

MINUTES
SMOKE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)
June 25, 2020 | 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

477.552 Policy. It is the policy of the State of Oregon:

- (1) To improve the management of prescribed burning as a forest management and protection practice; and
- (2) To minimize emissions from prescribed burning consistent with the air quality objectives of the Federal Clean Air Act and the State of Oregon Clean Air Act Implementation Plan developed by the Department of Environmental Quality under ORS 468A.035. [1989 c.920 §2]

Committee Members Present:

Gregory McClarren, Committee Chair, Public Representative (in-person)*
Rick Graw, Committee Vice Chair, U.S. Forest Service Representative
Kyle Williams, Industrial Land Owner Representative (in-person)*
Scott Hanson, Non-Industrial Landowner Representative (in-person)*
Jason Simmons, Bureau of Land Management Representative

Others Present:

Nick Yonker, Smoke Management Manager, Fire Protection Program, ODF Support (in-person)*
Ron Graham, Deputy Chief of Fire Protection Program, ODF
Tim Holschbach, Fire Prevention and Policy Manager, ODF (in-person)*
Peter Brewer, Bend DEQ
Pete Parsons, Smoke Management Meteorologist, ODF
Mike Dykzeul, retired OFIC employee
Christina Clemons, Smoke Management Field Coordinator, ODF
Margaret Miller, Air Quality Planner, DEQ headquarters
Dave Cramsey, Roseburg Forest Products
Joseph Flager, Fiscal Services, ODF (in-person)*
Travis Knudsen, Lane Regional Air Protective Agency
Gabriela Goldfarb, Oregon Health Authority
Kate Jackson, Medford DEQ
Shauna Morris, ODF Support (in-person)*
Chrystal Bader, ODF Support

*All other attendees were on Zoom video and audio.

WELCOME – INTRODUCTIONS

Gregory McClarren opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. Introductions were made. Gregory noted Kyle Williams from Oregon Forest Industries Council is now on the committee as the industrial forestland representative. Kyle said he has been with Oregon Forest and Industries Council (OFIC) for a few years and before was at the Toledo office of ODF. Gregory introduced Jason Simmons as the new BLM representative. Jason said he is the BLM fuels program lead for Oregon and Washington.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Nick Yonker noted that Rick Graw submitted some additional changes to the minutes but decided to withdraw them. Nick also asked that going forward we clearly highlight action items for each topic. Nick asked if there were any other corrections. No other corrections asked for.

PROTECTION DIVISION REPORT

Ron Graham provided the Division Report and shared that Dave Larson, District Forester for SW Oregon District is filling in for Doug Grafe this week. Ron said he appreciate everybody adhering to social distancing guidelines and using the technology available. All future Protection meetings will have a Zoom option.

COVID-19 has been dominating our workload. Have been preparing for fire season and how to mitigate with our partners against COVID-19. This started with our National Wildfire Interagency Coordinating Group, the Multiagency Coordinating Group, National Association of State Foresters, and the Fire Management Board who came together to help coordinate fire team planning efforts. ODF developed an Oregon sub-plan for the state to apply to the local level in order to work with the local landowners, contractors, industry partners, field units, and Oregon State Fire Marshal. We developed specific management strategies for Incident Management Teams (IMTs), training, and provided guidance for initial attack, large fire, and extended attack. Doug led a state multiagency coordinating group to develop a COVID-19 fire camp committee that was used to find measures to mitigate COVID-19 at fire camp. Met with IMT team staffs yesterday with more than 120 staff on the call, updating folks further on planning efforts and guidance. The agency has shared information with other states and agencies, such as documents and plans that are available on the "Cloud" for anyone to view, and sharable with our partners. The COVID-19 fire camp committee has been working toward safety and best management practices that can be adapted to conditions and incidents as needed. A lot of virtual tools and electronic documents have been developed to minimize contact. Expectations have been shared with all involved as part of working guidelines. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) have been provided as well as cleaning and disinfecting measures, safety measures, and COVID modules or "family units". We're adding a health liaison officer on each incident to provide on-hand guidance and continued collaboration with state and local health authorities.

Forecast calls for above average fire conditions with a likelihood of an early wildfire season. There has been an increase in human-caused wildfire so far this year, mostly in the Southern Oregon Area (SOA). By early July most districts will be in fire season.

Employees are healthy at ODF thus far as strict safety measures continue to be followed.

Agency funding is still uncertain and hasn't changed much. Special Purpose Authority for Severity has been fully awarded for last year's funding and this year's funding. Severity contracts for aircraft are in place. Special funds have been appropriated to enable us to prepare for COVID, specifically for PPE, cleaning/ disinfecting supplies, and additional training as needed, etc. The ask by the agency has been for everyone that responds to an ODF fire, to be self-screening daily.

Scott Hanson asked about protocols for staff in vehicles and mobilizing for fires. Ron shared that the guidance to all has been to wear a cloth face covering if they are unable to maintain social distancing. The agency has provided these coverings, disinfecting supplies, and hand sanitizer. Ron noted the module groups will allow a "family" group to have their own vehicles, supplies, tools, etc.

Mike Dykzeul asked about training requirements. Ron shared that folks are current within the last couple years. Succession management on teams remains a challenge. Hopeful the new team structure with added members will help with the succession management.

DEQ REPORT

DEQ Air Quality Planning Section Smoke Management Advisory Committee Update document presented by Margaret Miller

- **SIP update**

Margaret Miller provided a State Implementation Plan (SIP) update. She stated the EPA regional office is still working on edits. No public notice yet. Federal register is backed up and will likely cause a delay, but is expected to be finalized before the statutory deadline of March 24, 2021.

Gregory asked about the public notice going on to the federal register and thought it would be good to have a state notice that would be a good communication tool, given the public comments and concerns regarding air toxics. Peter Brewer mentioned that EPA questions are between the region and headquarters. Afterward we may release another public notice. Kyle asked what type of edits have been proposed. Peter shared that there may be language changes proposed regarding criteria pollutants. Randall Ruddick at EPA will be working directly on this. EPA protective regarding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Rick Graw offered thanks to DEQ for the extensive work on this.

- **Monitoring Network**

Margaret shared her screen showing the latest monitoring network. This network undergoes constant updates. The graphic shows the sensor sites - federal reference monitors (FRM) are peach-colored and nephelometers are blue-colored. Low cost sensors are heavily concentrated in the Willamette Valley. The hope is to start implementing more of these low cost sensor programs. COVID has delayed this program. The plan is to start getting this done now that in-state travel restrictions are not as difficult.

There is talk of moving the Newport site to Toledo. This sensor gets wind interference at its current location near the ocean. Toledo has been proposed at the ODF office, but has not worked out. Bend/Central Oregon has utilized a small network of monitors. The hope is to get access to these for added data.

- Nick asked about Newport being the SSRA vs Toledo and offered the Newport Fire Station as an alternate location. Kyle Williams said the fire station is closer to the beach and preferred the Newport Middle School or High School. ODF office will soon be moving and the nearby trailer park has lots of smoke coming from it so it would not be a good site.
- Gregory asked about monitors at tribal sites. PurpleAir monitors are also available to be in a network. Is there a goal to try to get these in a central location? Margaret is working toward bringing these other networks to a central location. The monitoring team is interested in getting as many monitors in the network.
- Peter said PurpleAir monitors will not be used for compliance. Only FRMs can be used for NAAQs compliance purposes. The raw data from PurpleAir is still generally 1.5 to 2 times higher than the federal reference monitors.
- Margaret said the Oregon AQI is being updated currently. She will notify when it is launched and updated. However, it will still always be active even during the revamping of the site.
- Dave Cramsey asked about using PurpleAir monitors for compliance. Peter said they will not. They may be used for trends.
- Rick asked about how wind affects the nephelometers. Margaret said too much wind interferes with the light scattering. She is unsure of how wind might affect federal reference monitors. All monitoring questions can be addressed by Anthony Barnack or his monitoring team.

- **Wildfire Smoke Response**

Updated a section on COVID and an appendix on Public Affairs response in the Wildfire Smoke Response Protocol document.

- **Smoke Communication and Complaints**

Complaints have not been as bad since the voluntary refrain on open burning. One complaint from Applegate Valley that went to the May Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) meeting. Need to discuss interagency complaints and how do we compile those. Margaret recommended that ODF and DEQ continue to navigate interagency communications.

Action item 1: Margaret to provide update on SIP.

Action item 2: Concern regarding moving sensor to Toledo is that it would no longer be in the SSRA. Continue to look at the Middle School in Newport for placement of a monitor.

Action item 3: Gregory noted concern that the public might not understand the Purple air monitor data is not as accurate. Gregory suggested Peter, Nick and him follow-up later.

Action item 4: Wait until later to address interagency complaints, but continue to develop interagency communication. Continuation of action item from January meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

FUND BALANCE

Nick Yonker introduced the topic of finances and said he would be getting help explaining the financial situation from Joseph Flager in Finance and Tim Holschbach, the Protection Policy Manager. Will discuss the fund balance, the future with our budget, and federal contracts update.

Nick Yonker shared the Fund Balance Chart that shows where we've been. It's been fairly stable with the usual seasonal ups and downs with the low point in September. We're always spending money but in some parts of the year we're making more than at other times. Fund Report was shared, which gives the financial details. Nick showed revenue and expenditure changes. Cost containment shows some "wild" changes from 2019 into 2020. Fund balance is still where we want to be. Listed under revenue is the completed first contract with the Forest Service (FS) making four payments of \$112,500. Nick also showed BLM revenue on the spreadsheet. Both these contracts have been completed.

Joseph Flager shared the Payroll Deductions Table. He noted in 2019 Smoke Management paid only 10 months of payroll. The projection for 2020 shows there will be 14 months of payroll deducted. He shared the agency is working to get a loan from the Treasury Department. Joseph shared that once we get the loan, we won't have to deal with large payments back and forth as the agency won't take money from Smoke Management and then reimburse.

Kyle asked what leads to thinking revenue will be strong in 2020? Joseph said we will get a loan from the (State) Treasury Department and Smoke Management is part of that Treasury fund loan. Kyle was concerned that since COVID has decreased burning, this leads to decreased revenue. He wants to see where COVID revenue projections are in this budget. Tim mentioned that we need to compare this year with previous years to determine the impact of COVID. Gregory asked whether the loan is not specific to the Smoke Management program. Joseph said that was correct. Nick noted it will be easier to project expenditures after the loan. Gregory requested more footnotes to explain the finances, including assumptions.

Dave Cramsey clarified personnel costs will remain the same, although it will be shown differently once loan dollars are received by ODF. He also recapped from previous discussions that FS and BLM have set payments annually. FS has underpaid; they need to catch up on payments (burned more acres than they paid for). BLM had overpaid; they need to be repaid. Dave advised updating revenue projections.

Nick shared revenue updates. Tim helped negotiate a new temporary contract with FS to ensure a full recovery of all fees in accordance with the statute (ORS 477.552). Nick explained that the FS agreed to pay the back payments of \$232,000 he mentioned in the previous Advisory Committee meeting. In addition they added another \$83,000 because of additional burning that has been done and will be done through September of this year. They will be providing \$316,000 payment in September. This will be added to our existing budget and alleviate lost revenue due to COVID. BLM burned less acres than what they paid for. The new agreement beginning Oct 1, 2020 will credit them for an overpayment of \$92,000. Then a new agreement will be developed for FY 2021.

Rick Graw voiced concern for how FS and BLM were being characterized. Rick noted that the contracts are firm-fixed price agreements and disagrees using the terms “overpayment” or “underpayment.” Requested this language be removed from the record.

Nick apologized for how the terms are used. We look at the agreements differently than how the federal agencies look at them.

Tim shared that the state statute notes every contract has to have a mechanism to adjust for costs. This is the avenue for recovering costs. BLM did not get as much “bang for their buck”, so we will not charge them until we equalize their payments. FS was on the other side, so we will receive the actual amount of the costs. \$316,000 for costs through September 2020. This contract is a mechanism for FS to secure those funds. Fixed price contract is not the most efficient contract to use in this arena. Thus we needed an interim agreement to “coast” to equalization. The goal is to pay actual costs but still have an agreement to earmark their funds. ODF will invoice the FS to recover these costs from the previous contract. We will have future agreements to ensure actual costs are paid.

Dave asked when we will be updating the projections. Nick said the budget will be updated for the next SMAC meeting in January, showing payments from the FS. At that time we should have new agreements for the FS and BLM in accordance with state law.

Ron commended the work of Tim and Nick to get this issue settled.

Action Item 5: Add more footnotes to projections spreadsheet to better explain the finances.

Action Item 6: Update revenue projections based on federal payments in fall.

BOF/EQC UPDATE TO SMP STATUS

- **EQC Update**

Margaret updated the committee saying the previous meeting was to be in March but it got cancelled. We will now plan to present updates on the SMP in November. There will be a virtual option to present.

- **BOF Update**

Nick recapped highlights of what was shared at the Board of Forestry meeting on March 4, 2020. Doug Grafe, Nick Yonker, Michael Orman, and Gabriela Goldfarb provided updates about the progress made under the recently updated SMP.

Doug highlighted the fundamental change to the program to create more burn opportunities to reduce wildfire and smoke from wildfire. He said the goal to help mitigate this is to increase prescribed fire while staying within air quality standards. Burning increased 11 percent over the previous 10-year average. Doug recognized Advisory Committee Chairman, Gregory McClarren for his leadership on the Advisory and Review Committees.

Nick discussed the implementation of these changes which began March 1, 2019. Significant time was necessary to educate key stakeholders on SMP changes. This included 26 briefings to various agencies and interest groups. Because the smoke intrusion definition changed, forecast instructions had to change. This process was completed October, 2019; in time for fall burning. In addition, a statewide communication framework was developed and was sent out to federal and state forestry leadership and to county health departments. There will be work to share this information publicly as well.

Gabriella presented on how smoke particles are harmful to health. She supported the new rules, especially community response plans that would notify communities of incoming smoke. She highlighted the work done in Deschutes County to develop the first community response plan.

She described the development of assessing the health impacts and costs associated with wildfire smoke.

Michael Orman shared updates regarding community response planning and coordinating grants for smoke mitigation from \$250,000 in grant money received from the Legislature. Grants were awarded to five communities to develop community response plans. He also described future agency efforts for finding alternatives to pile burning as an offset to wildfire and prescribed fire smoke.

The board asked about the geographic scope and scale of community response plans. Michael mentioned that most plans are county-organized with the focus on the SSRA.

The board also asked about using monitors in determining whether a landowner can burn. Nick shared that monitors are a tool to determine whether we have a smoke incident or intrusion from controlled burns and utilize this data to adjust for future burn approvals. He said each smoke event is a learning experience to improve for the future.

Board Chair Imeson appreciated the department's approach and collaborative efforts to work through impasses on rulemaking and for working with communities to achieve goals set forth by each agency. He encouraged continued collaboration.

BURNING SUMMARY

Nick presented the [Burning Summary Documents](#) and noted the following highlights.

- [Accomplished Summary By District](#) showed prescribed burning conducted this calendar year. We burned considerably in January and February then it essentially stopped with the onset COVID-19 restrictions. Approximately 15,000 acres were burned, with 60,000 total tons consumed from 246 units.
- [Accomplished Summary By Owner By District](#) showed BLM burned 6,700 acres on 34 units; other federal land two acres burned on one unit; private landowners 3735 acres burned on 142 units; state and county land 424 acres burned on eight units; and Forest Service burned 3,797 acres on 61 units.
- [Accomplished Summary By Owner By Burn Type](#) showed burning by different owners. Nick noted an error on this spreadsheet regarding the grand total tons of about 74,000. The grand total should be about 60,000 tons, like the other reports.
- Comparison of burning from this year to the 10-year average is considerably below average. The federal agencies were planning some rather large burns but decided to shift the burning to September.
- There have been no intrusions, nor incidents this year.

Scott Hanson asked if the private landowners burn during the spring period. Nick said federal agencies burned initially until the Governor's executive orders put on restrictions. At that point they stopped burning. Private landowners burned a little bit in April and May. Crater Lake did a little burning in the park. Kate Jackson shared that prescribed burning halted was due to keeping workers safe. She noted that agencies made requests to stop burning due to drought conditions, escaped fire, and smoke complaints from constituents due to health reasons. Gabriela Goldfarb noted very limited personal protective equipment (PPE) was available at that time as well and the multiagency press release to limit went out April 10th. Nick echoed that coordination and mentioned the release went out during the first week of April.

Additional introductions

Kate Jackson, Regional DEQ liaison for Southern Oregon, introduced herself. She is based in Ashland. Gabriela introduced Kim Tham, who is with OHA and prioritizing work on wildfire. She is also on their incident management team. She may not be able to get on the call today.

Gabriela Goldfarb, OHA Environmental Public Health Section Manager, introduced herself and shared that she works closely with DEQ regarding air quality issues. Will be joining Advisory Committee meetings in the capacity of representing health issues related to wildfire and prescribed fire smoke.

COVID-19 and Fall Burning

Nick introduced the subject that Dave Cramsey asked to discuss - fall burning in a COVID environment.

Dave discussed the messaging sent out in the spring to voluntarily reduce burning. We know there are places in the state where few COVID cases exist and we could be allowed to burn. We need to develop strategies how we to fall burning without having an adverse impact on communities with COVID cases. Need to recognize that what does not get burned this fall will be carried over and may be a significant wildfire threat.

Nick mentioned that this is not just about fall forestry burning but includes other types of outdoor burning such as field burning in the Willamette Valley and other parts of the state and agricultural burning. How do we want to update our (spring) messaging in light of this increase in burning?

Margaret mentioned that DEQ is working to get a meeting together to discuss this subject. Gabriela added regarding COVID-19 there is evidence that air pollution intensifies the respiratory illness and increases the risk of getting the respiratory illness. She stressed the importance of having communication channels in place. Community Response Plans help do this. For this fall we need clear communication with communities so the public can take action to avoid smoke contact.

Nick mentioned there will be two types of fall burning – pile burning which can be done under good mixing conditions and won't likely be noticeable. On clear days broadcast burning may take place that will likely be more noticeable. We're still working on our communication plan that has just got started and now we have a virus that is complicating the situation. So how will we handle all these situations?

Margaret noted there are areas wanting to test their community response plans. However, they were not able to do this in the spring due to limited burning. Wildfire smoke might be able to help everyone learn how effective their communication methods are. Five communities are working on their community response plans, yet have not had a chance to utilize or test for effectiveness.

Nick said we need to discuss and plan on how to do this burning soon.

Kyle shared that we need to start now to plan for fall burning. October 1st is a typical start to prescribed burning and we need to communicate a plan of responsible prescribed burning to the public. We can go back to the old ways of executing this program, if COVID prevents utilization of new methods.

Margaret mentioned about the possibility of having two different action items – dealing with agricultural burning now and fall burning later. Gregory concurred but said that we don't have statutory authority over agricultural burning.

Dave Cramsey encouraged early preparation and early notification to those that want to burn on forest lands as there is a lot of prep work that goes into planning these burns. We need to lay the groundwork for several different burning scenarios. A communication goal of late August to early September would be ideal.

Nick agreed that we need to get started on a plan this July.

Action item #7: Set up poll and conference call in July for key stakeholders on subject of fall burning in a COVID environment.

Burning PE in Applegate Valley

Nick introduced the background of the topic and then would let Jason Simmons explain the details of the issue. Nick said he got a call from an individual in the Williams/Applegate Valley area who disagreed with our study. This led to some phone calls discussing the study between the DEQ, ODF, OHA and the EPA (who conducted the study). Eventually, a petition was sent to BLM to cease burning in the Williams area as well as a YouTube video to document the burning.

Jason said the video was produced on January 15th and a petition was sent in February. At that time BLM chose to cease burning in the disputed area. Jason introduced an amateur video of a BLM contract burner that is approached by members of the public with concern regarding PE coverings on piles in the Applegate Valley. Jason said we can learn from this video and perhaps make adjustments to messaging. Because there were technical difficulties with the video, it was stopped and discussion continued. Jason said the video was a big concern to BLM regarding using PE. Jason said he will email the YouTube link to attendees. He will also send an article from the Medford Mail Tribune that addresses this topic and why we use PE. Margaret mentioned that so far no official response had been completed yet to the petitioners. Jason was not aware of what the status of the response was but said the fuels specialist reviewing the issue said the petition did not have merit. Jason said he could follow-up on whether a response was completed. Nick set down some action items for follow-up (see below). Margaret mentioned that this same group spoke at the EQC meeting.

Action item 8: Jason will share the YouTube video link, the Mail Tribune article and citizen petition against burning polyethylene on piles.

Action item 9: Investigate the status of the response and share the BLM response letter and/or status.

METRICS FOLLOW-UP

Nick presented a document, Metrics and Smoke Management Objectives.

Nick highlighted that we discussed this topic in the prior two meetings. The document encapsulates how the program objectives are addressed through annual reports, studies, meetings, research and operational procedures.

Gregory had discussed with Rick in the past how to measure the program's success. How do we measure the mission of the program? With the recent update of the program what is a good way to measure if we have increased our burning, especially in wildland urban interfaces? Have the program's actions allowed for increase in forest production management while reducing wildfire risk? How are we working to help OHA meet its mission?

Dave Cramsey shared that these are action items to measure the success of each objective, such as how many instances PE is being used to determine its effectiveness.

Kyle added the importance of measuring the use of PE to determine its effectiveness. He's not sure what level of detail we need. Another metric is how often treatment areas are interacting with wildfire. Can we show how prescribed fire impacts improve wildfire risk? Nick explained that there are cases that prescribed fire has mitigated wildfire but unfortunately there is difficulty in determining the window of effectiveness of prescribed burning. Because its effectiveness may only last a few years because of vegetation growth. We can show good results of prescribed burn effectiveness within a couple years. However, afterward, there is enough vegetation growth that mitigates impact on wildfire reduction.

Nick mentioned that we use metrics for the legislature. They include how many units we burn, how many smoke intrusions we get, and what's the percentage of intrusions vs. the number of units burned.

Nick added that with the updated SMP we can show we've met burning and air quality objectives by showing a high number of smoke incidents while a low number of smoke intrusions. We are showing that we maximize burning while minimizing emissions.

Scott Hanson noted a need for new graphs in the annual report. We need to show something regarding the fuel load problem and whether making progress reducing it. Can we learn anything from massive wildfires? We don't want to make the same mistakes over again. Kate shared about Firewise programs that work on making landscapes and homes more fire resistant. However, the smoke management program doesn't have any control over these programs. She noted we can increase our efficiency through these education programs. Jason shared they have a federal database for monitoring effectiveness of fuel treatments, longevity, etc. Timber harvest is not included in this fuels treatment. Margaret also mentioned there is a difference between fire return interval and fire intensity. We need to brainstorm to develop quantitative metrics that can be used.

Margaret also noted what hasn't been discussed is communication. This is another part of our "pillar of success." Gabriella echoed that communication needs to be added in the metrics. Nick added that communication needs to be a seventh objective of the program. Margaret said she would be glad to collaborate on the metrics.

Nick mentioned that Scott's input to the annual report should be an agenda item for the next meeting. However, we should ensure that it's something that is in the "wheelhouse" of our program and approved by the entire committee.

Kyle wanted to get more information from Jason about federal fuels tracking database and plugging in private treatments. Jason will follow up.

Action item 10: Margaret and Nick will collaborate on SMAC performance measures (metrics).

Action item 11: Add a new program objective – communication goals.

Action item 12: Review Annual Report to determine how it aligns with our objectives. Discuss at next Advisory Committee meeting.

Action item 13: Jason will follow up with Kyle on adding private forest treatments to the federal tracking database.

SMP IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Nick presented Implementation Plan for 2017-18 SMP Review document.

Nick commented that most of the items have been completed and noted the following highlights.

- Approach smoke vulnerable SSRAs to encourage them to develop community response plans.
 - In process.
 - Bend has been approved.
- Approve or disapprove exemptions to the one-hour threshold.
 - Approved Bend exemption. No other requests yet.
- Grants and community response plans
 - Margaret said grant allocations are going well.
 - Ashland received the most grant funds; they received a community response plan (CRP) grant and a smoke mitigation grant.
 - Three of the grants are to counties; this not only helps the SSRA, but surrounding communities as well.
 - Nick added there is support from the resource planning department to get funding for the Southern Willamette Collaborative that could be used for a Eugene/Springfield CRP, and developed by Lane Regional Air Protective Agency. Also reached out to Mark Webb, with Blue Mountain Forest Partners Collaborative to work on getting funding for a CRP for

John Day. Jim Carey at the Klamath County Health Department said they are also open to obtaining a grant for a CRP as well. Nick noted funding seems to drive ability to bring these CRPs to fruition.

- Margaret shared if there was a wildfire (natural disaster), FEMA funding may be available for developing a CRP. Gabriela noted they are turning in a grant through the CDC that are focused on providing support to counties that had disaster declarations in 2018 and 2019. She hopes to focus this resource on wildfire prevention planning. She will share if this becomes a resource.

DATA SYSTEM UPDATE

Nick provided an update to the group and noted ODF IT still only has one programmer and have a hiring freeze because of COVID. The goal is for the data system to be open to the public to allow landowners to view. They would be able to view their burn accomplishments to check accuracy of invoices before sending payment of burn fees.

Kyle asked for a box to be added in the data system whether piles are “covered” or “not covered” with PE. Nick explained piles are considered covered if at least 75 percent of the piles are covered in a unit with each individual pile covered with at least 60 percent PE.

Action Item 14: Have IT add check box for pile units whether they are covered with PE by the above definition. Notify landowners of PE coverage rules so they know whether they can get additional tonnage to burn and can check the box mentioned above.

EPA ANNUAL MEETING

Cancelled this year due to COVID. Plan to meet in Ashland in March 2021.

NEXT MEETING

Late Jan 2021. Topics

- Monitors /Purple Air
- Follow up on budget sheet
- Fed/state contracts, with lessons learned
- PE issues
- Metrics - Margaret, Rick and Nick
- Communications and Community response plans

Action Item 15: Set up Doodle Poll for next meeting date.

ADJOURN: 1:35 p.m.