

-- D R A F T¹ --
September 11, 2019
WESTAR Council Meeting
Conference Call Summary

The monthly WESTAR Council call began at 1:00 pm PDT/2:00 pm MDT/3:00 pm CDT.
Council members and delegates present included:

AK-Alice Edwards, Molly Birnbaum
AZ-
CA-Tina Suarez-Murias
CO-Garry Kaufman
HI-Marianne Rossio
ID-Mary Anderson
MT-
NV-Danilo Dragoni
NM-Donna Intermont
ND-
OR-Ali Mirzakhali
SD-Brian Gustafson, Kyrik Rombaugh
UT-Bryce Bird
WA-Kathy Taylor
WY-Nancy Vehr
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Tom Moore, Jeff Gabler

Agenda:

1. Review of Fall Business Meeting agenda, attached (Mary Uhl)
2. Summary of national training meeting with Anna Wood's group (Jeff Gabler)
3. Regional Haze Guidance key points, attached, and Regional Haze National Meeting (Tom Moore)
4. GAO inquiry on air monitoring and use of satellite data (Mary Uhl)
5. Other items as time and interest permits

Meeting Minutes:

1. Review fall business meeting agenda (attached, Mary Uhl)

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

Mary Uhl reviewed the draft fall business meeting agenda. There were no comments or questions.

2. Summary of national training meeting with Anna Wood's group (Jeff Gabler)

Jeff talked about the Training program roadmap. State grant funds are not being used for these improvements. Jeff noted that all division directors were present for the training meeting at RTP. EPA acknowledged their statutory mandate for training at the meeting. The vision is for EPA to create a sustainable training center focused on state/tribal/local needs. One of areas created will be a central library and course materials will be updated. Anna is working on a pool of subject-matter experts. EPA is also going to launch a new learning management system. Regional offices are going to be involved as well. The training program will have 7-8 new staff with instructional design background.

Does EPA have dedicated budget? Yes

3. Regional Haze Guidance key points, attached, and Regional Haze National Meeting (Tom Moore)

Tom reviewed the WESTAR key points analysis document. Guidance “shrunk” between the draft and final. EPA has started outreach on the guidance.

October 28-30 is the National RH meeting in St. Louis, MO hosted by CENSARA.

There will be a lot of information for states beginning to work on regional haze. The agenda has not yet been confirmed, Tom and Mary will distribute the agenda later this week.

4. GAO inquiry on air monitoring and use of satellite data (Mary Uhl)

Mary reviewed the major points that WESTAR conveyed to GAO staff:

- WESTAR provides a forum for state/local/tribal exchange of air monitoring information.
- Air agencies face challenges in designing, operating and/or maintaining existing air quality monitoring networks due to static grant funding, the rising costs of equipment and aging equipment.
- Low-cost sensors and satellite data may augment state monitoring networks but use of this data requires resources and leadership from EPA to integrate data use into regulatory programs.

5. Other items as time and interest permits

There were no additional items brought forward.

The call duration was 33 minutes.