

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee
Monthly Conference Call
06/18/2025
Call Notes – Final

Join by Zoom: <https://nau.zoom.us/j/89303644703>
or phone: 312-626-6799 or 888-788-0099 (toll free)
Meeting ID: 893 0364 4703
Password: 186136

1. Tribal Caucus

2. Welcome/Introductions

Jasmine Courville, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes facilitated roll call:

Tribes (16)

- Brad Humphrey, Gila River Indian Community
- Brenda Pusher-Begay, White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Brian Parker, Gila River Indian Community
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Curry Blankenship, Muscogee Nation
- Daniel Hoyt, Gila River Indian Community
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Jessica Raspitha, St. Regis Mohawk tribe
- Katlyn Santos, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
- Luis Sanchez, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Ron Workman, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Steve Anderson, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Tacy Jensen, Gila River Indian Community
- Theodore Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Tison Gill, Gila River Indian Community

Tribal Organizations (4)

- Africa Dorame-Avalos, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association
- Joy Britt, Chignik Bay Tribal Council
- Melanie Kirby, Institute of American Indian Arts

EPA (2)

- Emma Cross, EPA/OECA
- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSP

Other (2)

- Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- Mehrdad Khatibi, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Reported in advance as absent (1)

- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians

3. EPA Updates

- Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA retired and Emma Cross, EPA/OECA is now filling the position.
- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSPP noted that they have primarily been working on getting the grant reinstated, and they are glad to be back.
- Jasmine shared her concerns about the rescinding of the USDA record keeping requirements for private applicators, which officially goes into effect in July. Jasmine mentioned that this is a large issue they are following as most of Indian Country falls under Federal C and T plans and most of their larger pesticide applicators are private farmers. They fear there will be a lack of enforcement without records. How will they do enforcement? Emma noted that OECA is keeping it on their radar and starting at State level but will work on specific impacts of tribes and will keep them in the loop if they are involved in plans for revisions.

4. TPPC Administration Updates

- TPPC has not received its FY 25 funding yet, and we are hoping it will arrive in July 2025.
- Given how late the funds are expected to arrive, TPPC will be unable to spend it all by end of FY 2025 (September). ITEP is considering asking for a no cost extension for 6-9 months to complete tasks that have been disrupted by the grant being terminated recently before being reinstated five weeks later.
- Another concern is what will happen in the next 5 years with the Cooperative Agreement: whether the grant will be awarded for another cycle, and if it will be fully funded.
- The fall meeting is up in the air at this point since we cannot guarantee we will have the funding to hold a meeting given the unknowns around the renewal of the Cooperative Agreement and the potential no cost extension.
- Prior to funding being terminated a few months ago, there was a presenter who was on track to give a webinar about pesticide pollinator interactions. The presenter is still interested and there is a possibility it could happen before FY 25 ends. If we get a no cost extension, the webinar might happen after FY 25.

5. Tribal Caucus report out:

- The majority of the caucus was spent discussing budget issues (much of what Mark Daniels, ITEP has already discussed above).

6. Workgroup Report

- Risk Assessment Workgroup: Mark noted they are on hiatus because the pilot project with White Earth Nation has not had any activity recently. A survey was sent out by the Risk Assessment group to try and gauge what else might be of interest for the group to focus on.
- Policy Workgroup: Mark noted they recently had a meeting but there are not currently any comment opportunities or consultations of interest to the group. Will meet again next month and expect to have some additional things to discuss by then.
- Pollinator Workgroup: Jasmine noted they sent a survey out that recently closed and Nina is going to look at those results. Things are starting back up again, so there will likely be more to report on the next call.
- Tribal PFAS Working Group: Jasmine has asked for training and technical support from EPA regarding understanding the PFAS results and how to interpret them. Linsey said she will work on this request. If there is enough interest from the group, there is a possibility they could make this the second training session of the fiscal year.

7. NTC Updates

- Mehrdad Khatibi, ITEP reported on behalf of the NTC that they are working with some other tribal partnership groups on joint letters on specific issues. If the TPPC has any issues they would like NTC to review, they should reach out as they are willing to hear them. They typically have a meeting every year with the EPA, and it is currently in the planning stages, so nothing is finalized yet.

8. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics

- N/A

9. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, July 16, 2025, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST