

Recap of the August 29, 2006, NW-AIRQUEST Conference Call

On the call:

- Washington State University (Joe, Brian, & Jack)
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Phil & Jeff)
- Washington Department of Ecology (Sally)
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (Rick, Bruce, and Chris)

■ Conference Call Agenda Items:

Annual Meeting -

- To be held in Olympia, Washington December 4 - 5, 2006
- Clint is looking at lodging blocks
- On the annual meeting agenda to date: election of NW-AIRQUEST chairperson and working group breakout sessions

WSU / NASA ROSES / Educational Outreach Grant -

- Joe Vaughn said he had received good input on the PowerPoint he is putting together for the air directors
- Joe added that a couple of workshops he's involved in have kept him from making revisions and additions to the presentation
- The slides will be presented to the Air Directors at their annual meeting (Bruce Louks is looking into when the air directors meeting might be)

Status of Level of Accuracy Needed for NW-AIRQUEST Products -

- No one indicated any attempt to try to establish a level of accuracy need within their agency to help Mike Gilroy out with this task
- Joe believes that Idaho DEQ's suggestion to track Web hits or cookies for the users of NW-AIRQUEST products is a good idea, he added that some of these products are created at WSU and some at UW where there are not programs in place to track Web hits, but it is something they are working on doing in the near future
- The NASA Grant money could be used in an outreach means to create a newsletter for NW-AIRQUEST product users where they can be surveyed electronically on what level of accuracy they demand from our products for their uses
- MM5 might already have the means to track Web hits and contact users for feedback -- Cliff Maas should be contacted regarding this
- Rick feels the focus on product accuracy needs should be directed toward those customers that actually pay for NW-AIRQUEST products

Further Working Group Updates -

- Only one person sent in the answers to the working group questions below. Please take a minute and help us begin to structure a means in which to reinvigorate the working groups and to structure them in a manner conducive to completing work, sharing data, etc.
- *Please answer the following and send your responses to*

Christopher.Ramsdell@deq.idaho.gov:

1) Some NW-AIRQUEST members take part in multiple work groups, so simply waiting until the break-out sessions at the annual NW-AIRQUEST meeting to get the groups started up again will leave some having to decide what session to attend rather than being able to take part in multiple groups like conference calls allow. Do you think we should begin the work group conference calls again immediately or wait until the annual meeting to rededicate ourselves to the work groups?

2) Should our work groups be re-tooled into project-based groups (i.e., mercury deposition), or remain as they are in topic-based groups (i.e., data sharing, monitoring, modeling, etc.)?

3) Would you rather see a couple topic-based work groups like data sharing continue unchanged and have the project-based work groups be developed when a specific need arises?

Open Forum and Updates -

- Brian share that it was believed that the AIRPACT III boundary condition are too low and are being adjusted; automated elevations are being worked on.
- Matt Porter and Jack Chen at WSU are working on a long-term AIRPACT evaluation
- WSU is looking at doing longer AIRPACT runs for additional forecast days with different verification criteria for those additional days.
- Smoke plumes from wildfires can be seen now in AIRPACT -- Bluesky has been added into AIRPACT and provides helpful information for your AQI forecasts -- check it out!
- EPA Star Project -- (received a one-year, no-cost extension) Work has started on creating 5 years current and 5 years future data; boundary conditions, meteorology, and emissions for both sets and running a comparison.
- Joe shared that Clearsky is up and running for burning season and they are working on the most-probable burn scenarios.
- NASA grant - no further word from NASA on when the grant starts and what the level of funding will be.
- WSU worked with Puget Sound Clean Air on some ozone issues/modeling and Kathy Himes at PSCAA has a report for those that wish to contact her and have a look.
- The status of Idaho's monitoring data flowing into MM5 was discussed. Bruce Louks explained a hardware and software situation and changes that were being worked on that delayed this from happening. The fixes appear to be complete and Idaho is ready to try this again. Bruce will talk with Mark Albright and Joe Vaughn to try to get the data flowing through a UW data directory.
- REMINDER: The MM5 meeting is October 5 in Seattle (EPA Offices?) and there is an attempt being made to hold a one-day CMAQ model workshop on October 6 in conjunction with the meeting per Jeff Arnold.

Next Call -

- Tentatively scheduled for the week of October 9-13
- Please send in your agenda items (Christopher.Ramsdell@deq.idaho.gov)