

**TRIBAL PESTICIDE PROGRAM COUNCIL
MONTHLY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL**

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Call Notes - FINAL

1. Tribal Caucus

2. Welcome/Introductions

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

Roll call:

Tribes (19)

- Alexis Bruce, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Ann Wyatt, Klawock Cooperative Association
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Dorla Tartsah, Kiowa Tribe
- Emma McFarland, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Gerald Wagner, Blackfeet Tribe
- James Jackson, Cherokee Nation
- James Williams, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Jasmine Courville, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Jessica Raspitha, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation
- Phillip White, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Reservation
- Ron Workman, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Tabitha Lanston, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Tacy Jensen, Gila River Indian Community
- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Verna Potts, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Tribal Organizations (1)

- Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

EPA (3)

- Andy Byrne, EPA/AIEO
- Daniel Vaught, EPA/AIEO
- Megan Caruso, EPA/OCSP

Reported in advance as absent (6)

- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association
- Jeremy Phillips, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA
- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSP
- McKenna King, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians

3. EPA Updates

No updates noted.

4. TPPC Administrator Updates

Fall Meeting Update

Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, shared confirmation that the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians will be hosting the Fall 2024 meeting.

Prospective dates for the meeting are October 8-10 2024. **If you have a conflict with these dates please let Mark know.**

5. Update on Proposal to Reform the National Tribal Caucus

Andy Byrne, EPA/AIEO, and Daniel Vaught, EPA/AIEO, provided an update on the proposal to reform the National Tribal Caucus.

The National Tribal Caucus (NTC) was created in 1994 as a tribal advisory committee that would inform and advise EPA on implementation of environmental programs in Indian Country. The proposed reconfiguration was inspired due to time elapsed since its formation to consider the subsequent additions of groups such as the Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC), headquarters based tribal groups, and the 10 Regional Tribal Operations Committees (RTOCs). The priority is to change the structure of the entity, not to impede any work or goals of the NTC. This proposal has been out for 120 days of consultation, an extension from 60 days, to allow for national discussion. The three proposed major changes are outlined below.

a. Full Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) Status

The legal authority of the group to meet would be entirely under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The NTC currently complies with this legal

requirement under a tribal exemption. The current structure has strengths and weaknesses as would full FACA status.

Proposed benefits of FACA status: Allows all 574 tribes to participate in a public meeting as FACAs require the public to be able to participate. This is accomplished via a phone line to the meeting which would allow tribes that have not been able to participate in the past to call in and participate. These participants can provide comments to the NTC. This may be perceived as a con by some due to lack of privacy in the meetings (because they would be open to all members of the public, not just tribes).

b. Increased Numbers of Elected Tribal Leaders

The structure of the group would be for an increase in tribal leadership participation. Currently representatives come from regional groups and may be either elected tribal leaders or designated elected environmental directors of the tribal leaders. The majority of the group is currently mostly tribal environmental staff.

Proposed benefits include access to EPA environmental staff, technical support, and gaining the perspectives of tribal leadership. Potential weaknesses voiced by TPPC members are that elected officials may not want to express views without legal staff present, or may be too busy to attend the meetings.

c. Direct Participation of Headquarters Based Media Groups

NTC would directly incorporate representatives from the headquarters partnership groups, such as the TPPC. Currently representatives act as liaisons between these groups at the NTC as opposed to representatives of these groups being directly part of the NTC.

A proposed benefit is that this would give these groups a direct voice and may support efficiency of meetings.

Questions and Comments in Response to the Proposed Changes

Jasmine asked why EPA has decided to make these changes. In the previous presidential administration changes that were being made to the charter were halted. The goal is now to make changes during the current administration, before a possible change of administration next January. They looked at what other federal agencies

have done and saw that others moved towards the FACA model. Due to time constraints they feel they did not present the proposed changes well. The NTC is a group jointly created and managed by EPA, allowing them authority to make changes to its structure, but they do wish to consider comments from tribal representatives.

Jasmine expressed concern that new changes would result in 1 person representing too many tribes and does not want to lose TPPCs direct line to NTC.

Andy asked if Jasmine has any suggestions for groups like TPPC to better their communication and partnership with NTC. Jasmine suggested that NTC meets more frequently with EPA. Jasmine's goal with this meeting is to gain more information from this meeting to inform an official comment from the TPPC.

Gerald Wagner, Blackfet Tribe and NTC Chair, stated that the process should be paused and that proposed changes should have been discussed with the NTC before they were proposed publicly. It seems that the NTC was excluded from this decision making process.

Mark will reach out to Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSP, to request a pros and cons list regarding each element of the proposal.

6. Tribal Caucus Report-out

Based on the Tribal Caucus discussion, Jasmine suggested adding additional pesticide ordinances to the TPPC website as a resource to anyone who is seeking support establishing an ordinance. If you would like to add your tribe's pesticide ordinance to the TPPC website, contact Mark.

7. Workgroup Report-out

No updates noted.

8. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics

Jasmine suggested adding tribal climate change informational materials to the TPPC website. Mark will make a note of this.

9. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST

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