

Tribal Pesticide Program Council – Executive Committee Meeting

March 9, 2018

Arlington, VA

Meeting Notes - Final

The meeting was called to order by Fred Corey, TPPC Chairperson, at OPP Headquarters at 8:30 AM EST.

Attendees:

Tribes

- Fred Corey, Aroostook Band of Micmacs
- Jasmine Courville-Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Jarrett Pfrimmer, Sac and Fox Nation of the Mississippi in Iowa
- Joe Herrera, Yakama Nation
- Dustin Roy, White Earth Nation
- Willie Keenan, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Ryan Evans, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation
- Neil Abbott, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Tony McCandless, Gila River Indian Community

Tribal Organizations

- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers' Association
- Africa Avalos, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona

EPA

- Lance Wormell, EPA/OPP
- Cindy Wire, EPA/OPP
- Amanda Hauff EPA/OCSP
- Carol Galloway EPA/OC
- Rachel Riccardi, EPA/AD
- Mary Rust, EPA/OPP

Other

- Bob Gruenig, TPPC
- Suzanne Forsyth, UC Davis Extension

Check-in on TPPC's FY 2018 Priorities

Status of each

- What work has been done and what remains?

- o Pollinator protection, update by Jasmine Brown & Mary Rust
- o IPM in tribal low-income housing, update by Fred Corey
- o Status of Pesticides in Indian Country Report, update Bob Gruenig
- o Risk assessments (human health), update by Fred Corey
- o TPPC membership, update by Suzanne Forsyth

1. Update on the Pollinator Protection Workgroup

[Refer to the presentation PDF for details on this session.]

Mary Rust joined the group and expressed how much she loves working on this project. It only represents 10% of her job but it's her favorite thing she does. Jasmine reminded the group as to why the workgroup was formed.

75% of crop species require pollinators. And native bees are culturally important to tribes.

Native bees are much more efficient pollinators compared to honey bees. The visuals illustrated that seven mason bees can pollinate as effectively as 545 honey bees. This is because they work all day long and they don't stop due to weather/temperature extremes. Jasmine and Mary share a lot of information with TPPC regarding pollinator protection plan (PPP) activities, funding opportunities and others. When they started in 2016 their baseline for MP3 plans was 0. There are 44 tribes that have said they have PPP activities, but only some have said they will do a plan. Need is to recruit tribes from the central/great plains states. The workgroup also maintains a resource list. Suzanne and the workgroup keep the website updated with new items on a weekly basis.

Tribal Pollinator Protection Activities

- CSKT held a pollinator workshop at CSKT in Pablo, MT in Nov 2017; professional staff & students attended
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe – pollinator protection training for tribes; CDA Tribe/EPA sponsored at Northern Quest in Spokane WA in November 2015. Eric mentioned that there has not been a lot of support for an MP3 plan in his area.

Diana Cox-Foster has created a tribal training (free) in identifying pollinating insects. It was offered in summer 2017 and several tribes were able to attend (including Sac and Fox Nation). Diana's plan is to do another one this summer in Utah. Travel funding has been a challenge so far.

Jasmine and Mary are always interested in having a guest speaker join the monthly workgroup calls.

Jasmine said that Yakama Nation does a pollinator presentation as well and this has been really helpful. There are many ways to increase pollinator habitat that encourage greater populations for mason bees (bamboo and mud source).

2. Update on IPM in tribal low-income housing

Fred commented on the list of priorities and the challenge of getting them accomplished if there's not a clear path identified. Now that we've shared the bed bug materials, we have some time to wait to see how effective the materials have been. One of the related items is to reach out to HUD to let them know we have these resources. Emily has contacted the southwest region where the newsletter exists. TPPC was hoping to have EPA expand the scope and have them reach out to HUD. This was in response to EPA dropping IPM in schools.

Cindy commented that in addition to the current priorities as well as the two that were added this week, it might make sense to prioritize the top 2. Fred concurred that given limited resources (money and time) that this might make the most sense.

Diana mentioned a tribal training video that might be helpful here. Africa mentioned ways that ITCA can help with this. They will be offering an IPM workshop in June. She asked what the desire is – to attend those trainings and bring the info back to TPPC? Or to bring the training to TPPC? What's the need – funding or other?

Fred went to the USET tribes (30 tribes east of the MS). He got on their agenda and he was able to connect them with the StopPest program. He said it's not well understood that IPM in school is required. Bob said he works with over 1,000 housing authorities. It's a very top-down approach that

HUD needs to do this or that. But what are the tribally designated housing authorities doing to manage pests? If you can understand that then you have more of a case to present to HUD as to what's needed. You need to be communicating with housing authorities on a larger scale. Jasmine feels we need the management / directors on board so that the pesticide applicators get the training.

Africa asked what do we need to do? ITCA has offered tree training and the only tribal members who have attended are in AZ and none of the ones from CA attended.

Fred mentioned that TPPC would like to see OPP more visible on a national scale. There have been many federal agencies there but EPA/OPP has not been and he feels this is a lost opportunity. There's a job EPA has in keeping these issues more visible. Amanda attended the National Tribal Lands Forum last year and collaborated on an OPPT/NTTC/National Tribal Science table. Amanda suggested that they do a TPPC/OCSPP presence. Cindy also suggested that perhaps the regional offices can be involved. But she asked if this is really the TOP ONE that TPPC wants EPA to address given 7 priorities on the table? Africa said that the forum covers solid waste and does not address pesticide issues. Amanda suggested that we use the three items discussed in the room with senior leadership and then all the rest of these things will fall under them as action items and bite them off one at a time and show short term successes. And the more complex ones will be long term items.

Lance reinforced his commitment to help this group be more effective. He commented that there's a need to break these down into digestible topics. If it's a need to print more materials to have them available at an event then Lance can do that. Amanda suggested the need to hold a parking lot. She said that DI is something TPPC wants to work on and will need to create cubbies. Jasmine asked about TPPC's responsibilities in the space of low-income housing. Is it their mandate or StopPest/HUD's? The group agreed that a better idea might be to do regular check-ins with HUD and let them know how TPPC could assist (e.g., distribute materials, etc.)

Amanda suggested we focus on the top 3 areas discussed on Day 1. Jasmine asked TPPC members about tribal data and the need to have it by early April. There will be a meeting with NTTC and tribal risk assessment discussions.

Lance said there is a lot of positive momentum in the room and this group is really only accountable to ourselves. So we can re do on a dramatic scale. After the break the group convened to tackle the issues defined in the special caucus session on Day 1.

The group elected to omit updates on the other items (e.g., Status of Pesticides in Indian Country Report and TPPC membership) and focus on the three major topics identified earlier in the week.

Fred reviewed the list so as to provide context to EPA leadership in the room.

FUNDING

- Need is for funding to existing cooperative agreements and concern to cuts to EPA's budget.
 - a. Ask for tribal specific OECA guidance.
 - b. TPPC/ITCA/ITEP to use GAP funding to do a pesticide use assessment in IC and Alaskan villages
 - c. Increase the # of circuit riders / used to collect baseline data for EPA, too
 - d. National tribal liaison. (EPA position)

Discussion about the last item revealed that there is already a mechanism in place if a tribal incident happens. They call the regions and if the region doesn't have any one on hand to respond then they have a backup region to respond. Cindy reminded the group that this is an OECA issue and not OCSPP. This is an idea based on theoretical need versus actual. Willie said that tribes have had their funding cut and Lance shared an analog how EPA/OPPTS has lost have their staffing and 75% of their travel budget. Eric asks from an EPA perspective if any of these ideas would pass the EPA "laugh test". Lance said there is not enough info to answer this question.

Action item: Eric to call Carol to talk about roles/responsibility.

DIRECT IMPLEMENTATION

There have been some initiatives underway to see if non-compliance is a problem in IC. WPS is an example of how this was considered. If WPS compliance isn't an issue then move on and take it off the list. We want to talk about how ways this can be improved

- a. Regional guidance work plan for tribes.
- b. Build inventory of tribal federal credentialed inspectors within the regions
- c. Have ahead of time regional agreement in place before a disaster occurs. "In what was has EPA prepared for...X?"

After discussion of the above, Carol summarized by stating that the ideal is for each region to work with tribes with and within cooperative agreements that if an incident happens they can deploy federal or tribal resources and this will be acceptable to all tribes.

TPPC wants to know what's going on now. Number of inspections happened in IC under DI. Cindy asked if they should still pursue a presentation from regions 9 and 10 on future TPPC calls. She's not certain that's what's desired based on conversations this week. Amanda suggested that on our next monthly call we wrap up direct implementation and then we spend the next calls talking about risk assessment.

Action item: Between now and the next monthly call we are going to call Diane Barton and where she is on the challenges/success and where NTTC is on things. We will give a small synopsis. EPA management will talk about where they are OCSPP/OPP. Jackie is excited to have these conversations with Nancy and Charlotte and Nick. Amanda said that EPA will be getting things in place on both sides. Nick said these numbers may be flushed out by the regional surveys which have already been shared. So we may not need to draw this out with presentations by Regions 9 and 10. Nick said that the information will be available before the October meeting.

Lance asked how we will know when we're done with the DI conversation so we know we can move to risk assessment. Fred: When we have 100% program coverage in IC! Jasmine said that once they have the info then they will have what they need for an issue paper. Amanda discouraged the issue paper so as to streamline the process. Willie suggested it be a more collaborate process we could work out together in the next few months.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Tribes talked about ways that you can do pesticide use assessments in your communities.

All of these are related and these are the tree topic areas identified. TPPC voted on the areas they should focus on in the short term and wanted to talk to EPA to get their sense of things in the larger picture. TPPC would like to get EPA's assistance in brainstorming. Cindy said that before EPA can respond to the requests then they need clarity on each.

- a. Connect with training agencies
- b. Make EPA aware of existing capacity
- c. OPP visibility
- d. TPPC/EPA capacity building (outreach, recruitment, education, collaboration events)

Have we ever had anyone from Warm Springs in Oregon come to one of these meetings?

Action item: Suzanne to reach out to Warm Springs (who has had a drift complaint) and send information on TPPC awareness.

Action item: TPPC to create an email and Amanda can send it to all the tribes that there's a program at EPA that deals with pesticides.

Categories A, B, C, and E will remain and all others will go on the parking lot.

A. FUNDING

TPPC to get EPA the first thoughts and then EPA will get back to this. 1-page fact sheet. When we go to the agencies we want to tell them who we are, where we are and why pesticide matter. We are not sure about funding but we want to look for innovative solutions (MOUs, etc.)

- B. Ask how can the TPPC work with PP risk assessors to learn more about RA and how tribal lifeways are included? The 2019 Tribal Risk Forum is one option. We talked about forming a RA subcommittee and this would be the group planning this. We heard about OPPT RS work going on and how Oscar and Arnold are willing to work collaboratively across the Councils. Senior leadership is working on opportunities. ORD is happy and willing to work together but we js need to be clearer. The new TSCA is moving super-fast and it's being got be OCSPP's priority to move with NTTC to help move this (with Diane Barton). NTTC is doing a meeting in April. This is a high priority – if we don't get tribal data to this effort then we will lose ground and it's such a closed window to the legislation. Rachel said the risk evaluations will be done by the end of the year so it's very fast-moving. The group agreed that risk assessments with the tribal risk assessors be the NUMBER ONE priority.

Action item: Fred/Jasmine/Amanda to develop a PPT to address the TPPC on what kind of data is needed. Rachel from AD to present to TPPC on how risk assessments are done.

C. DIRECT IMPLEMENTATION

What TPPC heard from the agency: EPA wanted to do more collaboration in this area and we should follow up with Greg Sullivan. In the past EPA has identified in the past as pesticide programs in Indian Country and EPA is committed to looking at these issues across the regulations (FIFRA, TSCA, etc.) We talked about getting ahead of that wit BPMs and where we can collaborate on use assessments. TPPC will helped develop one for FIFRA and not necessarily in the other areas. We talked about developing baselines and how to work together on that. Senior leadership is still trying to determine of a cost/benefit analysis should be part of this but it's not yet determined. EPA will be doing the assessment internally. Tribes will be working on their baselines to add to this.

We talked about developing workgroups.

- Tribal risk assessment (Neil Abbott (lead), Dustin Roy, Fred Corey, Nina Hapner, Joe Herrera, Holly Thompson-Duffy)
- Direct implementation (Africa Avalos (co-lead), Jarrett Pfrimmer (co-lead), Tony McCandless, Fred Corey Ryan Evans, Larry Scrapper)
- Tribal Capacity, TBD

Roles of leads: setting up calls and delegating those to take notes, report back to TPPC,

Action item: EPA to set up a notetaking template for each workgroup

TPPC – what would the commitment to be on these workgroups? What do we see as excellence? Accountability? Following up and reporting out to entire TPPC group when we meet on calls or in person. Expectations: we have EPA and TPPC folks working together and how an output can create these together.

Action item: Fred to schedule standing report outs on the monthly calls and if the leads are not on the call then the co-leads shall report in their absence.

Lance pointed out that the best EPA workgroups are time-limited and that they have a duration stated at the start. We should have an agreement as to when the first meeting of the workgroups shall happen. Leads will set up the calls and use EPA conference lines. The tribal risk assessment group has to be done

in the next two months with deliverables for NTTC/TSCA legislation right away. And then we figure out the path for the risk assessment forums planned for the future. Suggests that the workgroups meet twice a month and that the report out would be a list of action items and what the needs are from the TPPC. If there are members on a team and they experience time commitment hardships (planting season, etc.) then please communicate with your EPA team member.

Lance offered his reflection that there is a lot of momentum in this group and that the tenor has definitely shifted. He's heard a lot of good feedback from senior leadership that they have an interest in working on these together and they are impressed by the Tribal commitment on these issues.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.