

Meeting Summary

WESTAR Fall 2014 Business Meeting

Girdwood, Alaska

September 17-19, 2014

Attendees:

WESTAR and WRAP Members/Delegates:

Eric Massey, AZ	Terry O'Clair, ND
Brad Poirez, Imperial Co, CA	Dave Klemp, MT
Will Allison, CO	Alice Edwards, AK
Cole Anderson, WY	Richard Goodyear, NM
Ursula Nelson, Pima Co AZ	Karin Landsberg, AK
Darla Potter, WY	Charlene Albee, Washoe Co. NV
Ken Lloyd, RAQC, Denver, CO	Bryce Bird, UT
Clint Bowman, WA	Brad Busby, AZ
David Collier, OR	Tim Allen, USFWS
Nolan Hirai, HI	Tiffany Floyd, ID
Jasmine Mehta, NV	Jeff Johnston, WA
Dave McNeill, UT	Brock LeBaron, UT
Jean-Paul Huys, Clark Co. NV	Guy Adema, NPS, AK
Mark Asmundson, NWCAA, WA	Mark Buford, NWCAA, WA
Mike Madsen, HI	John Vimont, NPS
Carol McCoy, NPS	Barbara Trost, Alaska DEC
Alan Peck, BLM	Deanna Huff, Alaska DEC
Penny Weymiller, Shoshone Bannock Tribes	

Invitees and Guests

Anna Wood, EPA-OAQPS	Jim Erb, STRONGER Inc.
Kate Kelly, EPA-Region 10	Ryan Steadly, STRONGER Inc.
Susan Flensburg, Bristol Bay Native Association	
Michael Black, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	

WESTAR Staff:

Dan Johnson	Tom Moore
Bob Lebens	Jeff Gabler
Rose Jarrahian	

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

Gordon Pierce, CO

Julie Simpson, Nez Perce Tribe

Stu Clark, WA

Mel Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute Reservation

Randy Ashley, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

1. Business

- Welcome to Alaska (Alice Edwards)
 - [Click here](#) for Alice's presentation.
- Consent Agenda:
 - The directors were asked if there were any updates, additions or corrections to the summary of the previous business meeting. Jasmine Mehta moved, and Alice Edwards seconded a motion to approve the previous meeting summary. The motion passed. [Click here](#) for a copy of the summary.
 - The directors suggested that the spring 2015 business meeting will be in San Francisco, and that the fall 2015 meeting will be in Montana.
 - Several mostly editorial changes to WESTAR's travel policy were proposed. Alice Edwards moved, and David Collier seconded a motion to approve the proposed changes. The motion passed. [Click here](#) for a copy of the proposed revisions.
- 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.
 - Alice Edwards presented a summary of Planning Committee priorities and activities. [Click here](#) for a copy of the 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 Terry O'Clair reported on WESTAR's finances. He noted that WESTAR's budget has become more complex with multiple funding sources. [Click here](#) for a copy of the financial report.

2. Hot Topics

- Gordon Pierce provided an update on Citizen Monitoring. [Click here](#) for a copy of Gordon's presentation.
- Dan Johnson provided a summary of the annual Association of Air Pollution Control Agency (AAPCA) meeting, held in Austin, Texas. The Association has hired a new

Executive Director, Clint Woods. 13 of AAPCA's 17 member states were represented at the meeting.

3. Training – Learning Management System Demonstration (Jeff Gabler)

The intent of the session was to display APTI-Learn and to encourage its use as a tool in the education and development of air staff. During the session Jeff did an on-line demonstration of APTI-Learn – a national Learning Management System (LMS) for state/local air quality agencies. He demonstrated features of APTI-Learn, and walked through specific pages on the website to highlight the system's ability to create a training plan based on an individual's job function(s), and what results the system displays.

4. Climate Change (Moderator: Alice Edwards)

This session focused on the impacts of climate change in Alaska, including mitigation and adaptation efforts.

- Guy Adema (National Park Service) presented “The science: NPS resources in Alaska and the climate related activities”. [Click here](#) for Mr. Adema's presentation.
 - While annual average temperatures are going up considerably, the winter season increases appear even higher. This will affect the regional extent of permafrost in shoreline erosion.
 - Land and habitat changes are already quite apparent.
- Susan Flensburg (Bristol Bay Native Association) presented “Native Village Impacts in Alaska”. [Click here](#) for Ms. Flensburg's presentation.
 - Ms. Flensburg presentation focused on the impact of climate change on native villages, including health impacts.
- Michael Black (Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium) presented “Mitigation and Adaptation”. [Click here](#) for Mr. Black's presentation.
 - The focus of Mr. Black's discussion was on the impact of climate change on infrastructure and utilities in rural Alaska communities, and the relationship between poor sanitation and respiratory problems.

5. Proposed Existing Source Performance Standard for Power Plants [111(d)] (Moderator: Jeff Gabler)

Roundtable discussion questions were distributed prior to the meeting. The questions asked: (a) if the states would be commenting to EPA on 111(d), and if so, what are their key points, and (b) how your agency intends to meet its goals. All states reported that they will be submitting 111(d) comments to EPA. States reported such concerns as base-year calculations, timing and achievability of interim goal, viability of the infrastructure to handle redispatch, heat rate improvement assumptions, permit conditions in existing permits and interaction with 111(d), calculation of EE/RE. States reported that if they are in the early stages of examining potential strategies to meet goals, and that all implementation ideas are still on the table as

potential strategies.

6. Implications of a Revised Ozone NAAQS on Western States (Bryce Byrd)

This session began with a presentation by Bryce Bird on ozone trends in Utah and the implications of a more stringent standard. [Click here](#) for a copy of Bryce's presentation. Tom Moore then presented maps showing the locations of ozone non-attainment areas based on the most recent monitoring data and further based on different levels of the NAAQS within the range recommended by CASAC. [Click here](#) for the presentation. Finally, Anna Wood noted that EPA would be addressing standard implementation in the ozone NAAQS proposal and a discussion followed on the pre-proposal outreach topics identified by EPA. [Click here](#) for the list of topics discussed.

7. Exceptional Events (Moderator: Eric Massey)

This session began with a presentation by Anna Wood on the status of EPA's efforts to improve the effectiveness and implementation efficiency of the exceptional events rule. [Click here](#) for a copy of Anna's presentation. Following Anna's presentation, Eric Massey and Brad Busby provided an update on Arizona's efforts to streamline exceptional events demonstrations, including the use of a new computer tool that graphically depicts weather patterns during events. The session concluded with a roundtable discussion on state experiences, best practices and lessons learned. There is general agreement that some events that are very obvious should not require the same level of effort as those that are more complex, but the on-going challenge is in identifying those simpler events in a consistent and straightforward way. There was also discussion of a workshop with states and EPA, in part to clarify what problems are most important to address either through rulemaking or guidance.

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, interstate air pollution, regional haze (status report on 2008 SIPs and progress reports), GHG permitting, new source review, and SIP reform. [Click here](#) for a copy of Anna's presentation

9. Panel Discussion: EPA Priorities and the State/Federal Partnership (Panelists: Dave Klemp, Ursula Nelson, Mark Asmundson)

Dan Johnson opened the session, noting that NACAA is in discussions with EPA senior management to arrange a retreat for representatives from EPA and state and local agencies to discuss priorities. In the past, retreats of this sort were preceded by "negotiations" regarding the topics that will be discussed at the retreat. The panelists for this session are all NACAA Board members and will likely be asked for their input on topics for the retreat.

- Dave Klemp invited input from all WESTAR members regarding priority topics. He opined that a primary focus needs to be on the relationship between the states and EPA.
- Ursula Nelson suggested that budget and resources, both for state and local agencies as

well as EPA, needs to be addressed and that EPA's commitment to training should be discussed.

- Mark Asmundson agreed with Ursula about budget and resource issues; that we need to ensure that our priorities are directed towards activities that will make a difference for the public we serve; and that is issue of there being many different EPAs should be discussed.

10. State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations (STRONGER) Guideline Document (Ryan Steadley)

Ryan Steadley provided an overview of the STRONGER initiative, including the history, process and value of the effort to states. [Click here](#) for a copy of Mr. Steadley's presentation.

11. Regional Haze Planning

The session began with a presentation by Karin Landsberg on the efforts of the WESTAR Regional Haze workgroup, summarizing the recommendations presented to EPA on how the regional haze program could be improved from the point of view of state and local agencies. [Click here](#) for a copy of Karin's presentation. Following Karin's presentation, questions were posed to the members for open discussion related to the four-factor analysis and the manner in which we could focus the regional haze program requirements on sources over which we have some control. Anna also asked for feedback on delaying the 2018 SIP deadline to better align with NAAQS and 111(d). Based on the feedback, most felt that significant changes should be implemented through rule changes, and that the 4-factor analysis should include the 5th factor related to visibility improvements.

12. Finalize WRAP Work Plan (Alice Edwards, Tom Moore)

Alice Edwards introduced the Work Plan development process and progress over the past 3 months. The Plan is to be out for review from late September through October, with input requested from all WRAP member agencies. Tom Moore then presented the core content of the Plan; his presentation can be found [here](#). On Friday morning, the Work Plan session continued with a brief discussion of the budget preparation approach for the Work Plan was reviewed, that information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

13. WRAP Administrative Block (Alice Edwards)

On behalf of Alice Edwards, Tom Moore presented administrative information about the WRAP over the past few months. His presentation can be found [here](#). Information about Board membership and terms was presented.

14. WRAP Program Activities (Tom Moore)

Tom Moore referred WRAP members to the WESTAR financial report, found [here](#). He also presented information about the status of WRAP technical projects; that information can be found [here](#). There was a brief review of meetings and schedules.

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 on September 19th.