

Western Regional Air Partnership Meeting
April 4-5, 2006
Radisson Hotel
Salt Lake City Utah

(Please note that all presentations from the meeting are posted on the WRAP web site at: <http://www.wrapair.org/WRAP/meetings/060404slc/index.html>)

Members Present

Stanley Paytiamo, Pueblo of Acoma
Tom Chapple, Alaska
Doug Lempke, Colorado
Richard Oppen, Montana
Andy Ginsberg, Oregon
Kathleen Drew, Washington
Bud Rolofson, U.S. Forest Service
Chris Shaver, National Park Service

Steve Owens, Arizona
Eileen Tutt, California (by phone)
Toni Hardesty, Idaho
Jim Norton, New Mexico
Dianne Nielson, Utah
John Corra, Wyoming
Tom Webb, EPA

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Steve Owens.

1. Call to Order

Patrick announced that the next board meeting will be held in Montana in September. Dates and the location will be announced. Alaska will be considered for a future meeting in 2007.

Funding for this came from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Southwest Carbon Sequestration Partnership.

Tom Webb said Hawaii has expressed interest in becoming a part of the WRAP. Hawaii state officials are expected to make a recommendation to Governor Lingle to request membership.

EPA funding update: Patrick said EPA's FY07 budget includes a 50 percent cut for regional planning organizations (RPOs), which is just part of an overall proposed reduction of \$35 million for state and tribal air grants. There has been a line item covering all five RPOs at 10 million per year until this year (FY06) when it was cut to \$5 million. EPA's proposed budget of \$2.5 million in 2007 for all five RPO equals a 75 percent cut in two years. Patrick expects funds to cover ongoing activities through 2007. After that, the level of WRAP effort will depend on annual funding cycles from EPA (FY08 and beyond).

Andy Ginsburg stated that efforts are underway to get Congress to restore funding to FY06 levels. He said it is important WRAP members weigh in on this. The Board agreed to have additional discussion on this topic during the second day of the meeting.

Richard Opper pointed out that states are being cut disproportionately compared to EPA's own budget for air programs (no FTEs reduced).

2. Review and approval of proposal to develop greenhouse gas emissions inventories for interested states and tribes

Steve Owens – At previous meetings WRAP expressed an interest in developing GHG inventories for interested states and tribes. Tom Peterson of the Center for Climate Studies (CCS) discussed the proposed assistance agreement.

CCS would put together a draft technical work plan for each state on inventories and forecasts. He described work already done and key issues. Periodic check-ins would be done among states to ensure consistency. CCS provides cost sharing to states through funding it receives from a number of foundations which must meet strict conflict-avoidance standards. He said the project could begin immediately.

CCS suggested there be a point of contact at each state to review and approve suggested approaches and provide review at later stages of the project. These would be technical experts to whom CCS can turn if it has questions. CCS will utilize data from a variety of sources and they want to ensure the information they use is consistent with state data. Oil and gas extraction is one area where they have gone significantly beyond federal data.

Tom stated that California, Arizona, Oregon and New Mexico have completed inventories. This is foundational work that can be applied to other states. Steve Owens pointed out that we're talking about is a collection of individualized forecasts and information that is consistent so we can do comparisons as much as possible. Once that is done in Phase I process, then we can consider a Phase II process to put the data in the WRAP's EDMS system. Separate funding would be raised for this.

Dianne Nielson asked how they will update projections. Tom said they will leave each state with a set of assessments and spreadsheets with the cautionary note that some are not real user-friendly and they may require some training for states to use for updates. If you need to change an assumption, you would need to know how to do that as well. Dianne pointed out that one benefit is the ability for industry to document current emissions and get credit for improvements, but that sounds like a different level of detail that you get with this inventory. This level of detail is more likely to come from a registry.

John Corra asked about the degree of involvement from the sources in the states? CCS would not be in contact with sources independently. They would want to confer with the states to determine whether a source would need to be contacted directly, but it can help ensure we incorporate their best information.

CCS will put together a technical work plan that we will proceed on only when we get approval from a state. Same for final report. It will require state sign-off before completing. Tom Chapple said he wants to be sure it is transparent that the states are

directing the project in terms of scope and products. It is important for people to know that we have control of the products CCS said that is the intent.

John Corra made a motion that the WRAP should move ahead to finalize the assistance agreement with CCS and proceed with the project. Rich Opper seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Andy Ginsburg asked that a reminder be sent out to states to designate a point of contact.

3. Updates from States and Tribes

California Climate Action Team Presentation - Eileen Tutt, Special Advisor to the Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency presented the final report of the California Climate Action Team. (Presentation available on the Web.)

Montana – Richard Opper said Montana is already working with CCS to inventory GHG emissions and they have been extremely helpful. The decision to proceed followed the WRAP’s Santa Fe meeting on climate change. Gov. Schweitzer has formed a citizens’ group to examine the issue for the state. They will put together a comprehensive list of ideas and practices already in place in other states, then come up with recommendations for the agency to consider before forwarding to the governor. Noted Montana is a major coal-producing state and will probably have more generation in state to meet country’s needs, so it will be a balancing act with managing GHG emissions. Shock in oil prices really have a permanent feel so want to do something with long-term impact.

Oregon and Washington – Kathleen Drew and Andy Ginsburg provided updates. Both participate in the West Coast Governors’ Initiative. Much of the focus in WA is on transportation, including adopting CA standards. In 2004, an Advisory Board in Oregon set goals similar to California and recommended a series of strategies. On biomass they are looking at incentives for turning forest slash into fuel.

Arizona and New Mexico – Steve Owens discussed Arizona Climate Change Advisory Group’s progress on developing recommendations for the Governor to consider. (Slide show available on the Web) Southwest Climate Change Initiative launched on Feb. 28 between Arizona and New Mexico. (Arizona slide show shows list of potential areas where the two states can collaborate.) Jim Norton discussed New Mexico’s Climate Change Advisory Group and Southwest initiative with Arizona (Slides available on the Web).

April 5, 2006

Meeting called to order at 8:45 a.m. by Steve Owens.

Please note: the presentations from each of the speakers listed below can be found on the WRAP web site at: <http://www.wrapair.org/WRAP/meetings/060404slc/index.html>

4. Advanced Coal Technology

Gasification: The Basics Jim Childress, Gasification Technologies Council

Can IGCC Work in the West? Phil Amick, Conoco-Philips

Understanding Gasification Incentives: Risks, Benefits & Costs

David Berg, U.S. Department of Energy

5. Registries and “Baseline” Protection

World Resources Institute – Pankaj Bhatia

Eastern Climate Registry – Heather Kaplan, NESCAUM

California Climate Action Registry – Diane Wittenberg, CCAR

Midwest Registry –

Mike Koerber, Executive Director, Lake Michigan Air Directors Association

Discussion on Potential Next Steps on a Registry

Jim Norton said New Mexico would like to move forward and begin an exploratory process to create an informal, voluntary workgroup to examine possible next steps (funding, etc.) so states that want to do a registry have something to work with. This would be an important building block for interested states. John Corra concurred it would be good to start a process for states to begin assessing how a registry for the West could work. He said it is important for Wyoming to look at a broader geographic area than the state itself. The cost will be a big question for states. If the states recruit people to sign up for this, it's tough to do that if it has a hidden cost that will be added later on. Need more clarity on the costs.

Tom Chapple said there are established protocols we can use but it could still be an expensive product. Toni Hardesty said it makes sense to have a broader registry. Resources are a big issue for her state, as is how to get stakeholders involved, so next step to have a workgroup makes sense.

Steve Owens noted that exploring options for a registry appears to have consensus among WRAP members and that we do not want to reinvent the wheel. From the WRAP perspective, let's come back and discuss at the end of the day for a group of interested states to discuss alliance concept or western concept.

6. Carbon Sequestration Partnerships

Big Sky – Susan Capalbo, Montana State University-Bozeman

Southwest – Brian McPherson, New Mexico Tech

National Carbon Offset Coalition – Ted Dodge, NCOC

7. Other Business

Comments on EPA PM NAAQS Proposal – Don Arkell (Presentation available on Web)
Reviewed draft letter by state air managers that the states may use as a basis for their own comments to EPA.

Next Meeting: Board agreed to hold its next meeting September 13 – 14 in Montana (27 – 28 as a backup date).

Follow-up Discussion on Registry

Diane Wittenberg offered to conduct a workshop for interested WRAP members. This would be an opportunity to go through a detailed demonstration of the California registry and really understand how it works. The Board agreed that such a workshop prior to the next Board meeting would be helpful. Jim Norton reminded the board that it would be a voluntary effort for interested states to flesh out a roadmap and examine funding issues for a Western registry. Several Board members agreed to work on this issue. They will consult with CCAR and NESCAUM, tapping into their knowledge base. Corra said the end product should be a high level roadmap that offers steps states could use to get a system up and running. It was agreed to move ahead and report back in September.

Funding

Regarding the proposed reduced funding for the WRAP, the board agreed a joint letter should be drafted to EPA and congressional members saying cuts should be restored so work on air quality programs can be completed. Dianne Nielson suggested a letter and/or a resolution go through WGA, which can work with other individuals and entities to send a cohesive, strong message.

Adjournment

Toni motioned the meeting adjourn and Tom seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.