

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee
Monthly Conference Call
09/15/21
Call Notes – Final

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 (20)

- Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Les Benedict, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Ryan Evans, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Tony McCandless, Gila River Indian Community
- Carol Kriebs, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes
- Shylah James, Navajo Nation
- Joe Herrera, Yakama Nation
- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Andrea Mitchell, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- James Jackson, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Earl Bautista, Tohono O'odham Nation
- Dorla Tartsah, Kiowa Tribe
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Jeremy Phillips, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Julie Simpson, Nez Perce Tribe
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation
- Tracy Horst, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Tribal Organizations (0)

EPA (9)

- Rachel Ricciardi, EPA/OCSP
- Emily Ryan, EPA/OCSP
- Loren LaPointe, EPA/OCSP
- Amanda Hauff, EPA/OCSP
- Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA
- Kathie Dionisio, EPA
- Michael Troyer, EPA
- Beth Owens, EPA
- Cindy Wire, EPA/OCSP

Other (3)

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

Reported in advance as absent (2)

- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians

1. Welcome/Introductions

Jasmine Brown of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes facilitated the roll call.

2. EPA Updates

Rachel Ricciardi (EPA) asked if anyone would be interested in the IR4 Virtual Hemp Tour being a subject for the fall meeting.

Helene Ambrosino (EPA) reported that they recently held the 2nd and last Tribal consultation on draft guidance to their project officers on the FIFRA-STAG Cooperative agreement on circuit riders. The comment period is open until Nov. 11. The next PERT training will be held May 17-19 in Tulsa hosted by the Muskogee Creek Nation. In April of 2021, OECA sent out an inspection commitment letter to partner agencies, this may get extended another 6 months. Any offsite compliance monitoring activities need to be kept separate from on-site work. On August 26 OECA emailed a National Program Guidance early engagement document with 5 questions.

Amanda Hauff (EPA) mentioned that the National Tribal Operations Committee meeting will be held on September 30 with the EPA and the National Tribal Caucus and topics will include PFAS and Direct Implementation. They are also planning to do a re-affirmation ceremony for the 1984 Indian Policy.

Cindy Wire (EPA) said they are in the early stages of revising the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention National Program Guidance. They will be sending a one pager with questions about pesticide program needs in various geographical areas of the nation. Feedback will be shared with the Regions. The five priorities in the current (2021) National Program Guidance are 1. FIFRA grants management, 2. State Certification and Training Plans, 3. Worker protection, 4. IPM, and 5. Pollinator/Habitat Protection. Comments are due by October 25.

3. TPPC Administrator Updates

- Based on a discussion about Cannabis and TPPC concerns about regulation, a document has been created and a draft will be sent to the EPA soon for feedback.
- The TPPC website had 434 views and 93 users in August, YTD is 2828 views with 797 users.
- The Circuit Rider Guidance Consultation is open now through Nov. 11. Let Mark know if the TPPC would like to submit a comment letter.
- Mark reviewed the Training Needs Questionnaire that will be sent out to TPPC members.
- The Fall Meeting will be held virtually on Nov. 2-4 (Tues-Thurs.). Topics will include Pollinator Protection and PFAS in addition to many others.
- We will be addressing any changes or updates needed for the Status Report, input from the workgroups will be helpful.

4. **Presentation on Water Testing of Pesticides and FDA's Total Diet Study (Terry Council, Total Diet Study Coordinator for FDA's Office of Analytics and Outreach; and Shanker Reddy, Senior Interdisciplinary Scientist with USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service).** View the slide presentation here: http://tppcwebsite.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/TPPC_EPA-talk.pdf

Q&A:

- (Jasmine) If you find 8-10 different pesticides in one surface body of water with one being under the health benchmark, is there a concern if all 8 were found together? Mixtures are difficult and they are still developing science to go with finding mixtures.
 - (Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe) Are there any water tests that can be done under an EPA grant using STAG money?
(Jasmine) Do most water treatment facilities filter through carbon? Not usually because it's too expensive.
5. **Presentation on ORD's Strategic Research Action Plans (StRAPs): Chemical Safety for Sustainability, Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (Annette Guiseppi-Elie, National Program Director for CSS; Samantha Jones, National Program Director for HERA; Jose Zambrana, Liaison to the Tribal Science Council, USEPA; Monica Rodia, USEPA; Brenda Rashleigh, EPA).** View the slide presentation here: http://tppcwebsite.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/CSS_HERA-Research-Scoping-Presentation-TPPC-09152021.pdf

Discussion:

(Jasmine) Tribes will occasionally use medicinal plants at certain times of the year when needed to combat illness and therefore not used all year. (Annette) Traditional risk assessments do not take into account cultural practices but they are at a point now to include other considerations. (Jasmine) They look to the EPA for safety in using wild foods because they don't have their own risk assessments. (Annette Guiseppi-Elie, EPA) They have developed a big picture and would welcome input from Tribes on specific areas that they should be aware of-this is now a more central part of what they do. (Samantha Jones, HERA) Their research looks at various intermittent exposures and the meaning of cumulative impacts. It's very helpful for them to hear of various scenarios.
Fish consumption was mentioned as they often find PFAS and mercury. Assessing water quality is very important.

6. **Presentation on a Tribal Hemp Plan (Joseph Owle, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Secretary of Agriculture for the Department of Natural Resources for the DCI).**

They work closely with the EPA on water and air quality programs. In October of 2019 they submitted a resolution that established a Cannabis Commission to develop regulatory application and administrative rules, then submitted to the USDA in July of 2020. The acceptance they received in December of 2020 allows Tribal members to grow hemp on Tribal lands. They have had to adjust the specifics so that only legitimate farmers can apply for a permit. To date they have not had any applicants and have not issued any permits. Some reasons for this include limited agricultural lands and that less young people are becoming farmers. Nevertheless, they have maintained Tribal sovereignty and are set-up and ready to go.

He realized that they don't have any statutes that reference pesticide applications in their cannabis program. Challenges exist moving forward because cannabis is still a schedule 1 controlled substance. They used Tribal plans from the USDA website to gather information for creating their plan and soon they will focus on medical cannabis production.

Jasmine asked about their sampling frequency which is 30 days prior to harvest. Julie Simpson asked if they have crop destruction/disposal guidelines built into the rules, maybe based on sampling. Joey said that they follow the USDA guide for disposal (burn, mulch, turn it into the crop).

7. Workgroup Report-out:

The Risk Assessment workgroup is meeting on Monday, let Mark, Rachel or Jasmine know if you are interested.

8. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics/COVID Check-in:

Rene Keezer (White Earth Nation) participated in a Water Testing Clinic and learned that when you discover nitrates in water you will have an increased incidence of pesticides in the water also.

Loren sent out information about a Royal Botanic Gardens Presentation from the UK.

9. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST