



Date: June 26, 2006

Subject: Notes from TOC/Forum & Workgroup Co-Chairs Conference call of June 2, 2006

Attendance: Dennis Schwehr, Don Arkell, Doug Latimer, Kevin Briggs, Bob Palzer, Lee Gribovicz, Steve Arnold, Bob Gruenig, David Jones, Wayne Leipold, John Vimont, Mary Uhl, Dan Redline, Mark Fitch, Colleen Cripps, and Tom Moore.

Dan Redline's introduction as co-chair for FEJF replacing Darla Potter - Dan reviewed his resume with some of the highlights being: Idaho DEQ, 13 years. Smoke management in duties, currently in management position, FEJF participator, source testing and analytical background, forestry background, et cetera. Tom Moore posted the complete resume if anyone wants to see it. Lee G. asked about the FEJF fire tracking system and Mark F. gave a brief history of the new Web friendly, map based system that tracks prescribed and agricultural fire activity. Lee G. suggested a memo be sent from Tom Moore to the balance of the TOC and other WRAP groups suggesting, lacking any future negative input, Dan be appointed as co-chair of the Fire Forum.

Action: Tom to send out a memo to other WRAP forum chairs/co-chairs asking for any feedback and baring any negative input Dan's appointment will be sent on to the Board.

Plan to review 2007-draft workplan and budget with Planning Team during Summer 2006 - Pat C. recommended the planning team meet by phone the week of June 19th to review a draft workplan, a Word document and spreadsheet will be sent out as a preliminary set of information for a conference call. If necessary, an August a face-to-face meeting was proposed to review and make any final changes to the workplan before the Fall WRAP Board meeting.

Action: Tom to set up a conference call in late June and establish a time and place in August for finalization of the workplan. He will send out the Word document and spreadsheet later in June.

John V. reviewed the modeling update discussion that took place in the past several weeks. Mark suggested that other modeling runs will be expected or requested and there may be no funds to do that. He suggested a sub-group be assembled looking at the policy and technical level. At this point many of the forums and technical groups are winding down yet the planning and plan development groups are just cranking up. Essentially Mark is suggesting we look at how some of these forums talents will be used in the future to help develop the final SIPs as the technical work winds down. Lee G. suggested that the AoH group has this kind of representation and it might be the right group to take on a new direction.

Action: Tom suggested this be discussed with Pat and then we talk in late June and at the planning team meeting in August.

Reminder of preparations for next Board meeting - September 13-14 in Whitefish, MT -

Tom reminded the group this will be the opportunity to review progress and technical updates and plans for the future. He suggested this be the focus of discussions in the July and August calls. Attribution, modeling, emissions, plans for the future will be important updates. The Board meeting will have time on the agenda to review technical information and the planning process. Lee G. asked about when a status update would be made on the 309 planning process. Progress on the BART process needs to be included in the discussion, at least a timeline update, to let the Board know the status of this for all WRAP states.

Action: The July TOC call should begin discussions on this.

Review of Forums/Workgroups Status Report - Lee G. asked about the status of the final 2018 base case modeling and how this will be memorialized. Tom said it would be entered into the EDMF so participants can look at and visualize the results. The 2018B updated case will follow with a memo documenting changes. The apportionment work began a month ago and results will be available in mid-July. The other Forum report updates were scanned and Wayne L. asked if we should put a list in the IMPROVE monitoring discussion about the sites that would be discontinued if the current budget cut materializes. Bob P. asked about which sites would be discontinued. Marc P. is going through an analysis of which sites could be closed that would have the least impact on the overall RH effort. Tom said Congress appears to have restored the budget for at least the upcoming year for full operation of the network but Marc P. is still going ahead with the analysis as a contingency measure. Tom will add some detail to this section of the Status Report. Tom reviewed briefly the dust and carbon workshop and said that the materials from the workshop have been posted on the WRAP website.

Action: Tom will prepare a white paper addressing the regional haze planning concerns about changes or reductions to the IMPROVE monitoring network.

Key concerns about reducing or substantially changing the IMPROVE sites used to set visibility goals and track reasonable progress for the regional haze SIPs:

- 1) How would any IMPROVE network reductions or changes affect the “representativeness” of the data available for each Class I area, both now for planning purposes, and in the future where these data are to be used to track progress?
- 2) Baseline (2000-04) conditions data from existing sites are being used to set visibility goals for each Class I area and as part of a weight-of-evidence analysis to demonstrate progress – there is a need for continuity to support the emissions controls identified in the SIPs.
- 3) Natural emissions contribute to visibility impairment at all WRAP region IMPROVE sites, and in the WRAP region, we are particularly likely to see large variation in impacts from fire and dust sources that are natural – consideration of “how to” equitably characterize natural conditions for haze planning and progress tracking would be limited by a reduction or operational change in the IMPROVE network.
- 4) The existing network configuration of IMPROVE data have been used, both in separate analyses and as part of a weight-of-evidence analysis, to assess the accuracy of modeling and, in conjunction with back trajectories, to identify source(s) and source regions.

- 5) The network needs to be stable. The IMPROVE sites designated to track reasonable progress on regional haze have exactly the same purpose as urban nonattainment area “design value” monitoring sites - until the area reaches attainment, which in the case of Class I areas, to track reasonable progress on reducing anthropogenic controllable haze emissions over a 60-year timeframe. A stable, long term data record is required, given EPA’s commitment on behalf of the states to expand the IMPROVE network during 2000-01, and in light of the fact that the planned visibility improvement between 2008 and 2013, and from 2008 to 2018 will likely be well within the range of the year-to-year variability.

Next call date/time - scheduled for Friday July 7th 1100 AM Mountain