreed to set the schedule for meetings in 2011 as February 8, June 14, and November 8.

Fall Burn Season 2010 Recap

Kary Peterson, Department of Ecology, (Ecology), Eastern Regional Office presented the 2010 recap. During the recap discussion, a table of permitted burn acres, complaints, and enforcement actions broken down by county was distributed to the task force members. Mr. Peterson pointed out that post-burn reports are very important for making the daily burn decision, and that Ecology will be working with growers to gain better compliance for post burn reporting. Ecology has also been working with the Dept. of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service to better coordinate burning and emissions in Washington. Gary Pruitt added that Yakima Clean Air has worked with these agencies to modify how they burn and is encouraging the State to revise its Smoke Management Plan.

Research Updates

Curtis Coombs, a grower from Walla Walla County, made a presentation to the Task Force on efforts to bale residue right off the back of the combine, in one operation. He made a first presentation on this topic in 2008. He and his partner, John Nowogroski, have improved the process to the point where they feel they are having commercial success, primarily because of the marketability of the product, which they call "straff." It is marketable to cattle feed operations because it has some grain in it, giving it higher protein than regular straw. The other potential benefits to the practice include potential decreased burning emissions and less use of herbicides against volunteer wheat.

BMP's

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) on Agricultural Cereal Grain Field Burning, Non-Cereal Field Burning, Orchard Crops, Bales and Spot Burning were presented to the Task Force for acceptance through June 30, 2011. The BMPs were accepted unanimously without change.

Governance Document

Kary Peterson presented an amended version of the Washington State Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force Governance Document. He had amended this document to incorporate changes made in the amended Agricultural Burning Rule (WAC 173-430) which had been updated this year. The Task Force unanimously voted to accept the changes Mr. Peterson presented.

The meeting was adjourned at about 2:30PM.