

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

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Final Notes



Roll call:

Tribes (16)

- Alexis Bruce, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Daniel Hoyt, Gila River Indian Community
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Jaclyn Listo, Tohono O'odham Nation
- Jake Luger, Standing Rock Sioux 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
- Kingsley Nephew, Seneca Nation
- Luis Sanchez, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Reservation
- Ron Workman, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community

Tribal Organizations (2)

- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association
- Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

EPA (2)

- Lauren Achstatter, EPA/OECA
- Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA

Reported in advance as absent (2)

- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSPP
- McKenna King, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

1. Tribal Caucus

2. Welcome/Introductions

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

3. EPA Updates

a. TPPC Grant Administration

Lauren Achstatter, EPA/OECA, shared that EPA is continuing to review the applications for the next five year TPPC grant and will provide updates as decisions are approved.

b. Certification and Training Identification Requirements

In 2025 EPA will require pesticide applicator certification and training attendees to show a photo ID on the screen on the day of their training. They will ensure privacy with this new policy and make accommodations for those without functioning cameras on their devices. This applies to the tribal pesticide applicator training. Mark Daniels, ITEP, inquired if “Real IDs” will be required to enter federal buildings during the Spring 2025 TPPC meeting in Washington, DC, and Lauren confirmed these will not be required during the TPPC meeting dates.

Jasmine voiced that a lot of national materials produced by the agency and grantees like PERC don’t include Tribes or the Federal Certification and Training, and she asked if that could be incorporated. She also noted that TPPC had reviewed the first module of the training for the Federal C&T plan, but hadn’t seen anything since then. Lauren will check in with colleagues in the Certification and Worker Protection Branch who are updating the training modules for certification and training in Indian Country to see if they have more materials beyond chapter one for TPPC to provide commentary on.

c. Pesticide Use Limitation Areas (PULAs) Notifications

Jasmine noted that states are receiving notification of PULAs from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) bulletins and she requested that tribes be provided these notifications as well. Lauren will reach out to those who manage Bulletins Live! 2 regarding this request.

d. Federal Budget

Jasmine inquired if funding issues will impact the ability to perform inspections, Helen responded that this funding has been allotted through Cooperative Agreement funds and cannot be revoked.

4. TPPC Administrator Updates

a. Spring Meeting Update

The TPPC will be meeting in Washington DC at EPA Headquarters March 5-7, 2025 for the Spring Meeting. The hotel contract is underway but not finalized. Mark reminded

folks that rideshare apps that provide detailed receipts should be utilized for ground transportation rather than taxis. He will check to determine if metro fare will be reimbursed. Laren confirmed members can bring water and snacks into the building, Mark confirmed he will provide coffee and refreshments including creamer and nondairy creamer. Mark will send out a registration link in the new year. Jasmine shared she is available to assist with organizing the agenda after the holidays. Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, emphasized the goal of integrating the TPPC 2025 priorities into the agenda.

The Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) annual meeting will be held March 2-5 if members are interested in attending this prior to the TPPC meeting. Jasmine shared that AAPCO invited TPPC to present on priorities and discuss challenges on March 3rd. Mark clarified that TPPC provides funding for up to 10 members to attend AAPCO.

b. TPPC 2025 Priorities Document Update

Mark discussed that the priorities will be shared via the January TPPC Winter Newsletter. The topics will be incorporated into monthly call agendas and biannual meetings.

5. Tribal Caucus Report-out

Nina shared about the discussion regarding the need for training for tribes on Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) for water quality projects and pesticide related projects. Mark shared that ITEP provides related training; he will review these and share what is relevant to TPPC and will follow up with Lauren on a specific training for this. Lauren shared that this topic came up at the recent SFIREG meeting, she can reach out to them to inquire about what they are planning.

6. Workgroup Report-out

a. Policy Work Group

This workgroup is drafting comments for currently open topics: 1. A guidance document on incorporating tribal life ways and exposure pathways into TSCA (Toxic Substances Control Act) risk assessments. 2. EPA waiving responsibility for registration review of biopesticides

They are additionally collaborating with James Jackson, Cherokee Nation, to release a statement on the Safety Act issue in Oklahoma.

b. Risk Assessment

Renee Keezer, White Earth Reservation, shared that data is being collected for the risk assessment pilot project, and more information will be provided as this data is analyzed. Funding for the project will determine the number of samples collected and sources are still to be determined.

The group is open to working on other potential risk issues. Mark is planning to invite presenters from EPA and other agencies who are working on incorporating tribal life ways and exposure pathways into risk assessments and creating guidance documents. These presentations could inform the workgroup's focus.

c. PFAS

Jasmine shared this group is working through data and has produced brochures. Their focus is on PFAS bans and finding substitutes for their uses and understanding where there aren't suitable substitutes. There is now a link on the TPPC website that shows which pesticides have PFAS. and Mark is coordinating a presentation with a group that has a mobile PFAS remediation system for the TPPC Spring Meeting.

d. Pollinator Workgroup

Nina shared the pollinator coloring book continues to be on hold due to lack of funding. They have discussed presentations for the group. She is planning on utilizing the TPPC 2025 priorities as a framework for the workgroup. The pollinator assessment is on the website. Nina supports the idea of taking notes at workgroup meetings to post to the TPPC website so others can see what they are working on.

7. NTC Updates

No updates noted. Lauren can look through the notes from the recent NTC meeting to see if there are updates regarding the proposed reorganization. James and Mark shared they have heard informally that the reorganization will not occur, but there has not been an official announcement.

8. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics

No updates noted.

9. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST