

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-Michael Benjamin, Rebekka Fine
CO-
HI-Marianne Rossio
ID-Tiffany Floyd, Steve Miller, Aislinn Johns
MT-Bo Wilkins, Liz Ulrich
NV-
NM-
ND-Jim Semerad
OR-Ali Mirzakhali, Michael Orman
SD-Kyrik Rombough
UT-
WA-Rob Dengel
WY-
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Jay Baker, Rhonda Payne, Jeff Gabler, Jackie Gadret

Agenda:

1. Vote on topics of interest for fall business meeting, attached (All)
2. WVI areas of improvement and WESTAR Council recommendations to EPA (Jay Baker, Rhonda Payne)
3. Update on WESTAR action items identified at fall business meeting, attached (Mary Uhl)
4. Update on WESTAR leadership training idea (Mary Uhl)
5. Discuss possible WESTAR comment on EPA's proposed vehicle standards (All)
6. Update on EPA's 2022 emissions inventory platform (Mary Uhl)
7. Establishing a Council subcommittee to explore member state staff exchanges (All)
8. Other items as time and interest permit

Minutes:

1. Vote on topics of interest for fall business meeting

Topics of most interest included environmental justice, the ozone NAAQS and climate change, the PM2.5 NAAQS and exceptional events, wildfire and prescribed fire smoke, residential wood heating and regional haze.

2. WVI areas of improvement and WESTAR Council recommendations to EPA

The WVI report shows a divergence of opinion in problems and solutions to the regional haze rule. EPA has the WVI report as they participated in the process. It was decided that a letter to EPA would include areas of consensus recommendations and ask EPA what process they will use for rule and guidance revisions. The letter should invite EPA to engage with WESTAR on revisions.

3. Update on WESTAR action items identified at fall business meeting

- a. Staffing recruitment and training-WESTAR pursuing a leadership training in spring 2024
- b. EE-demo tool kick off was today with cross-MJO support
- c. Fed sources-WESTAR continues to incorporate this into WESTAR comment letters
- d. Program funding-still waiting for survey responses

4. Update on WESTAR leadership training idea

Addressed in item 3.

5. Discuss possible WESTAR comment on EPA's proposed vehicle standards

WESTAR will draft a letter urging EPA to adopt strong rules for sectors under federal control.

6. Update on EPA's 2022 emissions inventory platform

Platform kickoff has been slow, but hopeful for a call involving all state staff in the next month.

7. Establishing a Council subcommittee to explore member state staff exchanges

A committee has been established including Bo, Ali, Daniel and Jason. Mary will set up a call. The goal is for state staff to understand how things are done in other states, spend time with other agencies, learn from each other and strengthen the western air quality community. The questions are whether staff move, how they are supervised.

8. Other items as time and interest permit

- a. RHR ICR comments are due 5/30/2023—Mary will send WESTAR's comments from initial ICR
- b. Mary reminded the Council that WESTAR will likely not be able to access our grant funds if the debt ceiling is reached.
- c. EPA's response to OIG findings on Residential Wood Heating should be issued next week.
- d. Jeff Gabler said that an email for 2024 training needs will be sent next week. The deadline for response will be the end of June.

The call duration was 53 minutes.