

## Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #75 Meeting Summary

DATE: February 10, 2009

LOCATION: Department 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                       |
| Jeff Canaan                      | WA. Dept. of Agricultural                  | WA. Dept. of Agriculture                    |
| Jay Penner                       | Washington Association of<br>Wheat Growers | Agricultural Community                      |
| Dan McCarthy                     | Okanogan Horticultural<br>Association      | Agricultural Community                      |
| Dave Lauer                       | Benton County Clean Air<br>Authority       | Eastern Washington Local Air<br>Authorities |
| Michael Bush                     | WSU Extension                              | Academia, (Tree Fruit)                      |
| John Cornwall                    | Grass Seed Industry                        | Grass Seed Industry                         |
| Larry Cochran                    | WA. Assn. of Conservation<br>Districts     | Conservation Districts                      |
| <b><u>Alternates Present</u></b> |  |   |
| Gary Pruitt                      | Yakima Regional Clean Air<br>Agency        | Eastern Washington Local Air<br>Authorities |
| <b><u>Members Absent</u></b>     |  |   |
| Michael Ingham                   | Alfalfa Seed Industry                      | Agricultural Community                      |
| Sverre Vedal                     | University Of Washington                   | Public Health                               |
| Bill Johnston                    | Washington State University                | Academia, (Crop & Soil)                     |

### **Introductions, Announcements**

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The 75<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 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 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**

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The four research projects the Task Force recommended funding during the 2007-2009 biennium are coming to a close and researchers were invited to share their results at this meeting. Each of the presenters discussed what they had accomplished over the past 18 months, how their research was progressing, problems they had encountered, and solutions they were trying.

All presentations are in PDF format and are located below,

[Eastern Washington Straw Residue as a Viable Fiber Source:](#)

[Reduced Burning by Wider Canola Seed Row Spacing:](#)

[Alternatives to Alfalfa Burning:](#)

[Development of 'High Yielding Kentucky Bluegrass for Non-thermal Seed Production:](#)

### **Task Force discussion**

The Task Force asked to have Ecology draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit research grant proposals for the 2009-2011 funding cycle which begins July 1, 2009. Submitted proposals should be distributed to Task Force prior to the next meeting.

### **BMP's**

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Ecology and the task force members saw no need for changes to the Best Management Practices.

### **General Questions and Comments**

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The Task Force unanimously decided to change the meeting schedule from the second Thursday of February, June, and November to the second Tuesday of February, June, and November.

The Task Force members discussed several ideas for dividing agricultural burning permit fee revenue. The goal was to move towards more completely funding the Department of Ecology's burn program, which has been using the general fund as the major part of its funding for many years.

A motion was made to raise the fee for agricultural burning from \$2.25/acre to the maximum allowable amount under the law, \$2.50 per acre; with the research portion to be decreased from \$0.50/acre to \$0.25/acre, the local administration portion to remain at \$1.25/acre, and the Ecology portion to remain at \$0.50/acre, with the remaining \$0.50 per acre to go towards smoke management, smoke management to be local air authorities in areas where local air authorities have jurisdiction, and Ecology where Ecology has jurisdiction.

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to revisit the fee distribution discussion at the next meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held June 9, 2009.