

Call to Order- Zac Dorn (AZ)

Notes for this call: Nevada

Discussion Items

Training for Planners (Rebekka Fine/Jay Baker): “A Proposed Training Program for Air Quality Planners in the WESTAR Region”, prepared by Rebekka Fine. The idea is to create a guide and work in progress. The intention is for it to be responsive to what needs are. US EPA’s Air Knowledge Platform has 45 learning objectives for Air Quality Planning. There are gaps in the training that’s available so Rebekka’s intention is to close the gap. The proposed structure for the training session is to have monthly sessions within four quarters (12 trainings total). These training courses will be virtual, except for the Fall or Spring Business Meeting. **Quarterly Topics:** Q1: Regulatory Foundations, Q2: Practical Planning, Q3: Crossing Divisions, Q4: Leadership. “You get out what you put in.” *Jay will send out after meeting.* Rebekka discussed who would attend, budgets, and evaluation and metrics. This would work in conjunction with the Training Subcommittee.

Questions: Would federal employees be able to attend? *Typically, there was a fee for federal employees to attend WESTAR trainings, this however has been going away over the last few years.*

Comment: Sometimes federal employees are able to go to trainings if they are specifically labelled “training” or “workshop”. Something to keep in mind.

Training Subcommittee: Currently it does not exist. It starts now! Goal is to bring a subcommittee together that can share training topics. Does not need to be a certain amount of people from each state, federal or tribal, anyone who is willing and able. Goals: 1) Bringing up topics that are timely and important to the Planning world. 2) Helping to outline curriculum, dialing out the details of the topic. Initial meeting schedule would be monthly, eventual transition to quarterly. Email Jay if interested in joining.

Rule Writing Training: Mike Silverstine(spelling) wants to hold a Rule Writing Training.

Federal updates:

Good Neighbor SIPs/FIP – Phase 1 (Zac): SIP revisions for NV, NM, AZ AL, KY, TN. Zac wanted to point out that EPA is proposing to determine that a 1-ppb threshold is the appropriate Step 2 threshold to rely on in the first instance for the 2015 ozone NAAQS, and is requesting comment on the use of other thresholds.

Michael Madsen, Hawaii: Pointed out that the Large MWC Final Rule is going to come out 3/3/2026.

Regional Haze: EPA final determination of Colorado’s RH SIP, which was disapproved due to its powerplant closures being used as a demonstration of reasonable progress.

Ken McIntyre, Nevada: Brought up the Good Neighbor SIPs and problems with the 2015 Ozone SIP, as well as 2022 RH SIP.

Actions/Updates

Jay Baker: 2024 PM 2.5 NAAQS. Courts were asked to make a decision by 2/7/2026, the date at which EPA is supposed to release initial area designations. Jay is going to keep an eye on that. No word if the judge will have a ruling by the 7th, might find out Monday.

Jay Baker: Westar Spring Business Meeting, April 8th & 9th in Denver, CO. Registration link will be coming out soon! Mark your calendars!

Sarah Downes, Colorado: A workshop on ozone is in the works, particularly in the intermountain west states.

Pop quiz! Jay won!