
The monthly WESTAR Council call began at 10:00 HAST/12:00 pm AKST/1:00 pm PST/2:00 pm MST/3:00 pm CST. Council members and delegates present included:

AK-Jason Olds
AZ-Daniel Czecholinski
CA-Michael Benjamin, Rebekka Fine
CO-
HI-Cathy Lopez
ID-Mary Anderson
MT-Bo Wilkins, Liz Ulrich
NV-Beth Graine
NM-
ND-Jim Semerad
OR-Michael Orman, Ali Mirzakhali
SD-
UT-Bryce Bird
WA-Rob Dengel
WY-Nancy Vehr
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Jay Baker, Rhonda Payne, Jeff Gabler, Jackie Gadret

Agenda:

1. Spring business meeting agenda (attached) review and registration (Mary Uhl)
2. Reminder of annual assessment for ADMS and update on funding from federal agencies (Mary Uhl)
3. Exceptional Events app moving to ADMS (Mary Uhl)
4. Reminder-use travel funds by September 30 (Mary Uhl)
5. WESTAR 2024 workplan (attached) progress (WESTAR staff)
6. Exceptional Events workshop reminder (Mary Uhl)
7. Leadership training update (Jeff Gabler)
8. other items as time and interest permit

Minutes:

1. Spring business meeting agenda review and registration

Mary reviewed the draft agenda, noting that depending on EPA's release of their communications strategy for the RHR reconsideration, there may be changes to

that portion of the agenda. CA offered that they have a report on the Camp Fire air toxics assessment that could be added to the wildfire air toxics section. WESTAR will follow up with CA.

2. Reminder of annual assessment for ADMS and update on funding from federal agencies

Mary noted that USFS has committed at least \$20,000 per year for the ADMS operation.

3. Exceptional Events app moving to ADMS

Mary noted that the EE app will likely move to the ADMS to allow users to store their files on the ADMS server instead of on their agency server. This may be helpful for workflow when several agency staff are working on one submittal.

4. Reminder-use travel funds by September 30

Jackie Gadret will send states their balances.

5. WESTAR 2024 workplan progress

Mary noted that key accomplishments so far include the EE workshop, the monthly digest, and the formation of a workgroup to discuss the state implementation plans for the new federal Oil and Gas rule.

6. Exceptional Events workshop reminder

Mary noted we have over 330 participants registered.

7. Leadership training update

This training will take place in Denver, CO May 14-15. Each WESTAR member state may send 2 staff members. Jeff has a brochure he has sent to all of the WESTAR states.

8. other items as time and interest permit

- CA suggested WESTAR submit a comment letter in support of the Large MWC rule revision that removes the Title V requirements for ACIs. It was noted that the support letter should include some language to ensure that ACIs weren't burning trash and were used as an alternative to pile burning. All were in favor of this, so WESTAR will draft a letter.

- WA brought forth the new EPA QAPP guidance, which may require state agencies to add QA staff. WY agreed that the new requirements are difficult and require more work. There was no comment period or state input gathered on the new guidance. WESTAR will work to draft a letter to EPA.
- UT noted that there is a House committee hearing on 2/15/2024 on revisions to the CAA for NAAQS standards. Under discussion are changing the NAAQS review to 10 years (instead of 5), consideration of the attainability of the standard in setting the standard and adding 3 state air agency representatives to the CAAAC. Bryce will forward a link for Mary to share with the Council. There was some disagreement with elements of the changes proposed. Mary noted that WESTAR cannot lobby congress or write letters to congress advocating positions, so there wouldn't be a WESTAR letter on this proposal.
- OR noted that there should be an interim strategy or western approach to PM2.5 nonattainment areas where residential wood heating emissions are the predominant cause of nonattainment. The strategy is needed because of the nonalignment of EPA actions (such as re-testing of appliances and promulgating a new NSPS) with nonattainment deadlines. CA concurs that EPA is moving too slowly. AK noted that the "AK list" of approved woodstoves has only 9 stoves on it. MT noted that there are potential PM2.5 nonattainment areas for the new standard where residential woodsmoke comprises 50-75% of the PM2.5 emissions. This issue will be discussed further at the spring business meeting.

The call duration was 50 minutes.