

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

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Notes - FINAL

1. Tribal Caucus

2. Welcome/Introductions

Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, facilitated roll call.

Tribes (18)

- Alexis Bruce, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Curry Blankenship, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Gerald Wagner, Blackfoot Tribe
- James Jackson, Cherokee Nation
- 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
- Kingsley Nephew, Seneca Nation
- Larry Scraper, Cherokee Nation
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Phillip White, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation
- Ron Workman, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Tacy Jensen, Gila River Indian Community
- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community

Tribal Organizations (1)

- Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

EPA (4)

- Jeanne Kasai, EPA/OPP Region 9
- Katy Wilcoxon, EPA/Region 9
- Lauren Achstatter, EPA/OCSP
- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSP

Reported in advance as absent (2)

- Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA
- McKenna King, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

3. EPA Updates

a. OCSP Tribal Program Manager Update

Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSP, shared that she will be taking on a new role as the OCSP Tribal Program Manager. She will remain the Project Officer for the TPPC. During her maternity leave Lauren Achstatter, EPA/OCSP, will be the point of contact in lieu of Linsey. Linsey requests that prior to her leave, if you are reaching out to her to please include Lauren in your correspondence.

b. Draft ESA Insecticide Strategy Comment Period

The comment period is open from July 25-September 23. There is an informational webinar scheduled for September 5 with time for questions. Linsey is coordinating a representative from the Environmental Fate and Effects Division to attend the TPPC fall meeting who will be able to provide more information and answer questions related to this topic.

c. Tribal Consultation on FY26-29 Cooperative Agreement Guidance

Comments are being accepted by the end of next week. Please send these to Linsey. A formal consultation will occur through October 18. If you would like to request formal consultation email Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA (Ambrosino.Helene@epa.gov)

d. Fall Meeting Speakers

TPPC members have expressed interest in receiving updates from EPA on drones and emerging technologies. Linsey shared that there are not a lot of updates on this and inquired if TPPC members would like this presentation or if they think something else would be a better use of time. Let Linsey know if you have input.

4. TPPC Administrator Updates

a. Fall Meeting Update

The hotel and the meeting venue have been selected. There is still travel support available for four spots for in person attendance. Let Mark know if you'd like to attend within the next day or two as he needs to finalize the contact by this Friday.

Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, requested that TPPC members share preferences and ideas for local presentations and/or field trips with her. If you have any ideas or preferences let Nina or Mark know.

5. TPPC Input on Revised EPA Private Applicator Training

a. Background

Katy Wilcoxon, EPA/R9, and Jeanne Kasai, EPA/OPP/PRD/CWPB, provided an update on the training. This training is for applicators applying restricted use pesticides (RUPs) in Indian Country. The goal of revising the training is to update the content so it is in compliance with new rules, safety standards, etc. They are also modernizing the training with new

images and text to make it clearer and more understandable. Additionally, they aim to make the training more contextually appropriate to those working in Indian Country. Katy shared that their goal is to complete this training by December. Their next step is to have the training reviewed by pesticide safety experts. Jeanie shared that they continue to be open to comments at any time and the training will continue to be updated based on feedback.

b. TPPC Member Feedback

Nina shared feedback to change the phrasing from “tribal ordinance” to “tribal law” since tribes may technically have a different legal framework than an ordinance. Nina recommended clarifying jurisdiction in checkerboarded reservations. Mark echoed that this is currently an issue for multiple tribes where applicators claim that tribes do not have jurisdiction over them since they are technically not applying on tribal land. Under FIFRA tribes have jurisdiction within external boundaries of the reservation and this must be made clear in the training. Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community, shared that adding a graphic to illustrate this concept could be helpful. Additionally, Nina noted that lands considered treaty lands that are outside of exterior boundaries where tribes still have the right to hunt, fish, and gather, may also be impacted by pesticide use and should be noted in the training.

Nina asked if there is a component in the modules that emphasizes that applicators should read labels carefully since they may detail that the pesticide has specific restrictions on certain tribal lands. Katy responded that there is an emphasis on reading the label throughout the training but that they have not integrated the specific point that there could be tribal specific information. She will add this point to the training. Ted added that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) should be mentioned in the training as an extension of the label. Katy can reach out to Mark or Linsey with additional questions to be disseminated to the TPPC.

6. Tribal Caucus Report-out

No updates noted.

7. NTC Updates

Meyo Marrufo is moving on to a new position as of October. Gerald Wagner, Blackfoot Tribe, will temporarily hold her position until it is permanently filled. Gerald shared that the NTC FACA proposal comment period has closed and comments are being reviewed.

James Jackson, Cherokee Nation, shared that the cooperative agreement guidance comment period is open until October 18. Gerald will review the email detailing this sent by Linsey and Helene and discuss this at the next NTC meeting. Mark and Nina discussed organizing with the TPPC to draft a comment on this topic. Nina suggested adding contact information of work group members to the TPPC website so that people can reach out to those involved in leading specific workgroup projects with questions and comments. Mark and McKenna will facilitate these website updates.

8. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics

Nina shared that the Pollinator Protection Workgroup finalized their pollinator protection assessment, and Nina sent this out so it is available for others to use. Nina offered her assistance with organizing data for the database. Nina suggested adding this to the TPPC website.

9. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- September 10-13: ITCA Tribal Pesticide Inspector Training (<https://tppcwebsite.org/event/tribal-pesticide-inspector-training/>)
- September 23-26: Laboratory Issues PREP Course (<https://agsci.colostate.edu/agbio/prep/laboratory-issues-course/>)
- October 8-10: TPPC Fall Meeting (<https://tppcwebsite.org/meetings/#upcomingmeetings>)
- November 6-7: Federal Certification Training for Private Applicators of RUPs within Indian Country (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-applicator-certification-indian-country/training-private-applicators-under-epa-plan>)