

Tribal Pesticide Program Council - Executive Committee Meeting

March 10, 2017

Held at EPA Headquarters, Arlington, VA

Meeting Notes - Final

The meeting was called to order at EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs Headquarters at 8:40 AM EST.

Attendees:

Tribes (15)

- Neil Abbott, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Les Benedict, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association
- Fred Corey, Aroostook Band of Micmacs
- Jasmine Courville-Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Joe Herrera, Yakama Nation
- Wilhelmina Keenan, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Glenna Lee, Navajo Nation EPA
- Tony McCandless, Gila River Indian Community
- Dustin Roy, White Earth Nation
- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation
- Hilery Spray, Winnebago Tribe
- Martina Wilson, Fort Peck Tribes

Tribal Organizations (1)

- Africa Dorame-Avalos, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona

EPA (4)

- Nick Hurwit, U.S. EPA, Region 10
- Emily Ryan, U.S. EPA, OPP
- Cindy Wire, U.S. EPA, OPP
- Lance Wormell, U.S. EPA, OPP

Other (2)

- Suzanne Forsyth, University of California Davis Extension
- Bob Gruenig, TPPC Consultant

Agenda

- Roll call
- Lance introduction
- Administrative: a) Election: will happen on the first day of the October 2017 meeting; option to participate in person or via email (or mail); b) will continue to request authorization letters from members; 3) please submit meeting evaluations today.
- Location of October 2017 meeting. Dates will be October 3-4, 2017. The Executive Committee (EC) meeting will be held on the first or second eve because we won't know who the members of the EC are in time to plan travel 8-12 weeks prior. Consensus was to hold the fall 2017 meeting at a location hosted by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Site research has already been done for their casino location in Sloan, Iowa. UCDE will pursue arrangements and will report on an upcoming call.

- Upcoming meeting dates and locations:
 - o Tribal Pesticide Program Council Meeting, October 3-4, 2017, Sloan, IA
 - o Tribal Pesticide Program Council Meeting, March 7-9, 2018, Crystal City, VA

Introduction by Lance Wormell, Branch Chief, Government and international Services Branch, EPA/OPP

Lance has a dairy farming background from Dad's side and mom's side is from San Antonio and educator background. He was home-grown in Washington DC area originally from New Jersey and has been with EPA for 13 years. Worked on the industry consulting side before that, and a drug development in pediatric oncology. Been on regulated side of FDA. Manager here at EPA for 3 years and his style is meant to be more hands off. Lance relies on the EPA tribal team to do the day to day work and they all keep him apprised. But he is very much involved in the issues and lets the tribal team notify him when he needs to be.

The introduction was interspersed with thoughts about the current government and what might be on the horizon. One member offered that Section 23 is the only place tribes are mentioned in FIFRA. Attendees want to know if their tribal funding will get cut.

In its strategic planning session, tribes need to be talking more about the future of funding, the role of states, EPA and tribes. Even though the White House wants more of a role for states/tribes and less for EPA, there's not enough funding to support this effort. TPPC should follow NASDA's lead. FIFRA still needs to be applied and upheld.

Fred reflected a desire to continue to build a relationship with Lance as they have with previous branch chiefs, who were able to give TPPC a clue on future trends, strategic mindset, noting bigger things on the horizon. Dan Helfgott once brought forward the notion of a state/tribal relationship and there was a lot of resistance but tribes worked through this. Montana and New Mexico were initially opposed to this and expressed a rough history of working with their tribes. But after a couple of years of talking it through these relationships are much more positive and fruitful. Fred encourages the TPPC to get to know Lance more and spend time talking about their mutual issues.

Fred felt there were a few tribal members attending AAPCO 2 years ago and they are not yet on the TPPC roster.

Action item: Suzanne and Fred to follow up with AAPCO on the list of tribal members who attended the 2015 meeting to see if there is an interest to be part of TPPC.

CIBA asked if their interests would be well served in AAPCO and they asked to learn more about them. Pesticide poisonings of wildlife would be a common interest. Lance asked what TPPC would want to get out of the collaboration with AAPCO: to be more informed, to share knowledge, etc.? Defining the goal of the desired relationship bears more discussion.

Eric commented that groups sometime offer funding for tribal members to attend other meetings (e.g., PPDC.) Could this be available for TPPC members to attend AAPCO and SFIREG? The current cooperative agreement with UCDE only provides for the TPPC Chairperson to attend AAPCO and SFIREG. Cindy Wire offered to look into the possibility of amending the scope of the cooperative agreement for a limited number of TPPC members (presumed as Executive Committee members) to attend AAPCO in March 2017. The trade-off is that there would be fewer resources available for all members to travel to future TPPC meetings.

Consensus is we want to try and meet here in March 2017 and overlap with AAPCO as a means to build stronger tribal-state partnerships.

Action item: plan the March 2017 meeting to align with the AAPCO week. Side note: Suzanne to add the dates to the national FIFRA calendar via Dea Zimmerman. March 7-8 Full Council and half day March 9, 2017.

Looking ahead to next year, if there's an AAPCO panel that's important to tribes then TPPC would like to be part of that.

Check-In on TPPC's Project Year 2017 Priorities

1. Bed Bugs

TPPC is nearing the place where the bulk of the work has been done and brainstorming on how to get the information out to Indian Country. Monitor the situation to see if what's been done if it's been effective and if the situations are lessening. Bob reflected that from the bed bug calls, are there any issues in the bed bug paper that the TPPC would want to revisit from the paper. We built a toolkit, work with federal agencies and both of these have been done. But before the left the EPA Tribal Team, Lorry Frigerio and Gabriela Carvalho were not able to find the right person at USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) to engage in this conversation. IHS (Indian Health Service) and HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) are current partners but a USDA contact is still a challenge. For HUD it's a matter of getting the housing authorities engaged. Fred said there is an association of housing directors who has an annual meeting.

What remains: Susannah Reese said she would try and follow up with the Housing Authority Association. HUD does trainings every year. Suggestion is that TPPC or StopPest be part of that so they can present the Toolkit which has been developed. Suggestion is that TPPC looks into this.

ITCA is offering a training which addresses a lot of these issues tribes are facing. ITCA invites HUD and the toolkit and how to address bed bugs. ITCA has funding to cover travel for tribes. Nina would like to see HUD as receipts of training as well. HUD, HIS and Environmental staff. Request to include PPE and other safety requirements as part of what's covered.

Navajo Nation has offered to have one of the ITCA trainings based there as a means to attract more of that Nation's Environmental directors. Possibly 1-2 days of training and the need is to cover bed bugs and IPM. Africa and Glenna to talk more.

2. IPM in Public Housing (also deals with bed bug)

This is related to the above. Susannah Reese did some scoping of issues before she's done training for housing directors.

University of Arizona is going to have a Stop Pests in Housing workshop April 19 from 7:30 to 3:45 in Maricopa, AZ.

Action item: continue to develop outreach piece, share info on trainings being offered as a means to continue efforts on bed bug and IPM housing.

Consensus is to have IPM as the umbrella and then have bed bug BB in housing and other pests/pressures fall under this with an overarching goal as identifying partnerships.

3. Pollinators – update on workgroup

Jasmine said some tribes are starting survey work to see what's out there and what's needed and what actions we want for those. Everyone has received the EPA/Region 9 template prepared by Sonam Gill and the Pollinator Protection Workgroup. NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) may have free

seed materials available. Les Benedict mentioned that there is an educational component needed to make these efforts impactful.

Could the Pollinator Protection workgroup come up with some language that could help support the strategic plan? Jasmine mentioned that the vast majority of effort and policy looks at only 1% of the nation's bees. It should be pointed out that how the economics of the honey bee have pros and cons. We need to point these out in the strategic framework. TPPC knew that the EPA plan would be heavy on managed bees. Tribal concern is native bees. If we could put a number value on our native pollinators to balance the views of the managed bees. Some of the pollinator presenters have declined to present at forums as there no funds to cover their effort to put together a presentation and participate.

There are a couple of states which mention both managed and native pollinators on the plan (Wisconsin and??)

4. Status of Pesticides in Indian Country report

- a) TPPC has a draft of the first three sections from the October 2016. Bob will send out for comments by the end of March 2017.
- b) Bob will share a draft of the input from March 2017 and get input from all members for contributions to this.
- c) By end of March, Bob needs TPPC members to select three more topics to undertake at the October 2017 meeting.
- d) Recommendation is that we have a half day on the October 2017 agenda to cover this.

Fred asked if it's possible to put some baseline inflation in the report, such as the importance of agriculture in tribal pesticide programs and tribal economies. Fred suggested USDA statistical info, number of tribal ag acreage, etc. controlled by BIA, fee lands, etc. The economic impact of tribal ag operations is important as a means to substantiate the need for tribal pesticide programs. Bob suggests expanding this beyond ag, also get info from EPA on the number of tribes, tribal finding and other relevant inputs. Fred would also like to have this info for a related reason. NASDA put together some talking appoints about the needs of the states. If we had a set of tribal needs and talking points then it would be useful for talk that tribal leaders have with other stakeholders.

Action item: Nick Hurwit to reach out to regional POs to ask for tribal acreage present to support the Report.

Fred would like to have success stories included in the Report and this is already a goal. The group mentioned Ak-Chin's successes in rise in compliance rate and decrease in violations and it being a metric for Ak-Chin's program success.

5. National Program Manager's Guidance

Feedback offered by TPPC and National Tribal Toxics Council and completed by the end of 2016. Has been completed and can be removed from the list.

6. Risk assessments

Added topic for consideration...

Jasmine would like the TPPC to help with outreach to getting the word out about issues presented at TPPC to all tribes. This should be an effort undertaken by the TPPC. Willie mentioned that other tribes have asked her if the EPA circuit rider program can cover them or if an expansion can include them. TPPC acknowledges that there are no more EPA resources to stretch and by no fault of the EPA tribal team. Fred suggests that this can be advocated for more fully in the strategic planning process.

Consensus is that the TPPC's updated FY 2017 priorities shall be:

1. Bed bugs / IPM in housing
2. Pollinators
3. Status
4. Risk assessments
5. Strategic Plan

How do we want to move ahead on the strategic planning process?

Key areas proposed to include in strategic planning document:

1. Capacity issue
2. Risk assessments
3. Pollinators?
4. IPM in public housing including BBs

In the weeks ahead Fred and Amanda will select dates conference calls to continue the strategic planning process input.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM