

Meeting Summary

WESTAR Fall 2013 Business Meeting
Denver, CO
November 6-7, 2013

Attendees:

Members/Delegates:

Terry O'Clair, ND	Richard Goodyear, NM
Theresa Alexander, BLM	Clint Bowman, WA
Will Allison, CO	Danilo Dragoni, NV
Randy Ashley, CSKT	Tiffany Floyd, ID
Trevor Baggione, AZ	William Dameworth, Spokane Co WA
Alice Edwards, AK	Bryce Bird, UT
Steve Dietrich, WY	Jennifer Cederle, WY
Gordon Pierce, CO	Brock LeBaron, UT
Ursula Kramer, Pima Co AZ	Pete Lahm, USFS
Karin Landsberg, AK	Nolan Hirai, HI
Dave Maxwell, BLM	Carol McCoy, NPS
Darla Potter, WY	Julie Oliver, WA
Mary Uhl, BLM	Hoby Rash, MT
Julie Simpson, Nez Pierce Tribe	Ethan Auman, BLM
Tim Allen, FWS	Mike Broughton, FWS
John Notar, NPS	Sandra Silva, FWS
Susan Johnson, NPS	Mike George, NPS
Larissa Ford, BLM	Mel Joseph, LPPS tribe
Syndi Smallwood, Pechanga CA	

Guests and Guest Speakers:

Lisa Conner, EPA-OAQPS	Tom Webb, EPA R9
Gail Fannon, EPA 8	Dr. Arden Pope, BYU
Carl Daly, EPA R8	Ken Lloyd, Denver RAQC
Shaun McGrath, EPA R8	Holly Probst, WGA
Martha Rudolph, CO/ECOS	Ondrea Barber, Gila River DEQ

WESTAR Staff:

Dan Johnson	Tom Moore
-------------	-----------

Bob Lebens

Jeff Gabler

Via Telephone:

Phil Lorang, EPA-OAQPS
Michael Ling, EPA-OAQPS
Brian Gustafson, SD
Tina Suarez-Murias

Scott Mathias, EPA-OAQPS
Liz Naess, EPA-OAQPS
Martha Keeting, EPA-OAQPS
Bob Kotchenruther, EPA-R9

1. Business

a. Review/approval of previous business meeting summary.

The directors were asked if there were any updates, additions or corrections to the summary of the previous business meeting. There was one change to the spelling of the name of a participant and with that change, the summary was approved as drafted. [Click here](#) for a copy of the summary.

b. Action items from previous meeting

Dan Johnson noted that all of the action items from the previous business meeting were completed, except an action item to add a focus page on LEAN/Kaizen efforts in western states. Dan noted that EPA has already created such a website including western state initiatives as well as others. A focus page was created on regional haze. [Click here](#) for a copy of the action item status report.

c. Staff summaries.

WESTAR staff provided short summaries of their activities over the last 6 months. The [staff report is available here](#) for review.

d. Financial report

Treasurer Bryce Bird presented a status report on WESTAR's finances. He noted that WESTAR's finances are in good shape, that we are just over 60% of the way through a three year grant and have spent just over 60% of our available funding. Click [here](#) for a copy of WESTAR's 9/30/2013 financial report.

e. National Monitoring Steering Committee Representative report

Gordon Pierce, WESTAR's representative on the National Monitoring Steering Committee, reported on recent discussions within the committee, including the importance of sustaining the national speciation network, EPA's interest in revising/updating monitoring rules, the

recently released SO2 technical assistance document, and re-engineering the PAMS network. [Click here](#) for a copy of Gordon's presentation.

f. Committee Reports

Clint Bowman summarized the activities of the Technical Committee and Karin Landsberg summarized Planning Committee activities. [Click here](#) for a copy of Clint's presentation and [here](#) for a copy of Karin's presentation.

g. Locations for spring and fall 2014 business meetings

Dan Johnson referred participants to the [list of meeting locations](#) over the past 15 years. He noted that it is traditional to hold at least one of the meetings in the home state of the current president, and asked how many members felt they would have trouble getting approval to travel to Alaska. After some discussion, Dan was directed to find an Alaska location, taking into account costs and potential conflicts with other meetings.

2. Hot Topics

a. Revisions to WESTAR Articles of Association (Alice Edwards)

Alice referred the members to [draft revisions to WESTAR's Articles](#). She noted that, while the primary purpose of the revisions was to revise to Article 6: Membership to broaden the provisions for ex officio membership, a number of additional edits were proposed to correct typographical errors and to bring the document up to date. She asked first if there were any objections to including these additional edits, and hearing no objections, asked for a motion to approve the proposed revisions. Dan Johnson noted that changes to the Articles require a quorum (3/4th of the voting members) and at least a 2/3rd vote in favor. He noted that a quorum of the members were present.

Motion: Terry O'Clair moved, and Will Allison seconded a motion to approve the changes to WESTAR's Articles of Association as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. BLM Organizational Overview

Dave Maxwell handed out a 3-page summary of BLM's organization as it pertains to air quality management in the western U.S. The handout includes contact information for BLM state air quality contacts as well as headquarters officials in Washington and the Denver area.

c. Update on NSPS for Wood Burning Devices (Bob Lebens)

Bob Lebens provided a short update on EPA's update to the subject NSPS. The government shutdown delayed the likely release date for the proposal from OMB. OMB is expected to

release the proposal in mid-November. [Click here](#) for a summary of what EPA is considering in the proposal.

3. Roundtable Discussion: Permitting Challenges with Short-Term NAAQS

The topic for this session was: Describe permitting challenges you are facing with the short-term NO₂ and SO₂ NAAQS and how you are addressing them. This was a follow-up discussion to a December 2012 letter from WESTAR to EPA based on recommendations from the Technical Committee. The board members described how they are addressing the issues raised in the letter.

4. Exceptional Events and National Fire Policy (Phil Lorang, EPA/OAQPS)

Phil Lorang summarized the current status of EPA rule and policy development related to exceptional events. He summarized input received through a series of listening sessions, noting that one listening session remains, organized by Sen. Flake in the state of Arizona. With regard to future public hearings on EPA's pending proposal, Trevor Baggoire requested a hearing in the west, preferably in the Phoenix, AZ area. Finally, there has been no progress on EPA consideration of a Fire Policy to replace the mid-90's interim wildland fire policy. [Click here](#) for a copy of Phil's presentation.

5. EPA Briefing (Scott Mathias, EPA/OAQPS)

Dan Johnson began the session by noting that [Anna Wood's Powerpoint presentation](#) at the recent NACAA meeting has been provided for those interested in the traditional summary of NAAQS deadlines, litigation, NSR, etc. Scott Mathias' presentation covering 4 topics of particular interest to western states: 1) implementation of the ozone NAAQS; 2) interstate transport rule; 3) SO₂ NAAQS implementation; and 4) the regional haze rule – consideration of program improvements. [Click here](#) for a copy of Scott's presentation. Scott discussed policy considerations related to determining background ozone concentrations, an especially important issue in the west. He provided a status report on implementation of the SO₂ NAAQS including the implementation rule, data requirements rule and technical assistance document. With respect to interstate transport, EPA's efforts have focused on the east but Scott noted that EPA is mindful of the need to assist all states as the NAAQS are lowered. Finally, Scott discussed input received through a series of listening sessions on the regional haze program. He noted that most groups are advocating for more clarity and suggesting a focus on sources that can be controlled.

6. Hot Topics

a. Personal air quality monitors (Gordon Pierce, CO)

Gordon Pierce summarized recent discussion within the National Monitoring Committee regarding the emergence of personal air quality monitoring devices, some of which produce

credible results at a low cost, others of which are unreliable and inaccurate. [Click here](#) for a copy of Gordon's presentation.

b. Interstate transport rule (Dan Johnson)

Dan Johnson asked the meeting participant to think back on Scott Mathias' comments on this topic earlier in the meeting, in particular the comment that EPA's initial focus will be on writing a transport rule to address ozone transport in the east. Dan expressed a concern that the design of the interstate transport rule for the east will likely be the presumed design for the west, and if that is true, having a representative participate in the current discussions would be beneficial. The dilemma is that the effort to fully participate would be a significant workload, and the opportunities to address western issues will be limited. He asked for guidance or volunteers. Receiving none, WESTAR staff will continue to monitor the discussion and to remind EPA that consultation with the west will be needed in the future.

c. Calculation of Oil and Gas area source emissions using new EPA tool (Terry O'Clair, Tom Moore)

EPA OAQPS has been developing a tool to provide default estimates of upstream O&G exploration and production emissions from area (small unpermitted) sources. The tool uses default factors not representative of actual sources in western O&G basins. With the support of western states, factors from WRAP studies are being included by EPA, but the public version of the tool does not yet include these factors. States can avoid this problem by directly reporting their own detailed data and override the EPA default data, at significant extra effort.

7. Regulating Existing Power Plants Under Section 111(d) (Lisa Conner, EPA/OAQPS)

[Click here](#) for Lisa's presentation.

Lisa Conner, EPA OAQPS, spoke about the President's Climate Action Plan and what EPA is doing to reduce carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. Lisa explained that on Sept. 20, 2013, EPA issued a new proposal for carbon pollution from new power plants thus taking the first step towards reducing carbon pollution from power plants. She next talked about setting standards for modified and reconstructed power plants (existing sources that undergo major changes), explaining that these standards will be issued by June 1, 2014 and finalizing by June 1, 2015. Lisa went on to explain that EPA plans to issue guidelines for existing power plants, issuing proposed Federal emissions guidelines by June 2014 and final guidelines by June 2015. Lastly, she pointed out that States will use these federal guidelines as references to develop and submit state plans under section 111(d) to EPA by June 2016.

8. Results from Western Regional Ozone Modeling (Tom Moore)

Tom Moore provided an overview and sample results from the recently completed West-wide Jumpstart Air Quality Modeling Study (WestJump). One of the primary purposes of the study

was to develop the next generation air quality model for the west. Tom presented a summary of the products that came out of the study and worked through examples to show how the results can be used. [Click here](#) for Tom's presentation.

9. Health Effects from Particulates (Dr. Arden Pope, Brigham Young University)

Bryce Bird introduced Dr. Pope as the nation's preeminent researcher in the field of health effects from particulate matter pollution. Dr. Pope's presentation affirmed covered research into particulate matter health effects from its beginnings to current research efforts. Dr. Pope has concluded that breathing particulates cause or contribute to numerous health effects even at very low levels; that each increment of improvement in air quality reduces risk; that the health effects science is well documented and transparent, refuting those who argue otherwise, and that there is not yet clear evidence that particulates from different sources are any more or less dangerous than others. [Click here](#) for Dr. Pope's presentation.

10. 2018 Regional Haze SIP Planning (Karin Landsberg, AK)

Karin Landsberg presented a status report and a preliminary summary of the work of the Regional Haze SIP Planning Workgroup, which she chairs. [Click here](#) for a copy of Karin's presentation, [click here](#) for a flow chart showing the steps in the 2018 RH SIP development process, and [click here](#) for a detailed timeline. The workgroup has determined that work needs to begin very soon if the SIPs are to be completed on time under the current rules, and that EPA guidance is needed by mid-2014. Lack of funding and lack of clarity from EPA are two big issues.

11. Panel: Managing Western Air Quality: Partnering and Collaboration (Moderator: Tom Moore)

Panelists:

- Shaun McGrath, EPA Region 8 Administrator
- Holly Propst, Policy Director, Western Governors' Association
- Martha Rudolph, CO Director of Environmental Programs and ECOS Air Committee Chair
- Ondrea Barber, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality, Gila River Indian Community

Tom Moore introduced each of the Panelists and each provided their perspective on the subject of partnering and collaborating. Shaun McGrath noted that the discussions underway on how to address greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants is an important opportunity for collaboration between EPA, responsible for writing a rule, and state, local and tribal regulators, who will be responsible for implementing the rule. Holly Propst discussed the new era at WGA which will focus less on in depth technical issues and instead focus on responding to the Governors' interests. As a result of the reorganization at WGA, it is especially important for WGA to partner with organizations like WESTAR where technical expertise is available. Martha Rudolph summarized several collaborative efforts Colorado has been a part of recently. She also brought up the challenge associated with the polarized political environment of today and how ECOS is working to address the issue of greenhouse gas control in this politically charged

environment. Ondrea Barber provided background and the experience of the GRIC in building a complete tribal air program with an approved TIP. She highlighted numerous collaborations with the air programs of the State of AZ and Maricopa and Pinal Counties.

12. WRAP Membership Meeting (Alice Edwards)

Alice facilitated the discussion of WRAP administrative topics. Tom Moore reviewed the effort to be completed in the December-January timeframe, to reach out to WRAP members for their vote on a formal Charter change, and to update the Director-level contact information for the primary and alternate WRAP members from each member agency. The administrative status of recently-completed and ongoing WRAP projects was reviewed.

13. Regional Modeling Framework for the West

a. Establish the vision (Alice Edwards)

Alice Edwards offered a draft vision for the WRAP and asked the members to consider this vision over the course of the afternoon. The draft vision statement would be re-visited at the end of the session, with the goal to finalize the language. The draft vision statement read as follows:

Our vision is to be the leading technical and planning information source for air quality management in the western United States.

b. Discussion: WRAP member priorities (Dan Johnson)

Dan Johnson presented a summary of a priority setting exercise conducted in the summer of 2012. [Click here](#) for a copy of Dan's presentation. He pointed out that the state directors identified the need for a regional technical support as their highest priority.

c. Project status report (Tom Moore)

Tom Moore presented information on a number of past, on-going and future WRAP technical projects. He showed how the projects connect with one another and identified products and tools that would address the priorities mentioned by the WRAP members. [Click here](#) for a copy of Tom's presentation.

d. Building the framework: the missing pieces, funding, and a comprehensive workplan (Tom Moore)

Tom discussed the need for an integrated technical workplan that would provide the context for new and future projects, help to identify gaps/needed work in building a regional modeling framework, and that would guide the organization's decision-making about what projects are

needed to establish and sustain the regional modeling framework. He committed to re-activating the WRAP Technical Steering Committee to develop the integrated workplan over the coming months, for review by the full membership. [Click here](#) for a copy of Tom's presentation.

e. Revisiting the vision (Alice Edwards)

After completing the above presentations, Alice Edwards asked the participants for feedback on the draft vision statement presented at the beginning of the WRAP session. Those who commented supported the vision statement as aspirational and sufficiently broad to allow for different approaches to achieving the vision.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 on November 7th.