

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee
Monthly Conference Call
06/17/26
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 (22)

- Alexis Bruce, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Amanda Holm, White Earth Nation
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Chris Ollie, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation
- Curry Blankenship, Muscogee Nation
- Dakota Martin, Alaska Native Health Board
- Emilse Osorio, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Erica Taylor, Cherokee Nation
- Jacob Carter, Choctaw Nation
- James Williams, Muscogee Nation
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Jessica Raspitha, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Judith Ausmus, Muscogee Nation
- Kaytlin Perry, Nottawaseppi Huron Band Of The Potawatomi
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Olivia Pospisil, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation
- Steve Anderson, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Tacy Jensen, Gila River Indian Community
- Theodore Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Tyler Jacobs, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Tribal Organizations (2)

- Tabitha Langston, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Zhaashiigid Nooding, White Earth Tribal & Community College

EPA (1)

- Emma Cross, EPA/OECA

Other (1)

- Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Reported in advance as absent (5)

- Africa Dorame-Avalos, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association
- Joe Herrera, Yakama Nation

- Melanie Kirby, Institute of American Indian Arts
- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OPP

1. Tribal Caucus

2. Welcome/Introductions

Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation facilitated the roll call

3. EPA Updates

Emma Cross, EPA/OECA stated that she and Linsey have mostly been focused on planning and hosting the National Pesticide Managers Meeting. Mark Daniels, ITEP attended yesterday and provided an overview of TPPC activities and Tribal engagement. No additional EPA program updates were reported.

4. TPPC Administrator Updates

Mark noted that NAU is discontinuing Zoom due to budget cuts and existing Microsoft licensing, so TPPC calls and meetings will move to Microsoft Teams starting next month. Mark will set it up so that meetings will be accessible without requiring a Microsoft account, but if anyone has difficulty getting in reach out to Mark and he will work with NAU's IT staff to figure it out. **A test session may be scheduled before the first Teams meeting to ensure access for all participants.**

Mark also talked about planning for the Fall Meeting. During the Tribal Caucus session the group decided to hold the meeting at The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe in northern New York state in the first week of November. Mark stated that the exact dates would be forthcoming, but that the likely schedule would be Tuesday–Thursday. Mark also noted that under the new cooperative agreement ITEP had to reduce travel support to 12 participants (vs. ~18 previously) due to flat funding this year. **Mark will send out a save-the-date announcement for the meeting soon.**

Finally, Mark brought up the fact that the TPPC's Policies & Procedures Document hasn't been updated since 2018 and may need some revision (for example he noted that the document requires alternate members for each Executive Committee position, but we haven't been able to achieve this for as long as ITEP has managed the cooperative agreement). After discussion with the group, it was suggested that **Mark will circulate the document for review, with a shared document format for comments, and that we will discuss updates at Fall meeting or a future EC call.** We will also consider establishing a regular update frequency for the document moving forward.

5. Tribal Caucus Report-out

Renee noted that we had a discussion with National Tribal Caucus (NTC) Chair Tabitha Langston focused on identifying TPPC priorities to elevate to EPA leadership at the upcoming meeting with EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) on July 15.

Mark also mentioned that the group discussed EPA Tribal Program updates with Tabitha as well. She let us know that there is some office restructuring underway at the Office of International and Tribal Affairs. The American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) is expected to become Office of Tribal Affairs, and its leadership position will be transitioning to a career (non-political) role. There is also a review underway of the network of Tribal Partnership Groups (TPGs) at EPA, but EPA is indicating that the NTC, TPGs, and related groups will continue, with a focus on improving coordination and

long-term stability of the groups regardless of frequent organizational and/or leadership changes (both at the tribal groups and EPA).

6. Workgroup Updates

A. Policy Workgroup:

Mark stated that the Policy Workgroup is reviewing the recently released EPA fungicide strategy to decide whether to submit a comment letter (comments are due June 29). No major concerns have been identified yet, but EPA is requesting input on treated seeds and the use of adjuvants for spray drift reduction. Mark pointed out that he is leaving for vacation on June 25, so if anyone has feedback they would like him to include in a comment letter **please let him know by Monday, June 22.**

B. Pollinator Workgroup:

Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians said that upcoming meetings will feature invited speakers, and if anyone has suggestions of people to invite they should let her know. She also discussed some upcoming projects on keystone pollinator species and habitat restoration, and USDA lab resources for native pollinators. She noted that the pollinator coloring book project is nearly complete (pending minor edits and translations). Regarding the treated seeds issue discussed above in the Policy Workgroup, Nina expressed an interest in coordinating with the Policy Workgroup on pollinator-related comments, and asked if we could reach out to them when an issue arises that has impacts on pollinators so they can provide their feedback. **Mark agreed to facilitate this.**

7. NTC Updates

No formal update (covered under Tribal Caucus discussion)

8. Other Issues / Open Discussion

No additional issues were discussed.

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