

**Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee**  
**Monthly Conference Call**  
04/21/21  
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 (12)**

- Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Les Benedict, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation
- Ryan Evans, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes
- Shylah James, Navajo Nation
- Joe Herrera, Yakama Nation
- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- James Jackson, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Earl Bautista, Tohono O’odham Nation

**Tribal Organizations (1)**

- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association

**EPA (4)**

- Rachel Ricciardi, EPA/OCSP
- Emily Ryan, EPA/OCSP
- Loren LaPointe, EPA/OCSP
- Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA

**Other (2)**

- Mehrdad Khatibi, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

**1. Welcome/Introductions**

Jasmine Brown of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes facilitated the roll call. Attendance was logged throughout the call for the 13 tribes and tribal organization representatives.

**2. EPA Updates (Rachel, Emily, Amanda, Blake, Helene)**

Rachel Ricciardi, EPA/OCSP, noted that Haley Hughes is stepping in for Carol Ann Siciliano as Associate Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, as

Carol is retiring at the end of July. Haley will be working with Carol starting in May to get up to speed.

Rachel announced that EPA is holding a virtual training for private applicators of restricted-use pesticides (RUPs) in Indian Country on Wednesday and Thursday, May 12-13, from 10:30-4:30 (Eastern) each day. To register, email [EPACertplan@epa.gov](mailto:EPACertplan@epa.gov) by May 10.

Rachel reminded ITEP and the TPPC that we had said we would produce a write-up or bulleted list of the TPPC's concerns on Cannabis, and that EPA is hoping to receive it by May 10 so they can start working on getting answers to the questions. Mark said he's working on it, and **will have it out for TPPC review soon.**

On the subject of Cannabis, Nina Hapner of Kashia Band of Pomo Indians mentioned that her Spring RTOC meeting is next week and they're looking for scenarios Tribes have faced on the matter. They are planning to advocate for congruency between how individual regions handle the issue vs. what EPA headquarters says. Rachel said the Region 9 rep (Peter Earley) just brought up this issue as well at an EPA meeting. Helene reminded the group that we can direct questions to her regarding compliance monitoring & enforcement. She doesn't have all the answers, but she will take on the responsibility to try to help us. **Mark said he'll send Nina's email out to the group after this meeting.**

Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA, also informed the group that a letter went out on April 7 to all the tribal representatives with enforcement State and Tribal Assistance Grant program (STAG) grants regarding inspection commitments during the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter provides flexibility in inspection requirements due to the pandemic through the end of September, when it will be re-evaluated. She said people should just be sure to document off-site inspections separately from on-site inspections, and reach out to her if they have any questions.

### **3. TPPC Administrator Updates (Mark, Mehrdad)**

a) TPPC Newsletter: Mark noted that the next edition will be going out shortly, with a feature story on the Gila River Indian Community's pesticide program, and thanked Dan Hoyt and Tony McCandless for their help with material for the story. He also reminded the group that we're always looking for ideas for future stories, which could include profiles of a member program, a circuit rider program (including perspective from both host & recipient Tribes), a profile of someone on the Tribal Advisory Committee, or others. So please let us know if anyone has thoughts for a future story.

b) Listserv: Mark said a few people have been sending him items to post to the listserv, and let the group know that anyone who is subscribed to the list can post to it (by emailing [tppc-all@lists.nau.edu](mailto:tppc-all@lists.nau.edu)).

c) Project Assistant Position: Mark announced that we have just filled the project assistant position to support ITEP's work with the TPPC, and we are hoping to have her start in the next few weeks.

d) TPPC Meeting Calendar Event: Mark noted that due to a technical glitch with the current meeting calendar event he is not able to make revisions to it (including to add documents to the event for upcoming meetings). He said he would like to **cancel and re-send the invitation** to be able to make changes like this. No one objected, so he will go ahead with it.

e) Tribal Lands and Environment Forum: Mark noted that ITEP hosts the TLEF conference every year in August, and asked if TPPC members might want to attend, or possibly present (the deadline for submissions is May 14). Or ITEP could present on the TPPC or do a virtual table to provide information about the group, or possibly even provide a short training of some sort.

Nina said she's inclined to say that ITEP should do something as the new facilitator. Some of the topics we're covering now, including TPPC's priorities, agenda for moving forward on the Status Report's recommendations, etc., could be good to get out to a wider audience. Les Benedict of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe said it could provide an opportunity to obtain information from other Tribes about their pesticide issues that this group is not aware of. Nina noted that Region 9 put together a questionnaire in 2017 or 2018 that could be used to gather information (could also be posted on the TPPC website as well). Jasmine thinks **we should submit a proposal for the group**.

f) TPPC representative to SFIREG: Mark noted that Camilo Perez of the Quechan Indian Tribe had offered to be the TPPC representative, and just needed to get approval from the Tribe. Camilo wasn't on the call, so Mark couldn't ask him about it. Mark also noted that there had been some discussion about appointing an alternate representative, but no one had volunteered yet. Rachel said her team had recently spoken about this, and the presentations Fred used to give at the SFIREG meetings, and thought it might be good to think of people with a longer experience with TPPC to be able to provide those updates (the next SFIREG meeting is June 7-8). Nina said she thinks the representative can have less experience as long as other folks can help them out with information. Emily Ryan, EPA/OCSPP, said she'd be happy to help anyone with walking through how the meetings typically go, to get them up to speed. Mark also noted that he put together a document with the notes from the Fred's presentations at the last four SFIREG meetings that he can share with the new representative(s).

Jim Mossett said he would be willing to be the alternate representative. Jasmine thanked him, and made sure he can be available for the meeting on June 7 & 8. **Mark will send Camilo and Jim the information he has from previous meetings**.

g) Workgroup meeting time(s): Mark said it would be good to set up recurring meetings for the workgroups to get them going again, as discussed in the virtual Spring meeting. He reviewed what had been proposed so far: 1) everybody does their own thing, 2) hold all meetings at the same day & time each month, 3) hold all meetings on same day each month, but back-to-back (so people can attend more than one), or 4) set aside 30 minutes in each EC meeting for a breakout of all four groups. Since there was not agreement on these, he suggested a couple more alternatives: 5) hold them on first two Wednesdays of the month (two each day), back to back, or 6) hold them during first two weeks of the month, but not back-to-back (maybe one on Tuesday, the other on Thursday). He took a poll and it was 6 to 5 for option 5, so there was still no solid conclusion.

After that there was some discussion about best times for specific people, and in the end it was decided that each group would choose their own time to meet. The Pollinator workgroup set their meeting time for the first Monday of the month between 10-12:30 Pacific. **Mark will send out an email chain to each of the other 3 groups** so they can pick their own best times.

There was a discussion about some of the current issues around pesticides and pollinators, including pollination by drone, climate change, persistent soil products, and the fact that Cannabis is wind pollinated but produces an abundance of pollen that attracts a range of bee species.

#### 4. National Tribal Caucus Budget Request Discussion (All)

a) Priorities: Mark noted that the priorities in the last version of the NTC budget request were not written by the TPPC, and suggested that we could use the priorities from the Status Report instead. Jasmine said she likes the way the priorities in the NTC document are kind of vague, and thinks it might be too constraining if we go into more details. She suggested dropping a couple of the priorities in the old list and adding a few from the Status Report. Mark offered to do a hybrid of the old priorities and the Status Report and send it out to the group for review.

b) Budget Request: Mark pulled up and walked through the spreadsheet he prepared with current and recent past pesticide funding numbers from different EPA sources. He noted that the budget request in the previous NTC document was \$5.5 million, and that the current total (from all sources) is about \$2.5 million. There was a lot of discussion about specific elements of EPA funding including PREP attendance, how STAG funding is calculated for Tribes, initiative funding in enforcement cooperative agreements, and circuit riders. No agreement was made about the budget request, so Mehrdad suggested that Jasmine and Nina could meet with Amanda Hauff to work it out.

#### 5. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics (All)

Jasmine let folks know that the funding for FY22-23 will be rolled out tomorrow according to RTOC. There are also a few new budget trainings from EPA (people should have gotten a link) that might be useful. Also there are some environmental justice grants that Joe Herrera of Yakama Nation or other Tribes might want to apply for – geared towards economically disadvantaged populations. There is quite a lot of funding available.

Jasmine also noted that the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) has informed us that they can make a seat available on their board to someone from TPPC. If someone with a strong background in structural pest control is interested the TPPC can provide a nomination letter. Mark also let the group know that he heard from Mike Page at ASPCRO that he hopes either he or the president of the organization can make our May call.

Mark noted that Julie Simpson of the Nez Perce Tribe (who couldn't make this meeting) had sent him a suggestion about improving cooperation between different branches of EPA with regard to disinfectants and COVID-19. She feels it would be good to better integrate disinfectant information and resources coming out of the agency with indoor air quality concerns and protection of vulnerable communities (children, asthmatics, elders, immune-compromised, chemically sensitive). Jasmine noted that we had some discussion about this issue in the virtual Spring Meeting last month. Rachel said she had sent out an email about the issue, including safer ways to clean and disinfect, and that she can re-send it to the group. Jasmine asked Mark to follow up with Julie about her Hot Topic issue to be sure her concerns are addressed.

#### 6. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST

\*(Yellow highlighting in the notes above indicates action items)