

**Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee**  
**Monthly Conference Call**  
5/17/17  
Call Notes – Final  
Call information: 1-866-299-3188; code: 415-947-4242#

Roll call:

**Tribes**

Fred Corey, Aroostook Band of Micmacs  
Kevin Greenleaf, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  
Tony McCandless, Gila River Indian Community  
Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation  
Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho  
Les Benedict, St Regis  
Glenna Lee, Navajo Nation  
Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes  
Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians

**Tribal Organizations**

Africa Dorame-Avalos, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona

**Reported in advance as absent:**

Jasmine Courville-Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
Willie Keenan, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
Irv Provost, Oglala Sioux Tribe

**EPA**

Cindy Wire, U.S. EPA, OPP  
Amanda Hauff, U.S. EPA, OCSPP  
Nick Hurwit, U.S. EPA, Region 10  
Peter Earley, U.S. EPA, Region 9

**Other**

Suzanne Forsyth, University of California Davis Extension

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**AGENDA**

**1. Welcome/Introductions (Fred)**

Fred Corey, TPPC Chair, facilitated the roll call. Attendance was logged throughout the call for 10 member tribes and tribal organization representatives.

**2. EPA Updates (Cindy, Nick, Amanda, et. al.)**

Cindy Wire - National Program Manager Guidance and national pesticide priorities. There is movement on this effort. EPA is finalizing a draft based on new direction received from administrator. No changes to the areas TPPC identified last year. Cindy will advise the group if any changes are made.

Amanda Hauff – The National Tribal Caucus (NTC) at their last meeting said they are planning to schedule the National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC) meeting for September 2017 and this is where NTC meets with EPA senior leadership to discuss the budget and challenges in Indian Country. The NTC also asked American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) to request the Administrator to

reaffirm the 1984 Indian policy. A formal signing ceremony was also suggested; however, they debated about not holding up the request. None the less, they requested Office of International and Tribal Affairs' (OITA) Acting Administrator to have a follow up discussion with the Administrator. They also plan to invite the Administrator to visit Indian country – a hosting tribe has not been identified.

### **3. Bed Bug Outreach Project Next Steps Discussion (Nick)**

The bed bug work group has edited the educational package it's been working on. They updated the bed bug tribal outreach plan as well as drafting new content for the TPPC website. They are planning to set up a call with Fred and Nina in the next 2 weeks. Fred will ask Emily Ryan to send the Doodle poll to the entire TPPC list serve so they can be surveyed for their participation as well.

### **4. Tribal PIRT Host Needed by End of May (Carol)**

Carol Galloway was not on the call to report but Fred updated the group in her absence. Carol sent a message out a day or two that a tribal PIRT host must be identified by the end of this month. Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribe (CSKT) is interested yet Carol would like to promote diversity and that another tribal organization will step forward to host a PIRT. CSKT hosted the last tribal PIRT which was very successful. Tribes don't want to lose the funds. ITCA has offered assistance with either securing the funds and collaborate efforts with a tribe interested on hosting a Tribal PIRT, if needed.

### **5. Tribal Pesticide Program Funding Questions / Discussion (Fred, Cindy)**

Fred brought forth concerns about funding decisions EPA makes about tribal activities. This issue has come up a number of times over the past few years. There have been questions from tribes about not being provided an opportunity for input. TPPC developed a training issue paper for training needs. One of the solutions identified was to take some OPP funding to reserve seats at PREP for tribes. There was a special tribal pollinator course held couple of years ago using leftover OPP dollars. There was mixed support for this. One tribe didn't think this was the best use of resources given the constraints tribes were facing at the time. What if that money could have been spread out across cooperative agreements instead? TPPC isn't saying that they should tell EPA how to approve the funding. Tribes just want a chance to weigh in on decisions and have EPA consider this. This came up recently when there was a shortfall for tribal cooperative agreement funds. OPP pulled back funding for tribes to attend PREPs as a means to help make up for this shortfall. The TPPC fell short in broadcasting this information to its members in a timely fashion. A couple of TPPC members learned abruptly about this via an email from WSU that tribal funding had been pulled.

Questions posed to Fred include: 1) How much funding allocated for tribes? 2) How much was funding pulled back? Cindy believes it was approximately \$35,000. 3) Any new tribes funded for FY17 with this money or was the money used to supplement existing cooperative agreements? Cindy explained that the money was used to fund existing cooperative agreements for FY17. There are 6 regions with active tribal cooperative agreement. OPP's priority was to make sure they could fully fund all of those. Cindy does not believe there are any new tribal cooperative agreements for this year. A couple cooperative agreement funding levels were reduced based on lack of performance. Funding has remained flat. OPP was just notified that funding cuts for the rest of the year were not major. OPP anticipates getting money to fund the rest of the tribal cooperative agreements in the next couple of weeks. EPA was very conservative with how they handled those dollars, based on the information they were being given for FY18 and a bleak outlook.

ITCA proposes that they provide their own funding for an ITCA tribe to attend a PREP. Could ITCA incorporate some of the PREP Public Health speakers into some of their ITCA provided trainings? Africa suggests that TPPC consider funding some TPPC members to attend PREP. By way of an exception, a few tribes were allowed to pay their own way to attend the Public Health PREP. Africa will attend the course and will identify presenters to invite to present at the tribal inspector training in September.

Fred had a related funding question to the budget passed by Congress. In several instances they mentioned the rescission of funds. Can Cindy help explain? Cindy explained that all of the decisions regarding budget right now are closed and she won't hear anything until it's on paper and finalized and ready for the public to view it. The only thing she knows from the Finance Office is that tribes will have what they need for the rest of the fiscal year but no news for FY18 yet. Fred asked that since the TPPC agreement is running in a bit of a surplus, is this a concern? Will EPA hold back money since TPPC has shown a cost savings? We should be strategic and have forethought to use funding conservatively in the event there is a shortfall in funding next year. Cindy explained that the TPPC received all of its funding up front for this year but we don't know what will happen for FY18 until the President's budget is published in the next couple of weeks. There was member support that being conservative with funds for future meetings (October and March). The March meeting is supposed to be in the DC area but this might need to be looked at again pending the FY 18 budget and carryover from FY17.

Jim Mossett said that inspectors need to take PREP or PIRT courses to renew their federal credentials. Jim attended the WSU pollinator course in Spokane in November 2015 and was told it didn't count based on the timing of the year. There are fiscal year versus calendar year discrepancies. Is there something tribes can do to help with their federal credentials if they are not able to attend PREPs or PIRTs? EPA needs to re-think what training will count or won't towards federal credentialing.

**Action item: Ask Carol Galloway or Don Lott to address this topic on the next conference call.**

## **6. TPPC Tribal Administrator Update (Suzanne)**

- a) The *TPPC Policies and Procedures* document went out for consensus and the approved document was shared with this meeting announcement. The updated version is now posted to the TPPC website under the Membership tab.
- b) Website edits: more events added to the calendar, pollinator protection workgroup updates, updated list of members and contact emails updated on membership tab.
- c) TPPC Fall 2017 meeting. Dates are October 3-4, 2017 with the EC meeting the eve of October 3. Thank you to the Winnebago Tribe for hosting. The location will be the Winnavegas Casino Resort in Sloan, Iowa. These are now listed on the TPPC website and the registration portal is open.

### Deadlines

- Aug 1, 2017: Deadline for travel funding requests via registration portal
- Aug 10, 2017: UCDE to notify travelers if funding request can be accommodated
- Aug 24, 2016: Deadline to book airfare (funded travelers only)
- Sept 18, 2017: Deadline to register to attend
- Sept 30, 2017: Deadline to reserve hotel room in block (all attendees)

A rooming block has been secured. The hotel has been very accommodating and is offering excellent lodging and catering rates. Kristy was able to negotiate daily AM coffee/ continental breakfast, catered luncheon and a PM coffee/snack and all within our budget. The rationale is due to the limited dining options in the hotel, the affordable costs the hotel is offering for these services, the time savings in convening on time after lunch, and the cost savings for processing travel reimbursements. So attendees won't need to purchase meals other than dinner on the meeting dates. An announcement is ready to share.

Nina asked if there was a way attendees could dine outside and UCDE will look into this accommodation. Nina also asks that folks not nominate her for any TPPC positions due to her imminent (August) family expansion!

We will soon need to collaborate on a draft agenda to post in early July. Suggest we convene agenda-planning calls in June to have a draft in July. We can use a list of topics gleaned from the last 2 meetings.

We need to trim down the number of topics to make certain we can have time for meaningful discussion. We have the tendency to overschedule but are committed to not letting that happen again. The fall meeting needs at least an hour carved out for the EC election towards the end of Day 1.

Action item: Suzanne to glean dates and time from Fred and Nina and send out an appointments for agenda planning calls in June.

- d) TPPC Spring 2018 Meeting will held in Arlington, VA March 7-9 and in conjunction with the AAPCO meeting in Alexandria, VA on March 5-7, 2018.

## 7. TPPC Travel Policies Discussion (Fred)

Fred reflected evaluation and other comments he's heard from the tribes that the TPPC consider adopting an attendance and reimbursement policy. There have been meetings where folks have been paid to participate and they didn't show up. The TPPC was left to pay even though the member didn't participate.

Fred mentioned that the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) has a policy and could have some related language the TPPC could consider. One member proposes that the TPPC update the P&P to reflect language on attendance and reimbursement in time for the next in-person meeting held in October 2017. Africa Avalos and Glenna Lee will propose some language and share with TPPC and discuss on next call on June 21. Fred mentioned that leverage to get reimbursed could be that they don't get funded in the future until they pay back. There was unanimous consensus to place something in the P&P to deal with this.

Action Item: Africa Dorame-Avalos and Glenna Lee will draft initial language pertaining to Attendance and Reimbursement and propose to amend the TPPC Policy and Procedures DRAFT will be emailed by June 16.

Fred shared a concern he noticed with the travel agent (BCD Travel.) Fred sometimes does his own research on flights and the costs. The travel agents don't always have access to the discount vendors or third-party booking systems that the general public does. So the prices for flights are sometimes not the same as what he sees. On one or two occasions he's seen a difference. Fred asked if the TPPC needs the service of the professional agent. Bob Gruenig used to book the flights himself. Could Kristy or another UCDE staff do this instead to save on the agent fee? Suzanne acknowledged that the travel agents do not have access to third-party discounted rates that the general public has. Those services are not used by the University as their receipts lack the itemization necessary for documentation consistent with expenditures on a federal agreement. Suzanne and Kristy always double check the agent's fares once proposed and also look directly at the commercial carrier site for comparison before approving TPPC tickets. She shared concerns that she and her staff are not skilled agents and TPPC would not receive the same level of service the agents provide, especially if there is an after-hours emergency or special circumstances. She projected that the staff time they would need to add to the contract to manage bookings would far exceed the agent fees. She agreed will look into what this would take and apprise Fred before the next call. (Note: Suzanne misreported on the call that the travel agent is a part of the University. It is not. It's a contracted company that was selected through an open competition process.)

Fred heard from one member that their reimbursement for the last meeting took about 4 weeks to receive. Is there a way to streamline this? Suzanne explained that in the travel confirmations which go out, UCDE states that reimbursements can take 4-6 weeks to be made, pending the receipt of a complete and accurate voucher. So 4 weeks is consistent with that. UCDE is about to change their voucher handling process which they hope will streamline the payment timeline even further. Starting with the October meeting, Kristy will enter the TPPC member expenses into the system directly - versus the financial folks needing to do that. The approval chain will shorten greatly. This will require more of Kristy's time and there will be a learning curve with training. But UCDE expects this to enhance the customer service provided in this area.

Action item: UCDE to mention in future correspondence to members that there is a new process in place behind the scenes and should aid with turnaround time of payments.

Fred has mentioned that this process has been really smooth for him but wanted to pass along the concern posed by one member.

**8. Pollinator Protection Workgroup Update (Jasmine, et. al.)**

Deferred this topic until June call when Jasmine or Mary can join us.

**9. Finalization of Administrator Pruitt Letter (Fred) (see attachment)**

Letter is in its final draft form. Peter from Region 9 has a couple of comments on the letter from Allan Demorest. Correction that the first tribal cooperative agreement was in 1981.

**10. EPA Strategic Plan Process Update (Fred, Amanda) (see attachment)**

Regular meetings are Mondays at 12 noon EST. Using Amanda's call number. Fred drafted and shared strategic objectives. Getting something into EPA for consideration that an early draft is in our best interests.

**11. Rozol Labelling Issue Follow-up (All)**

Deferred this topic until June call.

**12. Action Item Follow-up (see attachment) (Nina)**

Fred will take a look at this between now and the next call that we will see if we can get them on the agenda to take action on them.

**13. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics (All)**

Africa sent out a save-the-date message for tribes in region 9. ITCA is collaborating with UC Davis and Western IPM Center to host a bed bug workshop in Davis, CA. Other tribes can attend but won't be eligible for reimbursement. Agenda will be sent out soon. Folks should register through Survey Monkey, which the link is on the Save the Date. ITCA will also be hosting a national IPM workshop in Arizona and will send information out soon.

**Next TPPC Conference Call (Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 2-4 p.m. EST)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- TPPC Fall 2017 Meeting: October 3-4, 2017, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska (Sloan, IA)
- Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) Spring 2018 Meeting: March 5-7, 2018, Alexandria, VA
- TPPC Spring 2018 Meeting: March 7-9, 2018, Arlington, VA