

Tribal Pesticide Program Council-Full Council Meeting
Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, Santa Rosa California and Virtual
DAY ONE, Tuesday October 8, 2024
Meeting Notes

This meeting was called to order by Jasmine Courville at 9:00 AM Pacific Time Zone.

Attendees (for the overall three-day meeting):

Tribes (23)

- Alexis Bruce, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
- Brenda Pusher-Begay, White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Curry Blankenship, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Daniel Hoyt, Gila River Indian Community
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho
- Jaclyn Listo, Tohono O'odham Nation
- James Jackson, Cherokee Nation
- Jasmine L. R. Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Jeremy Phillips, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community
- Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes
- Cricket (Joe) Herrera, Yakama Nation
- Kingsley Nephew, Seneca Nation
- LaShawnia Tso, Tohono O'odham Nation
- Luis Sanchez, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Phillip White, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation
- Steve Anderson, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Tacy L. Jensen, Gila River Indian Community
- Theodore Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Tison Gill, Gila River Indian Community

Tribal Organizations (5)

- Africa Dorame-Avalos, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona
- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers' Association
- Mark Daniels, ITEP
- McKenna King, ITEP
- Robert Shimek, White Earth Tribal College

Federal (16)

- Amy Camacho, EPA/R6
- Andy Bessler, EPA/OEJECR
- Ben Hassan, EPA/R9
- Benjamin Rohr, EPA /OECA
- Charles Hooper, EPA/R6
- Jennifer Dodds, EPA/R5
- Kaitlin Picone, EPA/OPP
- Katy Wilcoxon, EPA/R9
- Lauren Achstatter, EPA/OCSP
- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSP
- Monica Rodia, EPA/ORD/Tribal Science Council
- Norman Calero, EPA/R9
- Peter Earley, EPA/Region 9
- Sherrie Kinard, EPA/R8
- Sierra Moline, EPA/R6
- Susan Morales, EPA/R9

Traditional Opening Ceremony, Welcome, Introductions

Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, and TPPC Vice chairperson welcomed the group and introduced Hannah Banuelos. Ms. Banuelos, an elder of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, blessed the meeting with an opening prayer.

TPPC Opening Remarks

Jasmine Courville, TPPC Chair and Nina Hapner, TPPC Vice-Chair delivered opening remarks and an overview of current TPPC developments including website updates and policy issue papers. TPPC members and meeting participants introduced themselves

Introduction to the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands

Anne Morkill, Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, introduced the goals of managing and conserving the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed and environmental education about the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands where the meeting was held.

EPA Welcome Remarks and Q&A with Ed Messina

Ed Messina, Director of the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), spoke about OPP programs, structure, and priorities. He suggested signing up for updates to receive notifications about project progression. Priorities include Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) 5 implementation, pesticide registration and review, Endangered Species Act (ESA) implementation, environmental justice, climate changes, polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS), endocrine screening program, rule making, guidance, litigation, petition responses, advancing digital transformation, and improving employee experience.

He went over the financial year 2024 registration highlights and discussed deliverables related to PRIA 5 including a website with updates on PRIA 5 deliverables, development of training curricula, continuation of existing cooperative agreements and new set asides. Ed spoke about the historic suspension and subsequent voluntary cancellation of dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate (DCPA) in August of 2024. There were over 22,000 comments submitted for the Rodenticides Update that were distilled into distinct themes that are considered in the final biological evaluation that will be issued in November 2024. Themes noted were non-target exposure, misuse, benefits of rodenticide control, feasibility/enforceability/effectiveness/costs related to proposed mitigation, concerns related to restricted use pesticide designation, field use restrictions, personal protective equipment, and refining mitigation further by rodenticide type.

ESA priorities include continued progression, increasing efficiency, transparency, opportunities for stakeholders, refined maps, early proactive mitigations, flexible and implementation

mitigations, and off-sets to minimize impacts on pesticide users and protect species. Updates are published annually and financial year 2024 had a total of 84 published updates, which is higher than average. To see more OPP updates visit [epa.gov/pesticides](https://www.epa.gov/pesticides)

Jasmine discussed the comment that TPPC has been working on regarding the draft ESA Insecticide strategy. Internet access for utilizing Bulletins Live 2 is also a concern. The map that depicts access to Indian country is inaccurate. Ed responded that they will most likely need to investigate creating offline capabilities and acknowledged that internet access is an issue. He discussed that mitigation depends on an applicator's location and the species around them. He is interested in ideas from the TPPC for solving this problem. The idea is to consult the website to see what flexibilities exist as opposed to requiring maximum mitigations as a default. Jasmine also noted concerns on the persistence of certain chemicals and the idea of putting limitations on these regardless of type of use. There was also concern on time frames of uses as this can limit the true scope of impact assessments. Jasmine asked how to get Pesticide Use Limitation Area (PULA) added to the website. Ed responded this would require collaborating with Fish and Wildlife Services if there is a known endangered species.

Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation, asked about registration review and to clarify PRIA vs non PRIA actions. Ed explained that PRIA actions include 200 actions regarding a new active ingredient. Companies pay a fee and there is an established timeline for review. Non PRIA actions are actions not listed in the 200 PRIA actions list. Examples include changing contact information of registrants, change to a graphic, or changes to Spanish translations. These are considered minor changes and do not need EPA approval. There is a website explaining this <https://www.epa.gov/pria-fees/pria-5-implementation>

Pest Management Outreach to Tribal Communities

Dr. Lucy Li, Arizona Pest Management Center, University of Arizona spoke about outreach activities and materials that tribes can use to inform communities about pests, integrated pest management, pesticide safety, risk management, and some of their recent projects.

Dr. Li introduced the structure of the Western Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Center and Western Plant Diagnostics Networks that encompass the Arizona Plant Diagnostics. She welcomed TPPC members to reach out to her with any needs related to urban or agricultural pest management. Their goals are to develop and implement priority engaged research and extension public health programs. Their priorities include Tribal IPM, Vector control, School and housing IPM, and Food safety

She discussed Tribal public health needs and priorities and the goals of promoting partnerships, enhancing communication among collaborators, working with experts to provide technical assistance, hosting educational events, working with government departments and agencies that provide resources, and lastly seeking funding. Tribal community collaborators that play a

significant role in the program include environmental protection officers, housing authority professionals, environmental health professionals, vector control professional and many more. The main pest concerns that have been identified are lice, mosquitos, ticks, cockroaches, bed bugs, rodents, flies, and ants. Their key engagement activities are educational training/workshops, general outreach, community member involvement, hands-on activities, and in-field investigations.

They are hosting an emergency preparedness and resilience workshop in 2025 and will host the 2024 Rocky Mountain Spotted fever 2nd Annual Stakeholder Meeting October 29-30, 2024, in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Phillip White, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, asked about resistance testing for mosquitoes. Dr. Li shared that they have used a bioassay for this, but the best method is to capture larvae to determine resistance. They found they were resistant to pyrethroids and organophosphates. She suggested rotating the types of products used and taking a break from the type of product there is resistance to, and the population will become susceptible again. The Arizona Department of Health Services can do testing, but larvae must be provided. She said to reach out to her and they can connect you with a lab or specialist.

Issues With Gold-Spotted Oak Borer and Velvet Ants

[Presentation Slides](#)

Matt Baur, Western Integrated Pest Management Center, spoke about gold-spotted oak borer (GSOB), velvet ants, and IPM. He discussed the mindset that is that the environment is not separate from the land we work with, that our actions impact the ecosystem around us, sometimes in unintended ways.

Nina shared about velvet ants and that they are destructive in some habitats. They are endemic and not considered invasive but are now causing damage potentially due to lack of predators that would otherwise manage the population. Matt discussed the grouping and taxonomy of velvet ants. He shared about the lifecycle and preferred prey. Based on their characteristics, it is unclear why these insects are causing such an imbalance in the ecosystem. Matt shared he thinks the lack of oaks could be increasing grazing area and therefore opening up more space for nesting bees and wasps (which velvet ants prey on). Phillip speculated that changes in temperature may be changing populations. Renee discussed the potential of wildfire causing a relocation of the population.

Renee asked if the GSOB is moving Northeast, Matt responded that he does not know what the NE boundary of this species will be. GSOB currently attack coast live oak, California black oak, and canyon live oak. There is one generation per year with adults coming out in spring, but this is occurring earlier, and larvae are laid inside the tree. Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community, asked if the wild or urban population is being treated with pesticides. Matt said that wild

populations are being managed at a low level. Speculative reasons for the GSOB invasion include a speciation event in Northern Mexico with a following expansion North to exploit new resources and/or transportation via firewood.

Nina discussed the expansion of invasive species and the importance of inspection of items that are transported and the economic resources used to attempt to contain insects. This impacts traditional food resources as there is concern that systemic pesticides may end up in acorns and that the food producing trees will become less abundant. Matt shared that systemic pesticide residue has not been found in researched edible crops that have been studied, such as almonds. Nina shared exposure may be different when someone is fasting and exclusively consuming a food source. She supports scenarios like this to be considered in risk assessments. Currently this issue is assessed as a forestry resource rather than food use.

Jasmine asked which trees are treated, and Matt responded that they treat large trees as these would produce the most beetles; smaller trees that are infested would be cut down. Ted clarified that this would mean juvenile trees are removed, Matt agreed that this skews populations but keeps acorns available as seeds for new trees. Matt shared that this is not an ideal solution but that forests may have too many trees due to fire suppression which can promote infestations. They are trying to determine the carrying capacity of forests and likely decreasing the number of trees. Matt emphasized that discussions such as this can impact policies that are managing these forests. Jasmine shared a success story of invasive mussel control in the lakes of Montana.

Updates From the Host Tribe

[Presentation Slides](#)

Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, shared about programs and recent activities that they have been working on. Nina described the territory of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians and some of their history including the process of reclaiming some of their historical lands.

One of their projects is a seaweed tending project where they harvest varying amounts to understand what practices will create resiliency in the seaweed. Ted clarified that the ocean is not considered part of the reservation and Jasmine shared that her tribe successfully went to court for rights to the lake as part of their reservation.

Another project is their internship program where students catalog game camera footage and practice transect sampling. They are working towards establishing an aquaponic abalone farm that can provide food back to the community and act as a restoration project. As part of this program, they are formulating an abalone feed in place of kelp in order to protect the sparse amount of kelp. They are working with the state of California for co-management.

Oceanic monitoring projects include beach walks to log information, monitoring harmful algal blooms with the goal of helping to keep mussels safe for consumption, orthomosaic imaging to guide sea urchin removal for kelp forest restoration and monitoring, and phytoplankton sampling. Results from surveys are on the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians Instagram page so that the community can find the information. Their overall goals are to make cultural foods accessible and safe.

Ted asked if they are testing for PFAS in the ocean, Nina responded that they are not but they would like to. Nina feels they need to work with the state as co-managers to expand their capacity. They started their marine monitoring program in 2020 via state grant funding.

Workgroup Updates & Strategy Discussion

Nina and Jasmine facilitated discussion on what TPPC workgroups are doing with the goal of gathering feedback to determine future directions.

Pollinator Protection Workgroup

Jasmine discussed that the farm bill includes funding for pollinator protection that could help their efforts. She shared that funding was rescinded for the pollinator coloring book and they are looking for other funding and potentially collaborating with Melanie Kirby, Institute of American Indian Arts. Jasmine asked if TPPC has funding to commission an artist or printing. **This is something Mark can look into.**

Africa Dorame-Avalos, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, discussed the idea of creating goals for workgroups and the importance of aligning with EPA to seek support. Nina shared that she would like the workgroup to provide usable information. They created an assessment for pollinator needs to be answered by community members or environmental staff, but they have not received any responses. Other ideas for the workgroup included connecting pollinators to cultural plants and transforming this into a technical resource, working on a pollinator protection plan using others as a template to add to the website to guide others. Africa suggested a tribal specific pollinator symposium, highlighting pollinator programs already in place, and integrating pollinator protection into the Pesticide Inspector Residential Training (PIRT) IPM training.

Mark shared that he has a final report from the strategist the TPPC met with in the past, Eric Deschiney, and will share this with the group soon. Other ideas for the work group included contacting pesticide manufacturers to discuss pollinators, creating an educational trunk to bring to schools and events to educate children about pesticides and pollinators. **Nina would like to follow up on pollinator protection notes and have them added to the website.**

Policy Work Group

Jasmine discussed drafting a letter in support of formalizing EPA withdrawal of support of the SAFETEA Act. She requested a group vote, and no members present were opposed to this. She also spoke about Oregon House Bill 2687, highlighting that it would require tribes to enter memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and insert state authority on tribal lands. Daniel Hoyt, Gila River Indian Community, shared a link to [House Bill 2678](#) in the chat. Nina suggested reaching out to Oregon tribes and see if they want a comment letter on this or not. Phillip shared the idea of drafting a letter and providing information to be sent to the Oregon tribes and Tacy L. Jensen, Gila River Indian Community, spoke about the idea of creating a survey for tribes to respond to regarding this issue.

Another item noted to work on is Direct Implementation as Helene Ambrosino wanted the TPPC to develop a plan/proposal for direct implementation. Jasmine shared about the comment letters that the workgroup has authored and reminded members that comment letters are open documents that anyone can provide feedback on. Nina suggested that every 3 years the TPPC reviews the election dependent strategic plan and provides comments and to have standing work items to comment on such as the National Program Guidances. The group discussed the idea of utilizing advisors through ITEP for things such as document review and to have each work group present items they are seeking assistance from ITEP on at monthly executive meetings. **Matt utilizes a group through USDA for document review and he offered to send these documents.**

James Jackson, Cherokee Nation, brought up the concept that workgroup issues should be elevated to National Tribal Caucus (NTC), Jasmine shared that the NTC goes on to request funding for these issues. James suggested that TPPC could reach out to other contacts, such as those in Oregon, to get input on issues. Jasmine shared about a project that includes sampling in Oregon, she may have a contact for someone who is interested in pesticides.

Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers' Association, asked if someone from TPPC could come to the congressional tribal meeting to present about TPPC work. Africa responded that this may count as lobbying and would therefore not be allowed. Africa shared she could request feedback from the group about what they would like to share, but not technically on the behalf of the TPPC.

The group would like to create automated reminders on google docs policy drafts sent out via email to create more participation. They also want to do more report outs at the monthly executive calls.

Risk Assessment Workgroup

Renee shared there is a draft survey for risk assessment in the works. White Earth hired a cultural coordinator who was expanding this survey, but it is on pause due to a staff member's health condition. **Renee will be sharing this survey when she is able to.** There are discussions

around sampling integrity and cost of shipping and location of labs. Jasmine shared EPA has a regional lab that will run the analysis for free. Ted shared not every state has an EPA lab. Renee is unsure of funding sources for the assessment.

Nina supports building clear protocols on how to work with EPA to support future projects. Renee supports this and Jasmine volunteered to help draft this. Diania spoke about people gathering not wanting to disclose what they are gathering. Nina suggested designing surveys in a way that protects information and has questions people are comfortable answering through the use of focus groups and understanding the EPA IRB process and data transparency. Renee said they would collect information and then they decide what is shared with EPA. **Mark had a contact in mind for ITEP technical assistance from a chemist.** Another suggestion was breaking the risk assessment workgroup into two groups: one for the above project and another for new active ingredients/issues.

Outreach Discussion

Jasmine suggested writing a letter as a tribal outreach group and the group discussed ideas for promotion of the TPPC: printed brochures, items on the website, letters, work groups, presentations, and outreach as part of the TPPC work plan. Part of the outreach initiative would be to reach out to missing representative regions. Mark shared there is funding each year for one person to attend a national conference, which hasn't been used this year and could be strategic for outreach. There is funding for Mark to go to a meeting annually as well, he has been attending the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF) but he could attend an alternative meeting. Jasmine observed that there aren't presentations on pesticides at TLEF and this could be an opportunity. Another suggestion was emailing tribal groups and sharing about the TPPC.

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DAY TWO, Wednesday October 9, 2024
Meeting Notes

USDA/NRCS Funding

Pedro Torres, United States Department of Agriculture National Resource Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) Tribal Liaison spoke about funding opportunities for conservation work on Tribal lands. [Link to USDA NRCS](#)

He noted that their work is not limited to farming but recognizes traditional land uses for things like food, basket making, and medicine. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) goal is to establish a baseline of conservation. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) builds on conservation built under EQIP or existing practices. Tribes are exempt from adjusted gross income requirements, but individuals are not. An individual applicant can receive \$450 and groups can receive up to \$9,000. Qualifying agricultural lands can be lands used for traditional gathering and hunting, aquaculture, salmon restoration, land with co-stewardship agreements, nonindustrial forest land and potentially other uses. Historically underserved recipients can apply for 50% advanced payment in order to implement practices and must spend money within 120 days and project must follow a planned timeline. Generally, a technical service provider has to complete the activities, but for tribes this is described as a tribal or indigenous governing body as to not exclude tribes that are not federally recognized with the goal of tribes determining who is eligible to complete activities. Alternative funding can occur where funds are given to tribes to manage promoting flexibility, but this incurs additional reporting and documentation. NRCS had a \$100 million set aside for tribes and received \$200 million in requests; they are hoping to expand to meet these funding needs.

Pedro discussed details of specific programs. For the Small Watershed Program, the watershed must be 250,000 acres or smaller. The 250,000 acres could be within tribal boundaries, or a tribe could work in cooperation with their neighbors. For the Emergency Watershed Program funding parallels the value of property. Property can be of cultural value and tribes can determine the value of property to propose. Eligibility is triggered by declaration of disaster. Tribes are able to declare disasters, disasters do not need to be declared by the state or county. The Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grant does not require that a project is technically urban, it is designed to address food insecurity needs. Tribal advisory councils are

how NRCS maintains communication with and receives feedback from tribes at state regional and national level. Contact Pedro with any questions. Pedro.torres@usda.gov

Nina shared she is looking at partnering with someone outside of the county/general vicinity of her tribe, Pedro responded that they have approved projects that involved multiple states and tribes. Nina voiced that their traditional land management has existed for a long time and that they are now moving towards management plans specific to their local environments that include traditional ecological knowledge. She noted that NRCS project applications are compartmentalized and that creating an integrated approach seems like it would require multiple applications and subsequent reporting. Pedro responded that they are trying to coordinate projects better and that this is a work in progress and that there will probably have to be separate program applications at this time. He said the best way to work with this is having the planning staff email him to discuss specific projects.

Links of interest:

[Web Soil Survey](#)

[USDA NRCS Plants Database](#)

Presentation on EPA Cumulative Impacts Efforts

Andrew Geller, EPA ORD Senior Advisor and Amanda Hauff EPA OITA Senior Advisor provided a general overview of EPA's efforts on cumulative impacts and facilitated dialogue with the TPPC on their perspectives, input and thoughts. They defined cumulative impacts as, "the totality of exposures to combinations of chemical and non-chemical stressors and their effects on health and quality of life outcomes". They highlighted the concept of multiple impacts and disproportionate impacts. Community based considerations were social vulnerability factors (structural factors, community factors, and individual factors) and existing burdens (existing adverse environmental stressors, lack of health promoting factors, and existing impacts on health and quality of life). Community based considerations in combination with potential risk from chemical or other regulated exposures would result in fit for purpose analysis or assessment of cumulative impacts. Publications to read more about this include; Paper of Tribal Issues Related to Traditional Lifeways, Risk Assessment, and Health & Well Being; Documenting What We've Heard (EPA,2006), Traditional Tribal Subsistence Exposure Scenario and Risk Assessment Guide (Harper et. Al, 2007) and Understanding Tribal Exposures to Toxics Report (National Tribal Toxics Council, 2015).

EPA has been engaged in cumulative impact assessments previously but in the past 4 years is moving forwards to support this perspective. They are building a full agency approach to cumulative impacts implementation. Amanda opened the floor to the discussion questions below. **Jasmine shared she would like to take time to respond to discussion questions and provide feedback to EPA.**

Discussion Questions

- How do you view, define, and feel about cumulative impacts?
- How can we best teach EPA staff about exposure and environmental impacts that affect Tribal health, culture and way of life?
- How can EPA appropriately consider Tribal and Indigenous peoples' perspectives in its development of cumulative impacts methods and analysis?
- How can EPA appropriately consider cumulative impacts in its actions and decision-making when working with Tribes, Indian Nations, or in Indian country?

Amanda will send out new consultation information related to tribal toxic exposure and cumulative impacts. Jasmine suggested looking at existing data on things like water toxics sampling and that permitted pollution discharges should be considered.

Jasmine asked about what criteria defines “disproportionate” in terms of environmental exposure. Amanda responded some areas have metrics whereas others do not, she welcomes tribal perspectives in how this is defined. Andrew shared that New Jersey identified 26 indicators to determine if burdens are above the median, he said that the federal government is not leading this but is observing how others are studying this.

Renee spoke about having more impact on rulemaking as consultation does not indicate consent and she supports including tribal voices to impact framework in rule making. Amanda shared that the goal is to educate EPA staff and integrate this into risk assessments. Amanda is working with the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) and would like to collaborate with the TPPC on this work.

Jasmine brought up the need for risk assessment of interaction of chemicals, Amanda will look into this. Nina discussed it would be helpful to have examples of cumulative impacts and talk about what is being done about them. This brought up the lack of awareness of these things within communities and the need for accessible language for communities to be able to engage in this dialogue. Andrew discussed that [Thriving Community Technical Assistance Centers](#) (TCTACs) are designed to help with projects related to the intersection of multiple issues. Andy Bessler is hosting a national webinar for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples on the TCTACs Oct 30 2:30-4:00 pm ET. Amanda said she would like feedback to the cumulative impact questions within 30 days but longer is fine if required. Amanda will look into National Institute of Health (NIH) research and will send her findings to Mark.

[EPA Cumulative Impacts Research Recommendations report](#)
[Regional TCTACs](#)

Visit [EPAs Cumulative Impacts Research](#) Website to learn more.

EPA Regions Tribal Pesticide Update

Bryan Irwin, EPA/Region 6, Tribal Pesticides Sub-lead, provided TPPC members with updates of tribal pesticide activities occurring throughout the ten EPA Regions including program highlights.

Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO), and State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Updates

Gretchen Paluch, AAPCO President, presented on AAPCO updates and activities. Their upcoming meetings are the Full SFIREG Meeting December 9-10, 2024 in Washington DC and the SFIREG Annual Meeting March 2-5, 2025 in Hilton Old Town Alexandria, VA. **If you are interested in attending these meetings let Steve Dwinell know.** There is a pre-meeting gathering where TPPC members can bring up issues with states and regions to prioritize at the full meeting. Gretchen introduced the 2024 committees and workgroups highlighting the Worker Protection Committee and their bilingual pesticide labeling project as required by PRIA 5. Follow this link for [Bilingual labeling FAQ](#)

Steven Dwinell, SFIREG Chair, shared about the addition of the Endangered Species Strategy Implementation (ESI) Working Committee (WC). They recently met in Philadelphia in September. Lauren Achstatter, EPA/OCSPP was present. He announced that EPA will have a closed session on ethylene oxide (ETO), TPPC members are invited to attend. He spoke about ESA Mitigation referring to Appendix C. Flow Chart of Managerial Decisions. Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho, inquired if the flow chart is meant to be used by the inspector to see if the applicator is in compliance. Steve responded that the inspector will have to understand this process to determine if the applicator has gone through proper steps to determine if they can apply. Steve said PIRT has broken this down for inspectors and he can assist anyone dealing with this. NRCS also has resources to help farmers get in compliance with mitigations. Applicators must be trained to do the analysis to understand if they need to do mitigations. Steve feels that there is a gap between what EPA is expecting people to do and what people are prepared to do. Renee asked if EPA will be doing compliance assistance prior to enforcement. Steve said this is unknown, that EPA is focused on responding to litigation with a plan for ESA. Ted discussed the burden of going through this process, Steve responded that this is something all applicators and inspectors will have to adapt to. There will be issues that need to be refined. Steve suggested viewing a recording of a webinar/meeting to go through each step of this to understand the process which is one and a half days long.

Allison Cuellar, ASPCRO President, shared about ASPCRO updates and projects. Their most active committee is the Rodenticide Working Committee. The Structural Fumigation Committee is also active. Labels have changed as of July 2024 for sulfuryl fluoride, applicants have until

July 2025 to exhaust existing stock and replace with new label. The Public Health Committee is working with malathion. They are holding their mid-year meeting in April 2025, likely in Colorado Springs, CO. The Annual Meeting is August 26-29 2025 in Portland ME. The Inspector training group is now holding monthly webinars, there is a nomination process to attend and TPPC members are welcome. Nomination is different this year and nominees must attend the monthly webinars prior to the in-person component of the training. To culminate the end of the webinars the inspectors will do a mock inspection at the meeting and will receive a certification. ESA activities include current strategies focused on agriculture and consideration of specific strategies for structural uses.

Regarding deregulation, Allison clarified that some states require licensees for general use pesticides, and some states no longer require licenses for general use pesticides. This is for nonagricultural use, typically not commercial use, but in some states professional applicators can apply for hire without a license. ASPCRO would like everyone to be licensed if they apply for compensation but this is a state's rights issue. Jasmine asked how applicators in Indian Country will apply for federal licenses in these states. Allison said all RUPs would require licensing, if there is any confusion on licensing, she suggests speaking with regional EPA representatives

Visit [ASPCRO.ORG](https://www.aspcro.org) for more information.

TPPC Member Hot Topics

Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation

Jefferson shared they are doing an investigation on a landscaping company where the applicator was hired to manage weeds on a school football field. He will be interviewing the applicators; he will share how this goes. He asked how EPA would intervene with a violation of use of pesticides in unregulated states. **Lauren will check in about this and follow up.** He inquired if with ESA should inspectors be looking into environmental assessment to make sure they are meeting these requirements. The group responded, yes inspectors have to look for compliance for this.

James Jackson, Cherokee Nation

He became Cherokee Nation's pesticide program coordinator last week. The Tribe enacted a notification system act 13 years ago and requires applicators to provide two days' advance notification of application. James is looking to expand the program with the goal to work with region 6 tribes to make a bigger impact. Jasmine asked about TPPC looking into apps for tribes to use. James shared that Choctaw Nation was awarded a Safer Choice award for a chemical inventory app. **He suggested asking Choctaw Nation about this app as this has been of interest to TPPC members.** Chemicals are tracked from purchasing through use and suggests a safer choice as an alternative.

Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community

Ted shared that for fiscal year 2024-2025 he is focusing on implementing their cooperative agreement program as well as fine-tuning their community ordinance and continuing inspections.

Curry Blankenship Muscogee Creek Nation

Curry is working on a pesticide inventory.

Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Jasmine is partnering with Africa to do a tribal PIRT in 2025 in Flathead, she invited TPPC members to attend. She shared they have ownership of a bison range and a dam. Phillip just got his federal credentials last week. They are getting dual credentialed into Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) due to chemical issues unrelated to pesticides and they will be doing cross training to be able to bring employees to work with issues besides pesticides. They are doing a region 8 tribal project. They are focusing on worker protection safety (WPS) with a family farm focus with the goal of helping all tribes in region 8.

Diania Caudel, California Basket Weavers Association (CIBA)

She is focusing on traditional burning and its influence on basket weaving. They are working with youth and collaborating with different entities like the county and city government. She does a lot of outreach for TPPC while tabling for CIBA.

Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation

Renee just finished sampling water and wild rice and is waiting on results. They have made some progress on a long-standing permitting issue with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Now when a permit is issued within White Earth boundaries, they can submit comments within 30 days. They just received the first permit this applies to. They are trying to understand jurisdiction and authority related to these permits as they can be in conflict with the White Earth Pesticide ordinance. She is working on setting up a pesticide container recycling event. A sanitation worker was exposed to pesticides while collecting containers, so they are looking for new options for collection and no longer allowing their workers to collect them. She is working on a budget to request funding to add two more employees to the pesticide program.

Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho

Eric shared about a joint WPS use inspection with EPA that incurred a \$17,000 fine in 2021. Eric is again sitting on the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) as a TPPC representative. He discussed some of the topics that the group works on and said he could provide a presentation about it at the next meeting.

Cricket (Joe) Herrera, Yakama Nation

Cricket responded to four drift cases this year. He continues to meet quarterly with state partners, perform inspections, and work on the coloring book project. He noted there were no requests for chemical removal this year.

Jerme Phillips, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community

They are finishing up a pollinator protection training that educated over 700 elementary school students and 200 seniors. This was funded by EPA with a focus on monarchs and included planting flowers. They are working with custodial staff and teachers at tribal and private schools on IPM training. They are holding a hazardous waste collection event this fall. On their previous collection day they collected 1,600 pounds of chemicals. Staff are doing hazmat training for hazardous waste removal. A lot of people are cross trained so they can deal with a variety of situations. They are working on a pollinator protection plan and collaborating with other tribal organizations and the state of Arizona and California on routine training.

LaShawnia Tso, Tohono O'odham Nation

They are doing IPM outreach and an IPM workshop combined with indoor air quality training, working with the University of Arizona. They received requests from three districts for pesticide licenses. She is unsure what type of license (structural vs agricultural) but will follow up on this. They are seeking funding from tribes for additional environmental specialists for a pesticide program. They have been collaborating with Africa at ITCA and Africa provided suggestions for responding to the pesticide license requests.

Brenda Pusher-Begay, White Mountain Apache Tribe

She shared that the tribe's pesticide use has always been limited due to their location where the headwaters of the Gila River start and their history. Their Apache trout fish restoration program has been very successful and the Apache trout is off of the endangered species list. They have two fish hatcheries on the reservation for rainbow and brown trout. They did some training at the hatcheries and found New England mud snails. They are hopeful in being able to control them and are using pesticides to do so and will continue to monitor them.

Tacy Jensen, Gila River Indian Community

Tacy recently accepted a senior position and will be hiring for two inspectors soon. She has been busy with training and developing an environmental education center. She shared there is a great deal of collaboration between their six departments within their environmental program.

Africa Dorame-Avalos, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona

She is focusing on training and outreach, and resources to provide to tribes. With their pesticide safety training this year they trained 229 people, many of the trainings have been in Spanish. She is working on IPM training for next year. She has various training in the preliminary phases such as with the Hopi tribe and will be in Flagstaff at the end of month for pesticide safety training. Part of her goals are to have EPA-approved training materials for WPS that are specific to tribes. She is on the PREP and PIRT steering committees. They drafted two course outlines and shared dates of PREP and PIRT meetings. They are working to identify tribes in need of resources outside of Arizona.

Diania asked about the lagoon her foundation was given stewardship of. Africa suggested reaching out to extension programs in California and she can follow up with Diania.

Phillip White, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Phillip shared they are performing water testing for PFAS and other substances to collect baseline data. He is doing outreach with 4th and 5th graders. About 2,000 students attended events and classes. He feels they are receptive and remember what they learn, they are looking to work with older kids on pollinator protection and restoration. They are working on information that aligns with EPA pollinator protection plan and creating materials like a coloring book or stickers that students can take with them. Once they finish materials, they will make outreach materials available to the TPPC.

Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe

Over the past year he has worked to get in compliance with mosquito abatement. They are certified in Arizona and working on getting certified in California now. He is working on their quality assurance project plan and has been working with EPA on this for approval. He is also working with tribal authorities to adopt California regulations as 90% of their land is in California. He is collaborating with their public relations department to make updates to their website and their mission statement. The website is translated to Spanish for members.

TPPC Work Session - Annual Report*

Mark Daniels, TPPC Coordinator, shared about the NTWC report and discussed the TPPC's Annual Report. The goal is for the report to be released in early 2025. Members discussed a 2 page report would suffice. Content could include achievements (what the group has produced) and priorities (no more than 5). Africa suggested releasing the annual report with the winter newsletter and potentially featuring an individual tribe and their accomplishments. Nina supports doing the annual report in place of the newsletter. Jasmine had an idea of creating a printable booklet that unfolds into something like a map and is something to be used for outreach.

Jasmine suggested a QR code to be added to the website and would like to dedicate time at the next tribal caucus to work on questions from Amanda regarding cumulative impacts. Nina favors looking at what Eric Descheenie provided to be able to discuss priorities soon. Jasmine sent a 1 pager of priorities to the National Tribal Caucus (NTC), as they had asked for three items the group would like brought to congress. Jasmine will send this to Africa but this could inform priorities. Africa suggested looking at program guidance and those priorities in order to get more support from EPA. There was a discussion about potentially creating a survey to address priorities.

Potential priorities discussed included:

- Water sampling (well water and surface water)
- Recreating EPA pesticide resources to make them tribal specific
 - Education and training

- WPS
- Enforcement and compliance to support tribal sovereignty
- Risk assessment pilot project
- GMO concerns and biopesticides
- Environmental justice and children's health
- Pollinator Protection
- ESA

Tribal Pesticide Program Council-Full Council Meeting
Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, Santa Rosa California and Virtual
DAY THREE, Thursday October 10, 2024
Meeting Notes

TPPC Coordinator Update

[Presentation Slides](#)

Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, provided an overview of TPPC activities and corresponding fiscal report.

TPPC members discussed logistics related to hotel accommodations for future TPPC meetings. Diania asked that next time if the room rate is close to but above the federal rate, could this be brought up to the group to see if people want to pay extra to stay at a more expensive place. Nina suggested that other tribes who have hotels on their reservations should evaluate their resources to see if they are able to host the group as opposed to outsourcing to other hotels.

Jasmine discussed that the DC meeting is extremely expensive and is wondering if the TPPC should maintain this in-person meeting. Mark asked if we want to continue coordinating the TPPC spring meeting with the AAPCO meeting, as this adds to the cost since TPPC pays for up to ten members to attend AAPCO as well as the TPPC meeting. Multiple TPPC members voiced that they wanted to continue coordinating with AAPCO, and that they felt the DC meeting supported a lot of exchange, interaction, and cooperation with EPA and value meeting with them in person at the Spring meeting. The group voted unanimously to travel to DC for the next spring meeting and coordinate it with the AAPCO meeting.

Research on Pesticides and Wild Rice

[Presentation Slides](#)

Cara Santelli, Gene-Hua Crystal Ng, and Amelia Kreiter, University of Minnesota presented about recent work by researchers at the University of Minnesota around pesticides and wild rice.

Robert Shimek, White Earth Tribal College, spoke about the history of wild rice becoming less abundant over time due to intensive agriculture. The goal of the research is to understand contamination of groundwater and surface water by agricultural chemicals and fertilizer and the impacts to wild rice. Amelia discussed research questions and shared individuals' quotes expressing their relationship to wild rice and the changes they have seen related to agriculture and water levels. Crystal Ng discussed agricultural expansion in the White Earth Reservation with a focus on the Otter Tail Watershed. She shared about how contaminants may be reaching the lake. Cara Santelli discussed water quality findings.

Renee presented on the 17 sample sites, and finding pesticides at 85% of sites. She discussed exposure concerns at Upper Rice Lake sharing that pesticides are used to control lily pads and cattails to serve hunters but simultaneously people harvest rice from the lake. They have noticed quality differences in wild rice harvested from lakes treated with pesticides. Ted asked if the herbicides found are being examined for their effects on wild rice beyond atrazine, Cara responded that they will be looking into pesticides found. Pesticides and metabolites are present and increase downstream, on and off reservation. Nutrients are increasing to unsafe levels in groundwater and surface waters at some locations. Sulfate is at unsafe levels in some areas for wild rice.

Drone Inspections at Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

[Presentation Slides](#)

Jeremy shared that drone inspections help to improve safety, they can help identify hazards and give an overview of the location. He shared about a specific case and showed video footage of the drone inspection.

Jasmine requested information on atmospheric deposition and air quality. **Lauren will report back on this information.** Mark shared that citizens can complain through the Clean Air Act. Jasmine is asking if they could use drones through their federal circuit rider as opposed to tribal law. **Lauren will investigate this.**

Report out

Priorities Discussed:

- Reporting back to Amanda Hauff in response to the questions provided, **Mark will forward these questions to the TPPC.** Nina requested EPA's definition of cumulative impacts to be able to respond to these questions. **Mark will share risk assessment projects that include tribal perspectives to share with the work group.**

- Working with Africa on ITCA's congressional branch, the group requested Africa share a template to use as a framework for white papers.
- Working on an annual report. Renee suggested working on determining the group's priorities prior to December through a google doc. Mark will share the report but is also going to organize the table to make it more concise.
- Work on a statement through the Policy Workgroup to USDA NRCS to voice challenges related to applying to separate funding sources with the goal of reducing the number applications for projects due to the burden this incurs. Mark shared that the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs) could help with these. Nina supports Mark inviting Andy Bessler to speak about the TCTACs at a monthly meeting.
- The group discussed outside workgroups such as the AAPCO ESA Work Group, PPDC, and so on and suggested discussing who is on these work groups, what they are working on, and filling open seats at the next monthly executive meeting. Mark has a list of these groups who host TPPC positions.
- TPPC members would like to follow up on the research service through NAU/ITEP for document review. The group voiced their support for ITEP getting the cooperative agreement again with the TPPC, members want to show this support through letters of support.
- White Earth risk assessment pilot project, Linsey said she will focus on figuring out funding for testing and shipping.
- Lauren offered to facilitate a meeting with AAPCO about ESA changes and pesticides, members were in agreement. Africa shared there will be a comprehensive explanation of how this will impact tribes at the PREP in April. Lauren will also look into working with pesticide registrants regarding pollinator concerns.
- Jasmine would like to put together IPM mobile units for education trunks and curriculum for this to be available for teachers. Cricket shared about a contact who had an IPM case that also teaches about exposures. Tacy shared about the pollinator corn hole educational game and that she will be working on the IPM curriculum on gardens with their environmental education center and is collaborating with Melanie Kirby. She discussed sharing their app, Dan Hoyt may be able to present on this in the Spring meeting.
- At the Spring TPPC meeting members would like updates on Biopesticides/GMOs.