

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee
Monthly Conference Call
11/19/25
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

Roll call:

Tribes (14)

- Amanda Holm, White Earth Nation
- April Hathcoat, Cherokee Nation
- Brenda Pusher-Begay, White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Camilo Perez, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Curry Blankenship, Muscogee Nation
- Jasmine Courville, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Jessica Raspitha, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Katlyn Santos, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
- Mark Clytus, San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Olivia Pospisil, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation
- Steve Anderson, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Theodore Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community

Tribal Organizations (1)

- Bob Shimek, White Earth Tribal Community College

EPA (3)

- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OPP
- Emma Cross, EPA/OECA
- Susan Morales, EPA/Region 9

Other (1)

- Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Reported in advance as absent (4)

- Dan Hoyt, Gila River Indian Community
- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers' Association
- Tacy Jensen, Gila River Indian Community
- Tison Gill, Gila River Indian Community

1. Tribal Caucus

2. Welcome/Introductions

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

3. EPA Updates

There was some discussion with Linsey Walsh, EPA/OPP and the group about the current reorganization that's happening in various offices at the EPA, including the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance (OECA). Linsey has been moved back to the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), and while she's not sure what that will mean for her tribal portfolio overall she will definitely continue to be the Project Officer for the TPPC. Lauren Achstatter, who was the TPPC Project Officer while Linsey was on maternity leave, is now back in the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT), and continues to serve as the Project Officer for the National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC). Linsey is hoping to remain the Tribal Program Manager and Tribal Consultation Advisor for pesticides under the new organizational system, but is unclear on whether she will be able to do so. There was discussion about whether it would be helpful for TPPC member Tribes, or the TPPC itself to provide a letter of support; Linsey thanked the group and said **she would ask about it and get back to them**.

Emma Cross, EPA/OECA said that her office (Office of Compliance) isn't going through any substantive changes to positions, but just some name changes. The Office of Civil Enforcement split their branch into separate technical and legal branches, but this won't affect how Tribes will interact with the office as the same people are still doing the same jobs – just under a different branch name. Emma did not have any additional updates.

Jasmine Courville, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes noted that she's been invited to speak to a meeting of Crop Life America, a group of pesticide manufacturers, in February, and that she's looking for ideas on how to work with them.

Jasmine also asked about EPA's Direct Implementation (DI) strategy for Indian Country. She noted some concerns TPPC members have raised about treated seeds, PFAS in newly registered pesticides, and issues around the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act's (FFDCA) pesticide tolerances and seizure clause. Jasmine, Emma, and Linsey discussed the agency's DI strategy document and the possibility of revisiting it, as well as the possibility of **having someone from the agency's DI Center for Excellence come speak to our group and listen to our concerns**. There was also some talk about whether Tribes could enter into a cooperative agreement with no funding attached (or possibly a Memorandum of Understanding) to provide training and enforcement authority to Tribes who are funding their own programs but just need some technical assistance.

4. TPPC Administrator Updates

a. EC Election Update

Mark noted that nominations had wrapped up for the TPPC EC election, and that he would open the voting next Monday, with a 3-week window for folks to vote for the Chair, Vice-Chair, their regional representative, and at-large representatives.

b. December Meeting Date Discussion

Jasmine suggested that we cancel the December call since many folks are traveling or busy with other meetings. Several other members agreed, so it was decided to cancel the call.

c. Spring Meeting Update

Mark mentioned that he had started working on the hotel contract for the TPPC's Spring meeting in Washington, DC, which will be held the same week as the AAPCO meeting as usual so members can attend both if they'd like. He asked Linsey if she could reserve a room at EPA Headquarters for the meeting, which she said she would do.

5. Tribal Caucus Report-out

Jasmine brought up the EPA's Endangered Species Act compliance strategies, and asked if the agency is working on a Hawaii strategy, since the herbicide and insecticide strategies that have been released so far exclude Hawaii. Linsey didn't know off the top of her head, but reached out to a colleague and later directed the group to a site with information on EPA's strategy for Hawaii (<https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/strategy-protect-endangered-species-hawaii-pesticides>).

6. Workgroup Report-out

Jasmine mentioned that the Pollinator Protection Workgroup had a great presentation recently on fungicides affecting pollinators. Mark noted that there haven't been as many issues coming out that the Policy Workgroup would like to comment on, so there hasn't been much activity in that group lately. Mark asked Jasmine if the Policy Workgroup should take up revision of the DI manual discussed earlier, and she agreed that this could be a good way to get lots of eyes on it. Jasmine also asked Mark if we could line up some of our technical experts to help with comments on EPA's fungicide strategy, which should be coming out soon.

Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation asked if there was an avenue for the group to comment on executive orders that impact Indian Country. Linsey and Emma said they didn't think so, but Linsey noted that the TPPC always has the opportunity to write a comment letter, and that if the group wanted to do so she would push it as far up the chain as she could. Mark said he would bring this up in the next Policy Workgroup meeting to see if folks wanted to act on it.

7. NTC Updates

No one from the NTC was present to give an update.

8. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics

N/A

9. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 2:00-4:00 PM EST

(Yellow highlighting in the notes above indicates action items)