

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee
Monthly Conference Call
07/16/25
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

Nina Harper, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians facilitated roll call:

Tribes (12)

- April Hathcoat, Cherokee Nation
- Brad Humphrey, Gila River Indian Community
- Brenda Pusher-Begay, White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Brian Parker, Gila River Indian Community
- Camilo Perez, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Curry Blankenship, Muscogee Nation
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Jeremy Phillips, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Luis Sanchez, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Steve Anderson, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Tison Gill, Gila River Indian Community

Tribal Organizations (1)

- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association

EPA (2)

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

Other (2)

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

Reported in advance as absent (1)

- Jessica Raspitha, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

3. EPA Updates

- Emma Cross, EPA/OECA shared an update on the Worker's Protection Standard (WPS) Inspection Manual. The goal of the manual is to help guide inspectors on how to conduct WPS inspections and to make sure everything is in compliance with the WPS rules. The manual will also help individuals that they encounter during inspections who have limited English proficiency or might need some sort of accommodation. They have done a good amount of work updating the manual internally with EPA but are now interested in getting input from TPPC. **There is a one-month review period where they would like any feedback or comments on the manual.** The changes they have made are in red text and if time is limited, individuals can focus on the updated language changes in red rather than review the entire document. They are asking for one shared document that includes all comments and feedback rather than multiple documents with individual changes, so please send any comments to TPPC Coordinator Mark Daniels at mark.daniels@nau.edu.
- The group spent time discussing a few revisions from the document to give some immediate feedback to Emma.
 - Luis Sanchez, Cocopah Indian Tribe asked if the WPS Interpretive Guidance was going to be updated as well. The document is important to the work Luis does on non-contiguous sites, and he wanted to make sure it will be included in the new guidance as well since he uses it frequently. **Emma will make note of that and make sure to look into it.** Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSPP reached out to the Worker Protection Group during the meeting regarding the request to have it updated and found that there is an updated version in the works but is being held up for various reasons. **Linsey will pass along what is publically available of the updated version to Luis.**
 - Emma asked the group for feedback on Tier 1 and Tier 2 inspections and what benefit they see of choosing one versus the other.
 - Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe spoke about Tier 1 and Tier 2. In Eric's experience, when they conduct a Tier 2, they almost always start wading into the Tier 1 questions. Tier 2 typically happens in winter/off season, and workers are hard to find. Those that he does speak with are not typically the workers he wants to interview.
 - Luis noted that it is rare for them to conduct a Tier 2 inspection. They conduct most inspections during winter, and they are all Tier 1 inspections.
 - Emma wanted to know if there is a difference in the willingness to speak to the inspector if it's Tier 1 vs. Tier 2.
- **Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals will send the document out again and make note in the email that comments and feedback need to be submitted by August 18th.**

4. **TPPC Administrator Updates**

- **TPPC Budget Update**
 - Last week the FY 25 funding came through, and because of cost-cutting measures implemented this Spring it is significantly more than TPPC needs to get through the remainder of the fiscal year.
 - ITEP is going to request a no cost extension on the grant (probably for 6 months, but will need to do some budget forecasts to determine this).
 - ITEP is still waiting to hear if the TPPC Cooperative Agreement will be awarded for another 5-year cycle.
- **Fall Meeting Update**
 - If the extension is granted and/or the Cooperative Agreement is awarded for another cycle, TPPC will have the funds to hold a fall meeting. Although it is still unclear, ITEP wants to start laying the groundwork for a fall meeting.
 - Mark sent out possible dates for a fall meeting and the only time that seemed to work for most people was October 13th-17th.
 - Mark will send out a save the date calendar invite for that week.
 - Mark will reach out to his contacts at the Ak-Chin Indian Community to see if they are open to hosting TPCC in the fall.
 - Since the meeting will occur in the next fiscal year, we will not commit any monies until TPPC gets an extension and/or gets the next 5-year agreement.
- **Election Advanced Notice**
 - It is an election year for TPPC Executive Council.
 - To vote in the election or serve on the executive board, one must be an authorized member (i.e., have an official letter from their tribe or tribal organization designating them as the authorized representative).
 - Mark will send out an email about the timeline for the election and requirements for eligibility.

5. **Tribal Caucus Report-out**

- Mark noted that most of the topics covered in the caucus have already been discussed above, so there was no formal report out. No other members had anything to add when given the opportunity.

6. **Workgroup Report-out**

- Risk Assessment Workgroup: Mark reported they are still on a bit of a hiatus and are waiting for survey responses about how the group wants to proceed.
- Policy Workgroup: Mark reported they met yesterday, and they are looking at a consultation that is open that centers around the Clean Water Act, Section 401 implementation. The group is making sure there is a clear pesticide connection to determine if it makes sense for them to comment.

- Pollinator Workgroup: Nina reported that the group is starting to work on a pollinator template for the tribes. They want to create something that can be used in management practices or planning. They are also considering having Jonathsn Koch from the U.S. Bee Lab at the University of Hawaii speak to the Pollinator Workgroup. They are evaluating if any of his research or topics he is working on would be relevant to the group. They are also considering having Dr. Hollis Woodward come to talk with the group about non-destructive sampling. The group discussed having another pollinator symposium and they are waiting to hear back if it can be hosted at the Indian Arts Institution. There is no set timeframe yet on when this will be held, but possibly in the spring. Lastly, the group wants to add to the TPPC newsletter and submit articles seasonally that discuss what can be done in surrounding areas to support pollinators.

7. NTC Updates

- No updates reported

8. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics

- No hot topics reported

9. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST

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