

**TRIBAL PESTICIDE PROGRAM COUNCIL
MONTHLY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL
Wednesday, May 15, 2024
Call Notes - FINAL**

Roll call:

Tribes (16)

- Alexis Bruce, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Gerald Wagner, Blackfoot Tribe
- James Jackson, Cherokee Nation
- Jake Luger, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
- Jasmine Courville, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Jeremy Phillips, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Jessica Raspitha, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes
- Cricket Herrera, Yakama Nation
- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation
- Luis Sanchez, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Phillip White, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Steve Anderson, Choctaw Nation
- Tacy Jensen, Gila River Indian Community
- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community

Tribal Organizations (2)

- Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- McKenna King, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

EPA (4)

- Brian Anderson, OPP/EFED
- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSP
- Meaghan Caruso, EPA/OCSP
- Amanda Hauff EPA/OITA

Reported in advance as absent (3)

- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation
- Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA

1. Tribal Caucus

2. Welcome/Introductions

Jasmine Courville, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, facilitated roll call and introductions.

3. EPA Updates

a. National Tribal Caucus (NTC) Tribal Climate Intensive

Meaghan Caruso, EPA/OCSP, shared that NTC is providing a Tribal climate intensive. She is looking for presenters for the training to provide Tribes and EPA staff who work

with Tribes information and resources on pesticides and how the topic connects to climate mitigation and adaptation. Information about this event was sent out from Linsey. **Contact Meaghan (caruso.meaghan@epa.gov) if you are interested in providing a presentation. Jasmine will share this with her tribe's climate change specialist.** Linsey shared that each program office at EPA will be providing training. The announcement for the entire series, including topics besides pesticides, will be sent out at a later date for those interested in attending.

b. Tribal Children's Health Initiative Questions

Amanda Hauff, EPA/OITA, was not able to join the meeting at the scheduled time due to a last-minute conflict. Linsey shared that Amanda wanted to gauge interest from TPPC members about the Tribal Children's Health Initiative, and that Amanda may be able to join the TPPC meeting next month or email the TPPC listserv with follow up information.

c. NTC Reorganization Comments

Jasmine inquired about the status of the NTC reorganization. Linsey shared that the consultation period has been extended by 60 days and will now end August 9th. Linsey has reached out to a contact at the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) and requested they attend the next TPPC meeting to discuss this with the council. Linsey can share a list of thoughts, comments, and questions to the speaker so they can be prepared to speak about specific concerns. **Email Linsey with specific thoughts, concerns, and questions.** Jasmine shared a question, "what is driving this change?" and shared a comment that, "one representative for each region is not representative of all tribes in the region." She expressed concern that this may affect tribal partnership group relationships. **Linsey will share these concerns with AIEO.**

Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), shared that other ITEP partnership groups are holding meetings on this topic. He is attending a meeting regarding this with the Tribal Waste and Response group after this call and **will report any pertinent information back to the TPPC.** Jasmine suggested inviting other ITEP groups with information on this to the June TPPC meeting to contribute to the discussion. **Mark will reach out to his ITEP colleagues to discuss this.**

4. TPPC Administrator Updates

a. June Call Rescheduled Due to Federal Holiday

The next TPPC meeting was rescheduled from June 19 to June 26.

b. New Changes to the TPPC Website

Mark shared that there is now a submission form for events where TPPC members can share their upcoming events to be listed in the TPPC event calendar.

5. Tribal Caucus Report-out

No updates noted.

6. Workgroup Report-out

No updates noted.

7. Update on EPA Endangered Species Act Herbicide Strategy

Brian Anderson, OPP/EFED, provided an update on EPA's Endangered Species Act (ESA) work plan. The primary goals are to prioritize FIFRA actions for ESA compliance, early mitigation, and more efficient approaches. EPA consults with US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to determine potential jeopardy of listed species and how to avoid jeopardizing the species. They are using a grouping framework to group pesticides and group species to make assessments more efficient.

Draft Herbicide Strategy

The draft herbicide strategy is a framework to identify mitigation for over 900 listed species affected by agricultural uses of common conventional herbicides. This addresses many but not all effects of herbicides. Others that cannot be categorized into a group based on effect will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The first step in assessment is to understand if there is an effect. If so, it is determined whether or not this affects the species on a population level. If it does, mitigations would be explored through the common ways that pesticides move through the environment (wind, soil, water, bioaccumulation). Use and rate patterns are considered, and implementation of mitigations would be spatially tailored to the species. Strategies are designed to allow for emerging technologies and support programmatic logistics.

Herbicide Strategy next steps are based on the review and summary of the 20,000 comments collected. They published a summary of themes from public comments (topics included number and effectiveness of mitigations, maps of species ranges, and need for clearer communication on the point system for mitigations). The final strategy deadline has been extended to August 2024. The strategy will continue to be updated as technology evolves.

Mapping refinements is a key area of focus because this determines where mitigations will take effect. A pesticide use limitation area (PULA) does not necessarily display where a species range actually is. They are developing and testing draft processes for refining PULAs. The goal is to explicitly map areas important for species conservation.

Other ESA Pesticide Strategies

The Rodenticide Strategy covers 11 rodenticides. This draft strategy was released on 12/1/23, and the final strategy will be released by 11/2024. The Insecticide Strategy draft goal is 7/30/2024 and is currently being worked on. The Fungicide Strategy is still being worked on and does not have a current timeline for drafts and completion. Chemical specific biological evaluations are occurring simultaneously.

Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community, asked if the current use of the pesticide is taken into account. He is wondering if it is worth looking at pesticides that aren't used as much anymore and if there are newer pesticides that should be of focus. Brian responded that new pesticides are assumed to have high use and they utilize information from market leaders to inform what is being used most in an area. For registration reviews they use historical data of uses and range to inform risks.

Jasmine shared feedback from growers; they shared that grouping on labels was confusing and there was a suggestion to utilize color coding. Resistance management strategies could be implemented into labeling since there are gaps in knowledge on resistance management. **Brian will share this feedback with the regulatory team.**

Ted asked where information on use for nonagricultural products comes from, such as residential rodenticides. Brian shared that there is not a lot of data, and they will assume that there is use in certain areas. He said this varies substantially but the idea is to cover potential risks. Jasmine emphasized the importance of assessing nonagricultural chemicals. If there is not use data available, the label is utilized for assessments. **Send additional questions to Linsey.**

8. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics

Lands, Chemicals, and Revitalization Division Meeting

Gerald Wagner, Blackfoot Tribe, shared about the meeting he is attending next week called The Lands, Chemicals, and Revitalization Division. He asked if there are any concerns TPPC members would like him to address through this meeting. Jasmine shared that federal Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) risk assessment is something she has concerns about. **Gerald requested Jasmine send information about this to him.** Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes, shared concerns about endangered species and Fish and Wildlife Service management of endangered species. **Gerald will follow up with Jim on this concern.** Jasmine shared concerns related to endangered species; 1) labeling going to the Bulletins Live! 2 website as opposed to a physical label which is concerning due to lack of cell phone and internet coverage in some places, 2) FWS failure to perform on site field assessments and allowing pesticide use in endangered species habitat and 3) seasonal behaviors of endangered species and potential year round exposure. Jasmine also mentioned PFAS.

9. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST

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