

-- D R A F T¹ --
April 8, 2020
WESTAR Council Meeting
Conference Call Summary

The monthly WESTAR Council call began at 1:00 pm PST/2:00 pm MST/3:00 pm CST. Council members and delegates present included:

AK-Alice Edwards
AZ-
CA-Tina Suarez-Murias
CO-Garrison Kaufman
HI-Marianne Rossio
ID-Tiffany Floyd
MT-Dave Klemp, Rhonda Payne
NV-Danilo Dragoni
NM-
ND-
OR-Ali Mirzakhali
SD-Kyrik Rombaugh
UT-Bryce Bird
WA-Kathy Taylor
WY-Amber Potts
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Tom Moore, Bob Lebens, Jackie Gadret, Jeff Gabler

Agenda:

1. Review spring virtual meeting agenda (attached, Mary Uhl)
2. Nomination and approval of WESTAR officers for 2020-2021 (Mary Uhl)
3. Update on training and remote training initiatives (Jeff Gabler)
4. Regional Haze update and proposal for SIP development initiative (attachment for background information, Tom Moore and Rhonda Payne (MT))
5. Residential Woodheating rule and certification methods update (Bob Lebens)
6. SAFE rule finalized discussion (all)
7. COVID-19 operations, monitoring and enforcement roundtable discussion (all)
8. Other items as time and interest permits
 - a. ICR for ORD's strategic planning on cooperative federalism due May 8

Meeting Minutes:

¹ Draft will be considered final upon review and approval by a majority of the members, typically on the next monthly conference call.

1. Review spring virtual meeting agenda (attached, Mary Uhl)

Tiffany Floyd asked if there are any limits for the WESTAR/WRAP spring business meeting in terms of number of participants. We have 300 lines available for the meeting, so participation by staff is encouraged.

2. Nomination and approval of WESTAR officers for 2020-2021 (Mary Uhl)

Slate of officers presented by the nominating committee:

Garrison Kaufman (CO)-president

Marianne Rossio (HI)-vice president

Ali Mirzakhali (OR)-treasurer

Kathy Taylor moved to accept the slate; Alice Edwards seconded. No one opposed so the new officers will begin their terms on April 22.

3. Update on training and remote training initiatives (Jeff Gabler)

The joint training committee has been working with trainers around the country to identify training courses that may be reasonable and appropriate to present online. Jeff gave an example of the NSR training course, which some part of might be available online. Jeff noted that a “job board” is being organized to identify training that is needed and could be delivered online. The job board would be accessible by trainers. A wiki has been initiated with details of the training effort. Jeff will be emailing all state air directors tomorrow with these details.

4. Regional Haze update and proposal for SIP development initiative (attachment for background information, Tom Moore and Rhonda Payne (MT))

Rhonda Payne (MT) presented the MT RH SIP outline as Montana would like to finalize and present their SIP to their governor by the end of 2020. Rhonda noted that this outline is phase 2 of the WRAP Regional Haze planning process and suggested that other states may be able to use the MT outline as they begin their drafting. Wyoming has put together a state collaboration website for sharing information. Idaho and Alaska noted that this is worth moving forward. Colorado and Oregon agreed. No one was opposed.

Tom noted that a potential additional controls run will be conducted soon with state estimates of reductions. 2028 on-the books/on-the way modeling has been completed. The regional haze planning workgroup and regional technical operations workgroup have seen these results. Modeling runs for wildfire and international emissions are being completed now. Finally, we’ve found resources to conduct a second additional controls modeling run in August 2020.

5. Residential Woodheating rule and certification methods update (Bob Lebens)

Bob noted that final action on the NSPS was published April 2. The changes to the NSPS were greatly scaled back, limited to pellet fuel requirements. In late 2018, EPA had proposed

significant changes in an NPRM and ANPRM, including an extension of the sell-through beyond May 2020.

On test methods, EPA has not been active for the past few years; however, EPA has now taken the initiative to develop a cordwood test method. The starting place for a new test method will be the IDC method developed by NYSERDA. Alaska and Oregon are participating in the methods development group.

6. SAFE rule finalized discussion (all)

Garrison noted that this was not unexpected, but the technical analysis is flawed and likely will be challenged. Danilo noted that Nevada agreed. Ali agreed.

7. COVID-19 operations, monitoring and enforcement roundtable discussion (all)

Kathy Taylor noted that monitoring was prioritized in continuity of operation, but filters are not being sent to labs. Prioritizing public information on monitoring on website. Washington asked the public to refrain from unnecessary burning, local agencies have asked for this as well. Coordinating with state health department but not implementing a statewide burn ban.

Garry noted that it has been seamless for some operations. There have been other challenges, including kids at home. Permitting has worked well remotely. Some challenges with filter analysis but have been able to move forward. Dealing with enforcement on case-by-case basis, has not issued a blanket enforcement statement.

Tiffany said Idaho has been like WA and CO. Rolling out enforcement discretion document tomorrow. Idaho is working on burning which can be curtailed but does not allow from a burn ban. Idaho Dept of Land, Dept of Health and DEQ has asked citizens to curtail burning. The public is calling for ag and prescribed burning bans, but not residential.

Alaska Division of Forestry is suspending all burn permits in the state due to concerns with wildland firefighting resources. Alaska has quarantine requirements for moving between communities. Offices are open, but 80% of staff are teleworking. Monitoring staff are still able to operate monitors. Some enforcement discretion where deadlines loom that travel restrictions can't address.

Oregon issued a press release asking for voluntary burn restriction. Oregon forestry and BLM have halted all prescribed burning. No burn permits will be issued.

Danilo noted Nevada has not done anything differently on prescribed fire. Monitoring is deemed essential; everything is working well.

Hawaii attempting to continue monitoring on Oahu, travel restrictions make monitoring on other islands difficult. Not issuing ag burn permits, but no burn bans. Enforcement discretion memo may follow.

Utah offices are closed to the public. Have issued enforcement discretion memo. Stack testing contractors have been difficult to mobilize. In most of population centers, open burning is banned right now. FLMs are not conducting prescribed fires.

Wyoming refineries storage capacity is exceeded, so expecting well sites will need storage. Monitoring is essential, trying to keep monitors running but some cities have travel bans. No burning issues.

8. Other items as time and interest permits

- a. ICR for ORD's strategic planning on cooperative federalism due May 8
Tom Moore identified this ICR as something that WESTAR might want to comment on. Specific western issues include oil and gas, fire and biogenic emissions inventory development, lower complexity modeling tools for the west to address complex terrain and meteorology; and background ozone analytical tools. Mary and Tom will draft a letter for Council review and approval.

The call duration was 59 minutes.