



Fire & Smoke Work Group meeting agenda and notes – March 15, 2021

Administrative (30 mins.)

1) Welcome, Roll Call

- Bob Spillers
- Kerwin Singleton
- Amber Potts
- Molly B
- Liz Ullrich
- Joel Karmazyn
- Sheryl Fontaine
- Katie Alexander
- Mark Boyle
- Margaret Miller
- David Grant
- Brandon McGuire
- Julie Simpson
- Randall Ruddick
- Andrea Nick
- Sara Strahan
- Jay Baker
- Paul Goodfellow

2) Agenda Review – Bob Kotchenruther

3) Review notes (separate attachment) from Feb. 18th meeting – Bob

Bob- This week: last chance to suggest changes to the workplan scope

4) Quick walkthrough of updated [Fire & Smoke Work Group \(wrapair2.org\)](https://wrapair2.org) page – Paul Corrigan / Tom Moore

Information (25 mins.)

Introduce MT DEQ Smoke Mgmt. Program, followed by Q & A – Rhonda Payne

- Plan to have similar topical presentations on future FSWG calls – seeking volunteers

State Admin Rules- “Open Burning”

Prohibited Materials- anything that is not untreated wood waste

Some issues- wood smoke from home heating, inversions,

Permitting- for both major and minor sources, some minor sources exempt from permit

Major defined as “500 tpy of CO” ~5,000 acres/year

“BACT” – for burning, really best practices. All major burners apply these principles both before and during the burn

Fee-based. Permits pay for staff salary, as well as other items

AMS information system for public, burners, and regulators

MT DEQ ensures burners are following BSMPs

“Hit/miss” graphic, want to permit burns on days when they won’t have significant impact

2020- ~93 percent of burn proposals were approved

Sept 1- Nov 30, daily assessment of small burn allowed/restricted, by county, and potentially including elevation minimum.

Dec 1 – Mar 31, slightly more detailed process. Each individual burn has to follow specific steps- provide information to MDEQ, call the DEQ office before going ahead on any given day.

Q's?

Tom-Annual schedule? Rhonda- not required but some entities meet with us annually, which is very helpful. How does emissions reporting work? The burners go back into AMS and ensure their emissions estimates are accurate.

Molly- Is there a size limitation? R: Just the 500 tons CO limit. Probably there are some "minor" burners who should be considered "major".

Molly- how do you quantify all this for RH planning? R: Haven't quite figured it out yet. Molly: We have a 40 acre/year threshold, we have some who don't comply.

Molly- Are residents required to obtain additional permits beyond AQ? Katie- yes there are required fire safety permits.

Kerwin- On BACT, are alternatives to burning required for consideration? Rhonda- Yes. That is something that's difficult to say "how" we make entities comply. There are certain parts in the BACT that aren't even well fleshed out for us at DEQ.

FSWG Status Report on April 7th at Spring WESTAR-WRAP meeting - Tom

3 30-minute topics coming from FSWG-

1. A fire-season briefing/forecast.
2. Talk by Dan Jaffe, University of Washington
3. A simple presentation on what the FSWG is doing.

Request input on topical areas for work by small groups in context of workplan scope – Rhonda / Tom

Initial ideas – Co-Chairs would welcome comments on this rough grouping of potential small group work focus areas (would need to define a scope, duration -short-term vs ongoing-, etc.):

- a. SMPs: refining the SMP mapping tool, identifying common and variable elements in the various SMPs, SMPs under state-tribal-local authorities vs. also in a SIP/TIP/FIP, regional coordination during Rx and Ag fire activities, et cetera
- b. Prescribed fire – Wildfire nexus for air quality: topical research, application examples, tradeoffs, implementation needs, review resources such as: [2020-Prescribed-Fire-Use-Report.pdf \(stateforesters.org\)](#), etc. **Randall – I'm interested in this.**
- c. Education-Outreach-Training - how and what to share and coordinate on for air quality impacts of fire and smoke, support training needs for Rx and Ag fire mgmt., et cetera. Want to avoid overlap with other groups working in this space, WESTAR-WRAP training program an option
- d. Other thoughts on topical areas for small groups?
- e. EE's. Joel- we'd love to see an example of an accepted tier 3 EE. Sara- can you explain the tiers? Joel- tier 1 are the "no brainers", fireworks for example. Tier 2 require a higher burden of proof. Tier 3 is more of a "hail mary", difficult to prove that wildfire or other EE element is the cause of an exceedance. Sara- yes, Louisiana had an ozone EE accepted a while back from wildfire sources. Bob- I'll follow up with you, Sara, and reach out to OAQPS. A tiered EE generally refers to an O3 EE demonstration, Joel is looking for an O3 tier 3 example. **Margaret – I'm interested in this.**

Rhonda- let us know if you're interested in being involved in one or more of these subcommittees.

Discussion - Action Items – Next Steps (20 mins.)

- Need for more outreach to include other feds, locals, and tribes and Tribal Data WG members in FSWG meetings and activities – Tom and all

Tom- As Rhonda noted today we don't have reps from AZ, CO, CA.

- Identify tribes with interest and needs related to fire and smoke – which tribes are state SMPs in regulate contacts with, EPA R10 annual meeting, et cetera
 - Identify specific additional state folks for outreach
 - Identify specific additional FLM folks (both air quality and burners) for outreach
 - Add EPA Regional Office participation - Bob has already contacted folks in EPA R6, 8, 9, & 10
- Maintain the 'official' FSWG contact list – Rhonda
 - Next meeting – April 19 1100PT/1200MT