

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee
Monthly Conference Call
10/21/20
Call Notes – Draft

Join by Zoom: <https://nau.zoom.us/j/89303644703>
or phone: 312-626-6799 or 888-788-0099 (toll free)
Meeting ID: 893 0364 4703
Password: 186136

Roll call:

Tribes (15)

- Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Andrea Mitchell, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Tony McCandless, Gila River Indian Community
- James Jackson, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Brittani Clairmont, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Ivan Crow Eagle, Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Daniel Hoyt, Gila River Indian Community
- Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes
- Shyla James, Navajo Nation
- Joe Herrera, Yakama Nation
- James Williams, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Dorla Tartsah, Kiowa Tribe

Tribal Organizations (0)

- None in attendance today

EPA (6)

- Emily Ryan, EPA/OPP
- Loren LaPointe, EPA/OPP
- Rachel Ricciardi, EPA/OPP
- Cindy Wire, EPA/OPP
- Kaitlin Picone, EPA/OPP
- Amanda Hauff, EPA/OCSP

Other (4)

- Ann Marie Chischilly, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP)
- Mehrdad Khatibi, ITEP
- Mark Daniels, ITEP
- Suzanne Forsyth, University of California Davis Continuing and Professional Education

Reported in advance as absent (3)

- Peter Earley, EPA/Region 9
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians

- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basket Weavers Association

1. Welcome/Introductions (00:00 - 00:05)

Jasmine Brown, Vice Chair, facilitated the roll call. Attendance was logged throughout the call for the 15 tribes and tribal organization representatives.

2. Introduction of the TPPC Administrator, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) (Ann Marie Chischilly, Mehrdad Khatibi, Mark Daniels) (00:05 - 00:45)

Ann Marie, Mehrdad, and Mark introduced themselves and ITEP as an organization, expressing their desire to get to know the Council and learn how they can best serve the group and Tribes overall.

Jasmine noted that she is assembling a list of requests from TPPC members for items they would like to see addressed in ITEP's work plan. She asked any Council members with additional requests to forward them to her, and read off the list as it stands so far:

- Travel for members to trainings/meetings
- Provide budget updates to TPPC
- Continue updating status work
- Keep Bob Gruenig on as legal consultant
- Updates to the RTOC
- Updates to past & future issue papers
- Assistance with workgroup meetings
- Updates to the website
- Updates to the brochure (that accompanies the website)

ITEP presented an overview of the work plan for the cooperative agreement to facilitate the TPPC. Mehrdad briefly went through the four main elements of ITEP's work plan for working with the TPPC: Administrative Support, Policy & Technical Support, Outreach & Education, and Training & Technical Assistance. Mark reviewed the goals and objectives in the work plan, discussing various deliverables and giving some thoughts about the website and listserv. Mehrdad finished by briefly reviewing ITEP's proposed budget for the first year, highlighting the funding for TPPC member travel included in the "Other" category, and noting that ITEP can give budget updates quarterly or as desired by the Council.

Jim from Three Affiliated Tribes asked what capacity Bob Gruenig had been hired in, and noted that the full membership has never had a say in who is hired and in what capacity (and wonders if this will change with ITEP as the new facilitator). Mehrdad said he's not sure he can answer those questions right now, but he summarized ITEP's communication with Bob so far, and talked a bit about ITEP's strategy for utilizing technical assistance when it's needed. Jim mentioned that diverse group that ITEP has assembled would be a good asset for the TPPC.

Eric from Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe asked if ITEP is anticipating any in-person meetings in this next year. Mehrdad mentioned that ITEP is budgeted for two in-person meetings for the TPPC annually, but stated also the difficulty in predicting whether any in-person meetings would take place this year, especially given that so many of us are bound by different restrictions on travel and in-person events (by our Tribes, institutions, etc.). Eric also asked if notes are going to be provided after these meetings as they were by Suzanne when she served as the facilitator. Mehrdad pointed out that Mark was busily working away on them right then, and we would have them drafted soon after the meeting.

3. EPA Updates (Amanda, Cindy, Emily, Rachel, Katilin) (00:45 - 01:45)

EPA Press Conference for new TPPC Grantee: Amanda noted that the agency put together a virtual press conference on October 6th to introduce ITEP as the new TPPC cooperative agreement grantee. She apologized to TPPC for not being able to include them due to the late notice from agency leadership, but noted that they worked with the EC leadership to be sure their concerns were addressed in the event, and that the agency noted and honored all the good work done by the TPPC to date.

Early engagement for the National Program Guidance (NPG): Amanda discussed the early engagement OCSPP is conducting with Tribes, states & territories on the NPG, which is revised every two years. The agency is proposing to keep the same priorities that they have now for the FY22-23 document: worker protection, applicator certification, pollinator protection, grants management, and region-specific project (requiring an IPM component for the last one). The Toxic Release Inventory program focus will remain on data quality and management, and making sure that data is available to Tribes, states, & communities. Deadline for comments on the NPG is Friday, November 6th, but if folks need more time they can be flexible, so just let her know. **She will send out an email clarifying the issue, the deadline and how to comment.**

Revised FIFRA Cooperative Agreement Guidance tribal consultation: Cindy described how this document, prepared jointly by OPP and OECA, is essentially the roadmap for all partners in the program, and is being revised right now for the next four-year cycle (FY 22-25). They have already had two consultation sessions on this in September & October, and hope to have the final document out by February of next year. The document is approximately 115 pages, but only the first 20 pages contain the guidance; the rest is thirteen appendices used as reference materials. She noted that the section on tribal cooperative agreements allows for the regional project officers and tribal grantees to negotiate what makes sense in their cooperative agreements, based on their unique situations and needs. She went over some proposed revisions, which are fairly minor: mostly just updating some of the appendices. She also noted that they are updating the FIFRA grant database, making it all online. Amanda noted that they are looking for feedback on the revisions. **She sent out information on this previously, but will follow up again.** The red text in the draft guidance shows proposed changes. Feel free to react to that or to other sections as needed, and send comments to Cindy, Sandra, or Amanda.

Eric from Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe thanked Cindy and Amanda for the update. Kudos to you all. It's a ton of work to update this document. For those of us who've been involved for a long time, he really appreciates all the work. He asked a question about the upcoming change to the online FIFRA database. He wasn't able to attend the training that happened previously, and asked if there's going to be a repeat of the training. Cindy said she will recommend to Sandra that they offer one more training given all the conflicts with the training this week.

Dan with Gila River Indian Community asked for clarification about the Central Data Exchange (CDX) database: is this going to be revised, or is the existing database already a revision? Cindy answered that the agency database will not be revised, and that Gila River was one of the Tribes that's been using the new system for a while now. The agency is updating that platform to revise the way they're doing their inventory, but the Excel files will still be available if folks prefer to use those to report on their workplans. Eric says he may hit up Dan for help with the new system.

Toxic Substances Control Act's section 6 proposed rulemaking: Amanda noted that tribal consultation is currently underway for this, through January of next year. The agency is working through a risk assessment for certain chemicals (methylene chloride and 1-bromopropane). Consultation will go over the chemicals themselves, and take time to talk about the identified risks, then listen to concerns and comments. **Maybe we can go into more detail on this at next month's meeting.**

Tribal Lead Curriculum: Amanda noted that the curriculum launched today, with a set of educational tools for folks on the ground to reduce childhood lead exposure in Indian Country. We can do an in-depth overview of this next month. James from Muscogee Creek Nation said the final results look really good, and he can't thank the EPA team enough for all the work they put into it. Larry from Cherokee Nation agreed that everything looks good, thanks.

OCSPP Reorganization: Amanda reminded the group about the reorganization happening, and introduced Kaitlin Picone as the new branch chief of the new intergovernmental and community relations branch. Amanda will share an updated org chart in about two weeks when everything is worked out.

TPPC Administration: Rachel asked how this platform (Zoom) is working for folks on the call today, and if they'd like ITEP to continue with this format or do something else? Jasmine suggested it would be easiest if ITEP continued doing the calls & agenda, and disseminating the agenda (perhaps a little sooner next time). She likes Zoom, especially with the call-in option, which is always good if folks are on the road or in the field. She hasn't used GotoMeeting, so is more familiar with Zoom. She'll follow up on the listserv issue later this week. She'll leave it up to the EC as to how they want to do the agenda. Amanda proposes giving all agenda items to ITEP, who sends it to the EC leadership a week before the meeting to finalize and send back. It sounds like we'll stick with that plan, and with Zoom for now since it seems like it's working well for folks, until/unless we hear otherwise.

4. Report from Outgoing TPPC Administrator (Suzanne) (01:45 - 01:50)

Suzanne is working on a 3-month no-cost extension through end of the calendar year to finish up the status report and assist ITEP with the administrator transition. She's committed to continue working with folks outside of her capacity as administrator, and urged people to reach out to her if needed. She gave a shout-out to Mark for relieving her of note-taking duty, and thanked Mehrdad for requesting the organizational chart for the OCSPP reorganization, since many are waiting for this.

She and her colleague Hannah Moore are finishing up the Status of Pesticides in Indian Country report authored by Bob Gruenig and the TPPC work group, and hoping to send out a final draft no later than next week. Amanda said that OCSPP leadership has requested an early courtesy copy. Suzanne noted that the workgroup has the request and will respond. Amanda is also hoping for a week's notice of when it will be released.

Suzanne has been collaborating with ITEP on sharing items with the listserv. She was in touch with Fred recently and he shared the current listserv files with her. She can ask him to add us to the listserv. But if the EC leadership decide to have ITEP administer the listserv she can get those files to ITEP for use in creating a new listserv.

She has also been obtaining authorization letters for new members. Andrea Mitchell from the Cocopah Indian Tribe is now on the Council. Frank Venegas is out, and will be replaced by the Tribe's Environmental Director Jen Alspauch.

Suzanne concluded by saying that she's making sure everything is tidied up when she hands things on to ITEP, so that there are no loose ends.

With regard to the listserv, Jasmine noted that she would prefer Fred hangs onto the listserv and gives access to ITEP, but that it's Fred's call to make. Tony stated he thinks it would be better to have the administrator (ITEP) maintain the listserv so it's not just in the hands of one individual, in case circumstances make it hard for that person to work on it. **The TPPC will need to follow up on this.**

5. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics (TPPC members) (01:50 – 02:00)

No additional issues were raised.

6. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Oct 6-29, 2020: PREP: Senior Executive Program Management Course (online webinars)
- Oct 20, 2020: Region 6 Pre-SFIREG Meeting (virtual)
- Oct 27-28, 2020: Region 6 Pre-SFIREG Meeting (virtual)
- Oct 28-29, 2020: EPA Pesticides Program Dialogue Committee; Notice of Public Virtual Meeting <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-10-13/pdf/2020-22590.pdf>
- Nov 10, 2020: Region 1 Pre-SFIREG Meeting, Chelmsford, MA
- Nov 16-19, 2020: PREP: Registration & Re-evaluation Course (online) (rescheduled from May 2020)
- Nov 17-18, 2020: Region 10 Pesticide Directors Meeting with SLAs and Tribes, Seattle, WA
- Dec 7-8, 2020: Full SFIREG Meeting, Arlington, VA