**WRAP Fire and Smoke Workgroup Exemptional Events support team meeting.**

July 8, 2021

9 AM – 10 AM, Pacific

1. **Rollcall/introductions – All**

Aislinn Johns

Anthony Barnack

Curtis Blondell

Ethan Brown

5 Barb Regynski

Katie Alexander

Matthew Densberger

Craig Petersen

Denise Scott

10 Ismael Garcia

Erik Gribbin

Gracie Damele

Hasan Tahat

Farren Herron-Thorpe

15 Kerwin Singleton

Krista Thomason

Leroy Williams

Margee Chambers

Mark Rowe

20 Melissa Maestas

Margaret Miller

Mike Morris

Sam Nesbitt

Leif Paulson

25 Libby Pettit

Araceli Pruett

Sara Strachan

Scott Epstein

Joel Karmazyn

30 Sheryl Fontaine

Stephanie Shirley

Tom Moore

Xiang Li

Mary Uhl

35 M Zumalt

Zheng Li

EPA Region 8 (Gail Tonnesen, Amanda Brimmer, Adam Eisele)

40 EPA Region – Erik Snyder

EPA OAQPS (Jeff Vukovich, Mark Evangelista, Kirk Baker

44 EPA Region 10 - Bob Kotchenruther

1. **Why this new group was organized, and some restrictions based on FACA (Federal Advisory Committee Act) – Bob**

Back near the beginning of this year, the WRAP Fire and Smoke workgroup was reformulated under a broader mission. Originally the Fire and Smoke work group was organized around supporting developing the regional haze SIPs. But now that the technical work around this round of SIPs is winding down, folks who worked on Fire and Smoke related issues in the west saw a need to continue the workgroup under the broader scope, that of supporting regional coordination on Fire and Smoke related issues. So, with that new mandate, the cochairs of the Fire and Smoke workgroup sent out a questionnaire about what needs exist for coordination, and one of the clear needs that came up was around Exceptional Events. So, we then began organizing this group. One thing related to this group that we need to be aware of is staying clear of triggering something called FACA, ot the Federal Advisory Committee Act. FACA governs environmental advisory committees, and would be triggered if we do anything that could be construed as forming policy, making policy recommendations, or making policy decisions.

1. **Feedback on the new draft data resource list, attached to the meeting invite. Is there consensus that we can ‘finalize’ this draft and post it to the WRAP Fire and Smoke workgroup web page? – All**

There was consensus that after Bob adds the additional following links to the draft, it can be published on the WRAP FSWG web page.

* A link to EPA’s Exceptional Events webpage.
* Geographic Area Coordination Centers - https://gacc.nifc.gov (A governmental resource to view local fire office dispatch reports)
* Fire Weather Avalanche - https://fireweatheravalanche.org/fire/ (A commercial resource with a comprehensive map showing fires)

1. **Discussion – All**

Mike Morris WY – Mike wants to see better communication around large regional multi-state smoke events. Perhaps this group can help coordinate inter-state communication, coordination, and data sharing for these events. A meeting soon after such events would be best.

Leroy Williams Gila River Indian Community – Leroy mainly uses the finished products of an EE demonstration as documents he uses for informational purposes. He appreciates when the documents have more general information in addition to the needed technical elements. He also wants to hear from EPA about these documents.

Michelle @ MDAQMD – Michelle want to see if we can find a better way to facilitate the sharing of Fire specific information and any data analysis around specific fires.

Farren Herron-Thorpe WA – Farren wonders is we can help facilitate more publicly accessible examples of PM2.5 exceptional events demonstrations. Apparently the EPA web site that has examples has only one for PM2.5. Also he is wondering about how we might share examples of data flagging memos.

Stephanie Shirley TX – Stephanie would like to see some way we can foster inter-state communication for information on what dates for EE exceedances other states are currently working on. If two states know that each other are working on the same dates, then that can help foster collaborations.

Margret Miller OR – One issue that OR is having is that which days have regulatory significance is a moving target. I.e., ‘IT’ days vs. ‘RT’ days. Some days that are now flagged as IT may become RT in the future. How do other states handle this problem? Farren (WA) said that they will put together a set package of trajectories and other basic info for all IT days, just in case they’re needed. Sara (ID) says they do a quarterly screening of data, and gather satellite images, trajectories, and newspaper stories for any significant dates.

Gail Tonnesen EPA R8 – An issue to be aware of that has come up in the stratospheric intrusions workgroup is that of transient data products that go away after some period of time. Farren (WA) mentioned that data on inciweb gets scrubbed about yearly. Also, he finds webcam data helpful, but these are not archived. He has some scripts that automatically pull that data on a rotating 30 days in case they need to save anything.

Margaret Miller OR – Another issue OR has is that Fire names can change and that makes tracking difficult. Sheryl (NV) said they also deal with that issue. They keep regular track of fires via a spreadsheet and check the situation reports regularly. This lets them track name changes. Margaret also wonders weather there is a way in AirnowTech to save the trajectory settings as part of the URL so that she can just provide a line to the data. Farren (WA) says since these trajectories are run on the fly, and not static images, the system isn’t designed for that.

Tom Moore WRAP – He suggest we record future MS Teams meeting and he can post to the FSWG website.

There was a discussion of when and how often we should meet. It was agreed we would set placeholder meetings for every 2 months. Bob will send out a request for agenda and discussion topics a week before the meeting. If there are not topic brought forward by the membership, then the meeting will be canceled.

1. **Wrap up and next steps – Bob**

Action items - Bob

* Draft final fire and smoke EE data resource list, send to WRAP for posting on the FSWG page.
* Send out doodle poll to find the best time for a regular every other month meeting and then schedule those calls.
* Consider drafting a list of transient data sources and techniques to agency reps have developed to address and capture that data.
* Record future meetings to be posted on the WRAP FSWG website.
* Bring forward to the WRAP FSWG the need for facilitating data sharing in a number of specific areas.
  + Fire specific information and data analyses.
  + More publicly available examples of PM2.5 EE demonstrations and data flagging memos.
  + Tracking of EE demonstration dates states are working on at any given time.