

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-Nick Czarnecki  
AZ-Daniel Czecholinski  
CA-Rebekka Fine  
CO-Garry Kaufman  
HI-  
ID-Tiffany Floyd, Aislinn Johns  
MT-Liz Ulrich  
NV-  
NM-  
ND  
OR-Ali Mirzakhilili, Kristen Martin, Michael Orman  
SD-Rick Boddicker  
UT-  
WA-Rob Dengel  
WY-Amber Potts  
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Jackie Gadret, Jay Baker, Rhonda Payne

Agenda:

1. Exceptional Event application concept presentation from SCAQMD (Melissa Maestas, Ranil Dhammapala, Scott Epstein)
2. Feedback on the fall meeting/suggestions for topics to follow-up on (all)
3. Executive session review and any further discussion (all)
4. Update on WESTAR funding (Mary Uhl)
5. Upcoming WESTAR meetings agenda review (attached): Regional Haze/Western Visibility Initiative and Fire and Smoke Air Quality Collaboration (Jay Baker, Rhonda Payne)
6. Other items as time and interest permit

Minutes:

1. Exceptional Event application concept presentation from SCAQMD (Melissa Maestas, Ranil Dhammapala, Scott Epstein)

Melissa Maestas presented the concept of an EE application to streamline the process of gathering documentation and producing EE reports for submittal. There is an

opportunity for about 15 R-coders and EE content experts to assist in building the application. WESTAR would host the application. The application will cost about \$400 annually and WESTAR can cover that within the WESTAR budget. Melissa, Ranil and Scott will speak with other WESTAR/WRAP groups to ensure the initiation of the project is widely disseminated. They estimate that volunteers might need to commit about 40 hours to the project. They haven't received feedback from EPA Region 9, but hope that WESTAR will help to coordinate those conversations.

2. Feedback on the fall meeting/suggestions for topics to follow-up on (all)

Members would like to hear a summary of the upcoming fall meetings on regional haze and smoke management. It was also mentioned that members would like more information from EPA about grant opportunities under the IRA and infrastructure bill.

3. Executive session review and any further discussion (all)

There was no further discussion, just a reminder that additional input is due in 2 weeks.

4. Update on WESTAR funding (Mary Uhl)

Mary Uhl noted that WESTAR health insurance options may soon include state exchange insurance packages. WESTAR has received notice that health insurance costs will rise 15-20% for the coming year. WESTAR is looking for other cost-saving measures. The Council asked that Mary follow up with Mike Koerber to see if there will be a response from the letter to Peter Tsirigotis on western funding needs.

5. Upcoming WESTAR meetings agenda review (attached): Regional Haze/Western Visibility Initiative and Fire and Smoke Air Quality Collaboration (Jay Baker, Rhonda Payne)

Jay and Rhonda reviewed the agendas for the meetings on regional haze and smoke management in November. The room block for both meetings expires October 14, 2022.

6. Other items as time and interest permit

There were no additional items brought forward.

The call duration was 1 hour.