

-- D R A F T¹ --
December 9, 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-
CO-Garrison Kaufman
HI-Marianne Rossio
ID-Steve Miller
MT-Liz Ullrich
NV-Sig Jaunarajs
NM-
ND-
OR-Ali Mirzakhali
SD-
UT-Bryce Bird
WA-Kathy Taylor, Rob Dingell
WY-Nancy Vehr

WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Tom Moore, Bob Lebens, Jackie Gadret, Jeff Gabler

Agenda:

1. Training Update (Jeff Gabler)
2. Alaska DEC woodstove test certifications review update (Alice Edwards)
3. Regional Haze modeling update (Tom Moore)
4. Bob Leben's retirement and filling the WESTAR Senior Policy Analyst position (Mary Uhl)
5. WESTAR/WRAP Fire and Smoke Workgroup and Smoke Management Committee merger/transformation (Mary Uhl and Tom Moore)
6. WESTAR and WRAP website redesigns (Mary Uhl)
7. Other items as time and interest permit

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. Training Update (Jeff Gabler)

EPA is switching over to a new LMS as of January 1 which will replace APTI. Jeff reviewed EPA's roadmap that was presented at the fall business meeting. Lots of courses will be updated over the next 2 years. Because so many training courses are being updated, subject matter experts are needed. There will be a call for these experts soon. The National Training Committee will determine when experts are needed.

Jeff recalled that there was a question a few months ago about whether WESTAR training funds can be used for Title V training. EPA has determined that WESTAR training funds can be used for Title V training. RTP offers Title V training that WESTAR could make available to WESTAR member staff. Jeff will work on how many seats will be available for the training.

Jeff has seen some training for effective permit writing from Eastern Research Group that he will follow up on. New staff at air agencies may want to look at some of the EPA introductory courses available. Jeff noted that new instructors/mentors for training are needed.

2. Alaska DEC woodstove test certifications review update (Alice Edwards)

Alice noted that Alaska has been progressing on woodheating appliance test certifications due to their serious nonattainment area in Fairbanks. They have set some more stringent thresholds on woodstoves as part of their SIP to address the nonattainment areas. Alaska has worked with NESCAUM to review EPA's test certifications and found some troubling results from certification test reports—many had deficiencies that created concerns for emissions from the stoves. As a result of these findings, NY and Alaska have engaged with EPA on 200 step-2 stoves certified by EPA. Alaska DEC has stripped 50-60 stoves from the Alaska-approved list, but there are many more test certifications that are problematic. OECA and OAQPS have been engaged in these discussions on compliance issues and certifications. The process is still evolving. Alaska DEC has posted their summary of reviews on their website. Alaska has delayed determinations on some reviews until they can get additional information from EPA. Alaska and New York are interested in adding other states to work together to see what states can do to improve the situation; this review has implications for woodstove changeout programs and, ultimately progress toward attainment.

Steve Miller asked if Idaho was on the call—they were not. Ali Mirzakhilili asked if there has been outreach to manufacturers. Alice said there has been outreach to all manufacturers. All manufacturers had opportunity to address the reviews, Alaska would like to work with manufacturers to understand stove performance. HPBA and the labs have been in contact with Alaska DEC.

3. Regional Haze modeling update (Tom Moore)

Tom Moore noted that WRAP has been informed of results/progress on a monthly basis. There have been delays with the contractor, but those have been turned around and 2028 projection information and apportionment analyses will be delivered in the next week. The results will be posted in the WRAP TSS; there will be a couple of calls for state RH planners to review work and ask questions. By mid-January, states will have all deliverables. Tom is following up with individual states as needed to understand how to interpret and apply the modeling results to the SIP development.

4. Bob Leben's retirement and filling the WESTAR Senior Policy Analyst position (Mary Uhl)

Mary noted that the deadline for application submittal is December 31, 2020. Interviews will be held in the first 2 weeks of January with a decision shortly thereafter.

5. WESTAR/WRAP Fire and Smoke Workgroup and Smoke Management Committee merger/transformation (Mary Uhl and Tom Moore)

Mary and Tom talked about a joined group that would address not only inventory, but also tracking of prescribed fire programs as they evolve and prescribed fire is applied more frequently in the west. We'll be engaging members of both groups for participation in January.

6. WESTAR and WRAP website redesigns (Mary Uhl)

Mary noted that the development of the website will be outsourced and then the combined WESTAR/WRAP website will be administered in-house.

7. Other items as time and interest permit

Garry wished Bob well in his retirement.

Call duration was 48 minutes.