

# State Advisory Committee Special Meeting

## Agenda

Monday, January 23, 2012

- 10:00 – 10:05      **Welcome/Meeting Protocols:** Larry Johnson, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS
- Special Meeting Purpose:** Larry Johnson, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS
- 10:05 – 10:10      **1985 Washington Irrigation Guide Overview Consumptive Use Rates:** Larry Johnson, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS
- 10:10 – 10:20      **Presentation:** Brief History of guidance on Crop Evapotranspiration (ET) rates, Leigh Nelson, State Irrigation Engineer, NRCS
- 10:20 – 10:50      **Presentation:** WSU Overview on the Consumptive Rate Modeling, Troy Peters, WSU Extension
- 10:50 – 11:00      **Question / Answer Session**
- 11:00 – 11:10      **ET Rate Peer Review Proposal:** Larry Johnson, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS
- 11:10 – 11:20      **Presentation:** Regulatory Implications, Dan Haller, WADOE
- 11:20 – 11:30      **Question / Answer Session**
- 11:30                **Closing/Follow-up:** Larry Johnson, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS

### Logistics:

**Call In Number:** 888-316-9411 passcode: 4326595

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## **BRIEFING**

**NRCS Vision:** Develop, adopt and maintain the latest irrigation technology as the basis for providing high quality and timely technical assistance to irrigators across Washington State.

**Special Session Purpose:** To provide an overview of the current NRCS Washington Irrigation Guide (WIG), the DRAFT consumptive use rates developed by WSU and the proposed peer review process with timelines will be presented.

NRCS is reaching out to begin discussions of the work that WSU has been leading regarding the revision of the consumptive use rates currently contained in the WIG. The DRAFT consumptive use rates are now completed and we are beginning our scientific peer review process. We are requesting guidance/approval from the STAC on the process that we have drafted. After the revised consumptive use rates have been scientifically peer reviewed and the rates are technically defensible the public will be given the opportunity for review and comment, at that point NRCS will be making the policy decision of adoption.

**Background:** The existing WIG crop consumptive use rates were adopted in 1985. Since that time there have been new techniques and methods developed, tested and proven as it relates to estimating consumptive use rates. In 1996 NRCS and WSU identified the need to review and revise, if needed, the crop consumptive use rate tables (WIG Appendix A and B) and began the effort of verifying the existing consumptive use rates. The review of the current consumptive use rates indicated that they were not consistent with the results of current technology and methods for consumptive use rate estimation. An update is needed in order to be consistent with the most current scientific methodology for consumptive use rate estimation.

The University of Idaho published consumptive use rates based on the same techniques and methods that WSU used. The referenced web link is an example of what the Idaho has published and something similar could be completed for the revised rates for Washington.

In 2007 Washington State Department of Ecology expressed interest in this effort and entered into an agreement with WSU to complete the review and update.

### **Related Information (Webpage Links):**

NRCS Washington Irrigation

Guide: [http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ENG/irrigation\\_guide/index.html](http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ENG/irrigation_guide/index.html)

Idaho State Consumptive Use Rate Web Site: <http://www.kimberly.uidaho.edu/ETIdaho/>

## **Proposed Scientific and Public Peer Review Process**

**Background:** WSU has completed the draft Crop Evapotranspiration (ET) rates for Washington State. WSU is in the process of developing a paper outlining the approach to the modeling that was completed in the development of the revised ET rates. The paper will document the procedures, strengths and limitations of the modeling and resulting ET rates. It is imperative that the proposed ET rates be peer reviewed in order to ensure that they are technically defensible.

The work and revised ET rates are entering the review phase and guidance is requested of the STAC on the proposed review steps outline below.

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Date</b>		<b>Actions</b>
	Begin	End	
1	2/13/2012	3/16/2012	Peer review by select scientific professionals in academia and NRCS
2	3/19/2012	4/13/2012	Address comments and recommendations; make revisions to the paper/procedure as deemed necessary.
3	4/16/2012	5/18/2012	Scientific and Public peer review
4	5/21/2012	6/15/2012	Address comments and recommendations; make revisions to the paper/procedure as deemed necessary.
5	7/2/2012		NRCS makes decision to incorporate revised rates into NRCS Washington Irrigation Guide

## **WSDOE Policy Meetings**

**Background:** WSDOE plan to discuss the policy implications of the proposed revised consumptive use rates. General policy discussions are proposed to occur at the next couple of meetings.

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Group/Committee</b>
2/21/2012	Water Resources Advisory Committee Meeting
2/29/2012	Columbia River Policy Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting

### **Water Resources Advisory Committee**

WRAC was established in 1996 to provide a forum for the exchange of information on water resources management in the state of Washington. Typical topics of discussion include proposed rules, policies, legislation, budget development, and litigation.

### **Columbia River Policy Advisor Group**

Purpose: Create a forum for Ecology to talk with stakeholders about key Columbia River water resource management issues and for stakeholders to build understanding of one another's perspectives and identify areas of common interest.