

Western Regional Air Partnership Organizational Meeting Summary

July 15, 2009

WGA offices, Denver, CO

Representatives at Meeting

- 5 state air directors (AZ, CO, OR, UT, WY)
- 3 tribal air program officials (CS&KT, Nez Perce, Lone Pine Paiute)
- 6 federal agency staff (NPS, FWS, BLM, EPA R8)
- 6 WRAP staff (NTEC, WESTAR, WGA)

Outcome and Next Steps

The following proposal for a revision to the WRAP charter / mission statement was developed at the meeting and has undergone one round of review and comment by the meeting Participants. It is being shared with the AMC for further review and comment, after which it will be forwarded to the WRAP Board for review, discussion, and approval.

This statement sets forth the purposes, principles and operating procedures for the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP).

PURPOSE

The WRAP provides a venue for Western states, tribes, local governments, federal land managers and the USEPA to:

- 1) develop a common understanding of current and evolving regional air quality issues in the West, including, but not limited to: regional haze, ozone, fine and coarse particulate matter, nitrogen deposition and critical loads, and mercury and other hazardous air pollutants;
- 2) examine and discuss Western regional air quality issues from a multi-pollutant perspective;
- 3) develop and maintain regional databases that support regional and sub-regional technical analyses. This includes collection and analysis of data from various sources to produce regionally consistent, comparable, complete, and transparent results, and to be utilized and relied upon by individual jurisdictions and agencies;
- 4) collaborate with USEPA to ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, WRAP data and analyses are compatible with and leverage work conducted at the national level. This includes WRAP work to compile data and analyses related to international, off-shore, and other sources of air pollution affecting Western air quality.

- 5) evaluate the air quality impacts associated with regionally significant emission sources, such as mobile sources, fire, traditional and alternative energy development/extraction, windblown dust, and electricity generation, and, as warranted, to discuss regional and cross-jurisdictional strategies to improve air quality and mitigate the impacts from such sources
- 6) consult with air quality agencies in other regions to prevent duplication of effort and enhance efficiency and consistency of databases and analyses.
- 7) evaluate how the impacts of climate change affect air quality in the West
- 8) as requested by the membership, formulate and advance Western regional policy positions on air quality to Congress and federal agencies.

PRINCIPLES

The WRAP is a voluntary partnership of states, tribes, local governments, federal land managers and USEPA. This partnership recognizes the unique legal status and jurisdiction of tribes and seeks to promote policies that ensure fair and equitable treatment of all participating members of the WRAP. The Partnership also recognizes state, tribal and local authority and responsibility to develop, adopt, and implement individual air quality plans within their jurisdictions.

Further, the Partnership recognizes the discretion of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its responsibility to develop national regulatory initiatives, and review State and Tribal plans through public rule making procedures. In addition, the Partnership recognizes the affirmative responsibility of the federal land management agencies under the Clean Air Act to protect the air quality related values, including visibility of Class I areas and to manage all the areas under their respective jurisdictions for the public purposes set forth in their governing statutory authorities.

The WRAP has no regulatory authority and recognizes that all legal authority is reserved by its members in accordance with existing law. The Partnership also recognizes the United States' trust responsibility as carried out by the federal agencies to protect tribal resources from degradation.

As a voluntary partnership, the WRAP is formed as an organization exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The WRAP will conduct its processes consistent with the concepts of open and participatory government.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the WRAP is open to all states, federally recognized tribes, and local air agencies located in the geographical region encompassed by the states of: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Membership in the WRAP is also open to the US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and US EPA.

In order to become a recognized member of the WRAP, eligible states, tribes, local agencies, and federal agencies shall submit an official letter to the WRAP requesting membership and designating primary and secondary contacts for the jurisdiction or agency.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The WRAP Board of Directors shall consist of five state, five tribal, five federal, and two local government representatives. The state, tribal, and local directors shall be elected by their respective delegations to staggered two-year terms, with the option of extension based upon respective caucus discussion and approval. The directors representing eligible federal agencies shall be appointed by their agencies to staggered two-year terms.

Officers

The officers of WRAP shall consist of a state and tribal Co-Chairperson, and a Treasurer and a Secretary elected from the membership of the Board of Directors.

Powers of WRAP Board

In directing the activities of the WRAP, the Board of Directors may:

- Solicit and accept funding;
- Hire staff, or arrange for the provision of staff support, to carry out its activities;
- Approve work plans;
- Approve contracts for support from outside experts and consultants;
- Establish a Technical Steering Committee from the membership to oversee and direct the technical and analytical work of WRAP staff, contractors, and work groups;
- Establish Work Groups from the membership to manage specific elements of the work plan;
- Call membership meetings;

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

The WRAP Board of Directors shall be responsible for ensuring appropriate stakeholder participation in its process. This shall include: 1) ensuring that meetings of the WRAP membership are open to the public; 2) providing opportunities for stakeholder review and comment on WRAP products; and 3) approving participation in WRAP technical work groups by non-members who have particular expertise in a given subject area such that their participation is likely to improve the quality of the work being conducted.