

Meeting Summary

WESTAR Spring 2014 Business Meeting
Boise, ID
May 27-29, 2014

Attendees:

WESTAR and WRAP Members/Delegates:

Terry O'Clair, ND	Dave Klemp, MT
Will Allison, CO	Alice Edwards, AK
Steve Dietrich, WY	Gordon Pierce, CO
Ursula Nelson, Pima Co AZ	Karin Landsberg, AK
Darla Potter, WY	Mary Uhl, BLM
Syndi Smallwood, Pechanga CA	Mary Anderson, ID
Ethan Aumann, BLM	Rita Bates, NM
Bryce Bird, UT	Clint Bowman, WA
Pat Brewer, NPS	David Collier, OR
William Dameworth, Spokane Co, WA	Thomas Dzomba, USFS
Mary Fauci, Nez Perce Tribe	Tiffany Floyd, ID
Mike George, NPS	Brian Gustafson, SD
Jean-Paul Huys, Clark Co. NV	Jeff Johnston, WA
Pete Lahm, USFS	Brock LeBaron, UT
Mike Madsen, HI	Eric Massey, AZ
Carol McCoy, NPS	Brad Poirez, Imperial Co, CA
Hoby Rash, MT	Annette Williams, MT
Jasmine Mehta, NV	Leonard Herr, BLM
Mark Fitch, USFS	Mike Edwards, ID
Mark Amundsen, NWCAA, WA	

Invitees and Guests

Anna Wood, EPA-OAQPS
Matt Lakin, EPA R9
Richard McAllister, WIEB

WESTAR Staff:

Dan Johnson	Tom Moore
Bob Lebens	Jeff Gabler

Via Telephone (partial list; not all signed in):

Chet Wayland, EPA-OAQPS
Kirk Baker, EPA-OAQPS
Dan Walsh, MT
Tim Allen, USFWS
Stu Clark, WA

1. Business

- Report from Executive Director (Dan Johnson)
- Consent Agenda:
 - 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.
 - The directors confirmed that the fall business meeting will be in Alaska in mid-September.
 - The directors confirmed the nominating committee's recommendations for the 2014 WESTAR Board of Directors:
 - Eric Massey, President
 - Bryce Bird, Vice President
 - Terry O'Clair, Treasurer
- Staff and Committee Reports
 - WESTAR staff (Jeff Gabler, Bob Lebens, and Tom Moore) provided a summary of significant activities over the past 6 months and discussed current initiatives. [Click here](#) for a copy of their presentation.
 - Karin Landsberg presented a summary of Planning Committee priorities and activities. [Click here](#) for a copy of Karin's presentation.
 - Clint Bowman reported on the Technical Committee's activities over the past 6 months. [Click here](#) for a copy of Clint's presentation
 - Gordon Pierce summarized the activities of the National Monitoring Steering Committee, which he serves on as WESTAR's representative. [Click here](#) for a copy of Gordon's presentation.

- Financial Report

Treasurer Bryce Bird reported on WESTAR's finances. He noted that WESTAR's budget has become more complex with multiple funding sources. He noted that a more detailed discussion of the budget was scheduled for executive session. [Click here](#) for a copy of the financial report.

2. Federally Reportable Violations Reporting (Dan Johnson)

Dan Johnson reported that EPA had just published an update to guidance related to Federally Reportable Violations and High Priority Violations. Click here for a copy of Dan Johnson's presentation. Dan Walsh (MT) joined by phone to summarize his initial reactions to the policy revisions. Staff was directed to include an agenda item on the next WESTAR director call to continue this discussion, in particular to determine if there is sufficient interest among the states for WESTAR to prepare written comments on the draft policy update.

3. Updates on Citizens Air Monitoring (Gordon Pierce)

Gordon Pierce provided an overview of the current state of the development and inevitable deployment of so-called citizen air monitors. EPA is looking into the quality of the data derived by these devices which currently have limitations in terms of their accuracy. In spite of the limitations, data are being generated by these devices and those data are appearing on websites. EPA is approach the issue in a supportive role, looking for ways to improve accuracy. [Click here](#) for a copy of Gordon's presentation.

4. Executive Session Report

Dan Johnson reported that the air directors went through a comprehensive analysis of WESTAR's evolving budget and initiated a discussion about the dilemma EPA faces in addressing priority issues when so much of their recourses must be directed to response to litigation.

5. Regulating Air Quality Impacts from Oil and Gas Development

Jeff Gabler introduced the panelists and explained that each presenter would highlight the unique situation faced by the agency as a result of booming oil and gas development, impacts of O&G development, overview of the actions being taken to mitigate impacts, hurdles faced during the development of mitigation efforts, and lessons learned.

- Will Allison introduced Colorado's new oil and gas hydrocarbon emission reduction rules explaining the rational for the rules, providing an overview of CO's rules, explained costs and benefits. [Click here](#) for a copy of Will's presentation.
- Steve Dietrich talked about how WY DEQ is permitting O&G development, what compliance measures are being implemented, how the agency is handling air quality monitoring, and what is being done to enhance emission inventory. [Click here](#) for a copy of Steve's presentation.
- Terry O'Clair talked about the expected growth O&G development in North Dakota and explained that there are over currently ~10,000 wells in ND with that number expected to grow to over 40,000 which will result in more pipelines, storage and waste facilities, sand and gravel exploration, and railroad loading and unloading facilities. Terry also talked about the staffing issues faced by ND as a result of the increasing growth of O&G development. [Click here](#) for a copy of Terry's presentation.
- Mary Uhl discussed BLM's O&G principles which included working closely with state agencies, crafting management actions, making sure BLM actions are consistent with other agencies, developing modeling and monitoring plans and strategies, and offering examples of emission reductions projects from sources not typically regulated by state

air agencies. Mary talked about BLM actions affecting air quality. [Click here](#) for a copy of Mary's presentation.

6. Climate Change

- The session began with a presentation by Richard McAllister, WIEB on Methane Leakage in the Natural Gas Life Cycle. [Click here](#) for a copy of Richard's presentation.
- Moving Forward on 111(d):
 - Richard McAllister provided a follow up on discussions within the Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) about facilitating a dialog between state air regulators, PUCs, and state energy offices on implementing the forthcoming 111(d) rule. WIEB has contracted with the Regulatory Assistance Project to assist in the facilitation effort and to provide limited technical support. [Click here](#) for a copy of Richard's presentation.
 - Terry O'Clair reported on the Summit of Energy Producing States hosted by North Dakota in April. 15 energy producing states participated sharing views on 111(d) among other topics. [Click here](#) for a copy of Terry's presentation.
 - Stu Clark discussed two related efforts underway by NACAA – a menu of options for reducing CO2 emissions and the development of a model 111(d) plan.
 - The presentations were followed by a roundtable discussion. States are not as engaged as they will be once the actual proposal comes out (June), but in general, states are looking for flexibility and sufficient time to prepare the compliance plan required in a 111(d) process.

7. Hot topics

- a. SO2 Technical Support Document. Clint Bowman summarized ongoing discussions within the Technical Committee about issues related to the subject TSD. Clint also described the work underway of an ad-hoc work group to examine the SO2 data requirements rule and associated consent decree.
- b. EPA's Priorities, EPA/State Partnership, and Litigation. Dan Johnson teed up a conversation about how litigation is driving EPA's priorities, preventing the agency from directing resources to strategically important activities. More than ever, states are finding that they need to litigate to get EPA to address their issues, thereby contributing to the underlying problem, but finding no alternative to get EPA's attention on their issues.

8. Updates from EPA (Anna Wood, EPA/OAQPS)

Anna Wood provided an overview of several topics, some of which were suggested by WESTAR in advance and others that were more general in nature. The focus of her presentation was on NAAQS related issues, exceptional events (covered in more detail in a later session), interstate air pollution, regional haze, GHG permitting, Title V permitting, new source review, and SIP reform. [Click here](#) for a copy of Anna's presentation

9. Regional Haze (Bob Lebens, Karin Landsberg)

- Karin Landsberg presented the results of a workgroup effort she led to develop a workplan and timeline to meet the requirement for a 2018 regional haze SIP. The document identifies the regional and technical elements that will need to be included in the SIP and the time needed to complete it. [Click here](#) for a copy of the WESTAR Regional Haze 2018 SIP Update Plan.
- Karin’s presentation was followed by a panel discussion focused on “Improving the Regional Haze Program”. Panelists included:
 - Pat Brewer, NPS
 - Anna Wood, EPA
 - Karin Landsberg, AK

The panelists discussed a variety of topics, including the success of the initial SIPs at achieving point source emission reductions, the difficulties in selecting worst visibility days when fires skew the data, and the shared interest in simplifying and clarifying implementation guidance.

10. Exceptional Events and Fire Policy

- Pete Lahm described efforts underway to define basic smoke management practices, a term used in the exceptional events rule related to the steps that should be taken before prescribed fires should be allowed, and that could define the minimum steps that would have had to have been taken before downwind impacts from prescribe fires could be excluded under the exceptional events rule. [Click here](#) for a copy of Pete’s presentation.
- Eric Massey updated a presentation he gave at an earlier WESTAR meeting on the resources needed to complete exceptional events requests. He noted that AZ has significantly reduced the cost of each request, but even with those efficiencies, the costs remain high. [Click here](#) for a copy of Eric’s presentation.
- Darla Potter described WY’s approach to exceptional events requests. In some limited circumstances industry provides the technical justification which is evaluated by agency staff to determine the likelihood of EPA approval. [Click here](#) and [here](#) for background and web pages Darla referred to during her presentation.

11. Planning Ahead for the New Ozone Standard (Moderator: Tom Moore)

The purpose of this session was to identify information about regional ozone transport contributions and highlight planning efforts by Idaho DEQ to avoid nonattainment. Tom opened the session with a discussion about western transport, background, and wildfire analysis and work products. [Click here](#) for a copy of Tom’s presentation. Tiffany Floyd then discussed planning, training, and program management activities completed in Idaho. [Click here](#) for a copy of Tiffany’s presentation.

12. Fire Response and Smoke Management (Moderator: Tom Moore)

The purpose of this session was to provide reports on aspects of air quality management associated with fire response and smoke management activities. David Collier discussed the Oregon Joint Agency Fire Response Protocol, prepared after high levels of wildfire activity

during 2012 throughout the state. [Click here](#) for a copy of David's presentation. Over the past several years, Idaho has assembled a series of programs that manage smoke and air quality impacts across the state. Mary Anderson (ID) discussed their programs. [Click here](#) for a copy of Mary's presentation. Pete Lahm provided updates on federal programs and initiatives related to fire response and smoke management. [Click here](#) for a copy of Pete's presentation.

13. WRAP Administrative Block (Alice Edwards)

Alice facilitated a brief review of the previous days' meetings, for those joining today. [Click here](#) for that summary. The status of the voting on WRAP Charter amendments, and the Board membership, officers, and terms were then reviewed. [Click here](#) for the Charter status, and [here](#) for the Board membership. The financial status of WRAP projects and grants were provided to meeting attendees for review at another time. The active WRAP projects were then reviewed. [Click here](#) for the financial report and [here](#) for the status of the WRAP projects.

14. WRAP Program Activities

Panel Discussion: Federal agencies' interactions/needs

Each of the speakers provided a perspective on the technical needs, analysis questions, and collaboration activities sought by their agency from the WRAP.

Dick Bahr – Office of Wildland Fire

Issues about the growth and extent of wildland fire were discussed. [Click here](#) for a copy of Dick's presentation.

Mike George – National Park Service

The collaborative agreement between NPS and WRAP/WESTAR for regional modeling and NPS analysis needs were discussed. [Click here](#) for a copy of Mike's presentation.

Mary Uhl – Bureau of Land Management

The collaborative agreement between BLM and WRAP/WESTAR for regional modeling, BLM regional analysis needs were discussed. [Click here](#) for a copy of Mary's presentation.

Anna Wood – EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

On behalf of the OAQPS Air Quality Assessment Division (Chet Wayland and Kirk Baker participating remotely), Anna presented analysis needs and collaborative efforts where OAQPS would benefit from WRAP activities. [Click here](#) for a copy of Anna's presentation.

15. WRAP 2014-18 Integrated Work Plan Presentation (Tom Moore)

Tom presented a detailed outline overview of the Work Plan. The needs of WRAP members identified by the Technical Steering Committee and planned activities to address those, in alignment with the interests of federal agency speakers reviewed earlier, were presented and discussed. [Click here](#) for a copy of Tom's presentation.

16. Work Plan Group Discussion and Feedback; Next Steps

Alice Edwards facilitated a discussion of the Work Plan outline. The meeting attendees noted the Work Plan content was generally on track and the WRAP Board would like to adopt a complete Work Plan at the Sept. 17-19 meetings. It was decided to expand the writing duties to include the entire Technical Steering Committee and expert advisors, and to hold an in-person Work Plan review meeting mid-Summer 2014.

17. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at noon on May 29th.