

**Meeting Summary**

WESTAR-WRAP Fall 2016 Business Meeting

Kalispell, MT

September 13-14, 2016

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1. WESTAR Council Executive Session Actions:

- a. Approval of WESTAR-WRAP Spring 2016 Business meeting minutes: motion to approve by Bryce Bird (UT), second by Danilo Dragoni (NV). Unanimous approval.
- b. Location and date for spring business meeting: San Diego meeting either April 4-6 or April 25-27.
- c. New WESTAR Committee liaisons: Tim Franquist (AZ) is the new WESTAR Planning Committee liaison; Danilo Dragoni (NV) is the new Technical Committee liaison.

2. Opening of WESTAR-WRAP meeting

Randy Ashley, Confederated Salish, Pend d'Oreilles, and Kootenai Tribe (WRAP Tribal Co-Chair), Gordon Pierce, CDPHE (WRAP State Co-Chair) and Terry O'Clair, ND (WESTAR President) welcomed participants.

Welcome to Montana

- Dave Klemp provided an overview of air quality issues in Montana.
- Chris Downs provided an [overview of Glacier NP environmental issues](#).
- Randy Ashley provided an [Introduction to the CSKT Air Program](#).

WESTAR-WRAP Staff reports: Tom Moore, Bob Lebens and Jeff Gabler of WESTAR-WRAP presented information about the WRAP work, WESTAR committees and training.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the Staff reports.

Committee and workgroup reports: Jay Baker (Planning Committee), Phil Allen (Technical Committee), Tom Moore (WRAP Technical Steering Committee) and Gordon Pierce (National Monitoring Steering Committee) presented information about their committees' work.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the Planning Committee report. [Click here](#) for a copy of the Technical Committee report. [Click here](#) for a copy of the WRAP Technical Steering Committee report.

Financial Report

Mary Anderson (IDEQ) reported on WESTAR's finances. [Click here](#) for a copy of the financial report.

### 3. Regional Haze: past, present and future: a primer and western perspectives

This section of the agenda consisted of 4 presentations to provide meeting participants with a history of visibility protection, a history of the regional planning process in the west, a state's experience with regional haze planning and a federal land management agency's perspective on regional haze planning.

Bill Malm of Colorado State University presented a [Short History of Visibility Protection](#).

Ira Domsy of Maricopa County Air Quality Division presented [Regional Haze Planning: Genesis to Exodus](#).

Curt Taipale of Colorado Air Pollution Control Division presented the [State of Colorado Region Haze Planning Experience](#).

Pat Brewer of the National Park Service Air Resources Division presented the [National Park Service Regional Haze Planning Perspective](#).

### 4. EPA Regional Haze Rulemaking and State Perspectives

EPA's OAQPS provided an update on the proposed regional haze rule and guidance. Melinda Beaver and Phil Lorang of OAQPS presented [Preparing for the Regional Haze Rule's 2nd Implementation Period](#). [WESTAR comments on regional haze](#) were presented by Rita Bates (NMED).

A member roundtable followed to answer the following:

What is your reaction to the revised regional haze rule and guidance and what do you see as the major challenges in preparing the next round of regional haze SIPs?

The following reflect member comments:

- Support for the timeline extension
- Need for funding to have capacity to complete the modeling
- Benefits of multi-state analysis
- Need to scrutinize costs for perceptible and imperceptible visibility benefits
- Political difficulties will be a challenge
- Consistent messaging on regional haze is important, especially about smoke management
- Need to ensure that smoke management plans incorporate wildfire and prescribed fire
- There is a disproportionate resource requirement compared to benefits, especially in Class I areas where visibility is near natural conditions
- Alaska differences make a regional analysis less useful

The following reflect EPA comments:

- EPA is committed to completing national source apportionment modeling
- EPA is working with RPOs to review the apportionment
- National modeling should assist states in technical aspects of regional haze rule-modeling should be completed by January 2017

The following reflect FLM comments:

- The challenges of the regional haze rule are worth tackling because of the benefits to

Class I area visitors

- RAVI is an important tool; with improved consultation it will be rarely used.

## 5. OAQPS Update

Anna Wood and Chet Wayland presented the EPA OAQPS update. [Click here](#) for a copy of their presentation.

## 6. Exceptional Events

Beth Palma (EPA OAQPS) gave a brief update on the Exceptional Events rulemaking, which should be finalized any day. As soon as the rule is finalized, EPA will conduct a webinar and there will be two Exceptional Events meetings, one in coordination with WESTAR in Denver and one in Dallas.

Sara Strachan from Idaho DEQ presented [WA/ID/OR/UT Wildfire Exceptional Events Coordination](#).

A member roundtable followed to answer the following:

Looking forward in light of a revised exceptional events rule and ozone and wildland fire guidance, what do you see as the as the major challenges facing your organization preparing exceptional event demonstrations?

State and tribal responses were:

- Optimism that the new rule and guidance will provide much needed assistance
- Resources are simply not available for “A+” exceptional events demonstrations, path forward is needed, looking forward to November workshop in Denver
- Desire for large “hits” to be waived
- Staff capacity has been lost, there is a need to simplify/streamline these demonstrations
- Some states have large numbers of events, even though the event may not affect attainment, it may impact design values
- Demonstrations along the border of the US require a great deal of resources, would be great to have natural events plan option
- Regulatory significance of some events is difficult to ascertain at the time
- States need to build capacity for wildfire and stratospheric ozone events. There must be a balance between the available tools and providing flexibility. In some cases, the data needed is not available
- States could use significant resources on demonstrations that EPA might not review
- A lower ozone standard could require some states to take a closer look at exceptional events that were previously ignored
- Some states have been able to simplify submittals

## 7. Smoke Management Programs

Erin Law (USFS) presented on the [MT-ID Airshed Program](#).

Rita Bates (NMED) presented on the [NMED Smoke Management Program](#).

Kevin Greenleaf (Kootenai Tribe of ID) presented [Tribal Smoke Management Plans in the ID-MT area](#).

#### 8. Ozone

Anna Wood presented the OAQPS update on ozone. Chet Wayland discussed federal/state/tribal technical coordination on background ozone and regional haze. [Click here](#) to see their combined presentation.

Ken Lloyd (RAQC) presented on [Denver Ozone SIP planning](#).

#### 9. Hot Topics

Tim Allen (FWS) presented information about the FLM [FLAG revision](#).

Gordon Pierce (CDPHE) presented [Monitoring Rule Updates](#).

Chet Wayland (EPA OAQPS) presented [Appendix W/MERP/SILs](#).

Jeff Gabler provided a summary of the August 25-26 CNEE meeting in Denver:

- NASEO and states have initiated a national project to track energy efficiency
- DOE has a project underway to re-shape the nation's grid
- CASIO has a project underway to modernize 38 western power markets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

#### 10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm on September 14.

## APPENDIX

### List of Attendees

#### WESTAR and WRAP Members/Delegates:

Dave Collier, OR  
Phil Allen, OR  
Karen Magliano, CA  
Kyrik Rombough, SD  
Emma Ruppell, Bishop Paiute Tribe  
Ursula Nelson, Pima Co., AZ  
Jason Walker, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation / Washakie Reservation  
Will Allison, CO  
Gordon Pierce, CO  
Curt Taipale, CO  
Dave Klemp, MT  
Liz Ulrich, MT  
Stephen Coe, MT  
Rebecca Harbage, MT  
Craig Henrikson, MT  
Doug Kuenzli, MT  
Kristen Martin, MT  
Mary Anderson, ID  
Sara Strachan, ID  
Farren Herron-Thorpe, WA  
Rita Bates, NM  
Theresa Alexander, BLM  
David Mueller, BLM  
Tim Allen, FWS  
Carol McCoy, NPS  
Pat Brewer, NPS  
Tim Franquist, AZ  
Danilo Dragoni, NV  
Sig Jaunarajs, NV  
Terry O'Clair, ND  
Randy Ashley, Confederated Salish, Pend d'Oreille, and Kootenai Tribes  
Bryce Bird, UT  
Jay Baker, UT  
Brock LeBaron, UT  
Ken Lloyd, Denver/Northern Front Range Regional Air Quality Council  
Robert Tekniepe, Clark Co., NV  
Andrew Tucker, NV  
Ira Domskey, Maricopa County, AZ  
Mark Fitch, USFS  
Linda Geiser, USFS

Pete Lahm, USFS  
Erin Law, USFS  
Jenny Newton, USFS

Invitees and Guests

Anna Wood, EPA-OAQPS  
Chet Wayland, EPA-OAQPS  
Tim Hamlin, EPA Region 10  
Debra Suzuki, EPA Region 10  
Colleen McKaughan, EPA Region 9  
Elizabeth Adams, EPA Region 9  
Monica Morales, EPA Region 8  
Melinda Beaver, EPA-OAQPS  
Phil Lorang, EPA-OAQPS  
Chris Downs, NPS  
Bill Malm, CSU  
Chris Scolari, WGA

WESTAR Staff:

Mary Uhl	Tom Moore
Bob Lebens	Jeff Gabler
Jackie Gadret	

Via Telephone (partial list; not all signed in):

Beth Palma, EPA-OAQPS  
Denise Koch, AK  
Rhonda Payne, MT  
Amber Potts, WY  
Nancy Pritchett, WA  
Mel Joseph, LPPSR  
Tina Suarez-Murias, CA  
Charlene Albee, Washoe County, NV  
Brad Poirez, Mohave Desert AQMD, CA  
Carolyn Kelly, Quinault Nation