

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee
Monthly Conference Call
04/15/26
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 (7)

- Alexis Bruce, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Amanda Holm, White Earth Nation
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Jasmine Courville, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Tyler Jacobs, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

EPA (4)

- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OPP
- Emma Cross, EPA/OECA
- Susan Morales, EPA/Region 9
- Marie Hallinen, EPA/Region 10

Other (1)

- Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Reported in advance as absent (2)

- Tacy Jensen, Gila River Indian Community
- Jessica Raspitha, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

1) Tribal Caucus

2) Welcome/Introductions

Mark Daniels, ITEP facilitated the roll call

3) EPA Updates (Linsey, Lauren, Michael, Emma)

Emma Cross, EPA/OECA let us know that her division director Ricardo Jones was on a temporary detail and has gone back to his original position in OPP. So she currently has no direct supervisor and it may take her a little bit longer to get approvals and things, but it shouldn't impact the TPPC at all.

Linsey Walsh, EPA/OPP noted that we had our bimonthly meeting with the heads of the Association of American Pest Control Officials (AAPCO), the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO), and the State FIFRA Issues, Research & Evaluation Group (SFIREG) the day before, to remind the group of these calls and their purpose - to find areas of common concern

where we might work together to amplify our voices. Mark noted that in this particular call we brought up two issues from the TPPC that came up in our recent Spring meeting (Dan Hoyt of Gila River Indian Community's caution about the Gopher General rodenticide application device and the group's concerns about recent federal actions on glyphosate and dicamba), and reminded attendees that if they have issues they'd like us to bring up with the state groups they should let us know.

Susan Morales, EPA/Region 9 noted that the pre-SFIREG meeting for Region 9 is coming up and invited any Region 9 Tribes who are interested and has funding are welcome to attend.

4) TPPC Administrator Updates (Mark, Nikki, Liz)

a) TPPC Grant Update

Mark noted that ITEP and EPA had gotten the paperwork to renew the TPPC cooperative agreement through its last approvals, and that the award notice for ITEP to continue administering the TPPC would probably come through very soon. Linsey said she heard it was supposed to come out the following day.

b) Spring Meeting Recap

Mark informed the group that all the materials from the Spring meeting are now up on the TPPC website, including an agenda with links to the presentations, the notes, the attendee list, photos, etc. So if anyone wants to follow up on a reference or link from the meeting they can now find it all online. Mark also noted that most of the traveler reimbursements are now complete, so if folks haven't gotten their checks yet they should arrive soon.

c) Native Plant Restoration Webinar Recap

Mark reminded attendees that the materials from the TPPC's training webinar on native plant restoration & conservation are also posted on the TPPC website.

d) 2026 TPPC Priorities

Mark finished the administrator updates by noting that the draft 2026 priorities document is out for review by the Executive Committee, and asked EC members to take a look and send him their thoughts so he can get it finalized and published in the next newsletter at the end of April.

5) AcreBlitz ESA Compliance Tool Presentation (Kim Brown, AcreBlitz)

Mark introduced Kim Brown, cofounder of the AcreBlitz company, and reminded the group that the request for this presentation came out of a conversation we had at the Spring meeting in Washington DC with TPPC members and some of the state pesticide officials, in which AcreBlitz's products were brought up as a way to help applicators and others determine the mitigation measures to use to comply with EPA's new Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance mitigations.

Ms. Brown introduced herself, noting that prior to founding the company she spent 15 years working as an extension specialist. She has worked in the past with both the TPPC and SFIREG, and stressed how important it is to get everyone together in meetings such as the pre-SFIREG meeting announced earlier for Region 9. She noted that recent changes to labels and required mitigations to comply with the ESA have posed challenges for applicators as well as growers, and while the tools EPA has developed to determine mitigations are great, she and her co-founder saw an opportunity to improve on them and bring together information from multiple sources to make compliance with the ESA strategies easier.

Kim walked the group through the AcreBlitz website (<https://acreblitz.com/>) and took questions from attendees along the way. She noted that their ESA Field Exchange product in particular could

be very valuable for TPPC members, and that one can sign up for a free account to use the product. It can be used to determine mitigations for an individual field, and once the user has specified a field (either by importing GIS data or drawing it on a map) AcreBlitz pulls in local information about the county, slope, soil type, weather, etc. and pre-populate forms to make it easier to determine the required mitigations. She demonstrated how to use the tool, running through a number of examples showing different things it can do for specific application situations. She also showed how the tool can generate reports to document the mitigation measures taken in case of an inspection.

Ms. Brown noted that the ESA Field Exchange product can be used by inspectors to determine the mitigations necessary to comply with EPA's new strategies, though she cautioned that while EPA has reviewed the tool several times they can't certify its results since the label is still the law. So while inspectors can use the tool as a quick reference for the mitigations needed for a specific field they should not rely on it as their sole check for ESA compliance, and should still go back to EPA's resources to double check in enforcement situations.

6) Tribal Caucus Report-out

Skipped due to lack of time

7) Workgroup Report-out

Skipped due to lack of time

8) NTC Updates (Gerald Wagner)

Skipped due to lack of time

9) Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics (All)

Skipped due to lack of time

10) Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST

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