

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee
Monthly Conference Call
12/16/15
Call Notes - Final

Roll call:

Tribes

Fred Corey – Aroostook Band of Micmacs
Larry Scrapper – Cherokee Nation
Camillo Perez – Cocopah Tribe
Jim Mossett – Mandan, Hadatsa, and Arikara Nation
Eric Gjevre – Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Indians
Les Benedict – St Regis Mohawk Tribe
Kevin Greenleaf – Kootenai Tribe
Irving Provost – Oglala Sioux Tribe
Ralph Morris – Gila River
Neil Abbott Ak-Chin

Tribal Organizations

Africa Dorame-Avalos – Inter Tribal Council of Arizona

EPA

Cindy Wire, OPP
Gabriela Carvalho, U.S. EPA, Region 10
Carol Galloway, OC

Other

Suzanne Forsyth, University of California Davis Extension (UCDE)

1. Welcome/Introductions (Fred)

Fred Corey, TPPC Chair, facilitated the roll call. Attendance was logged throughout the call for 11 member tribes and tribal organizations.

2. TPPC Tribal Administrator Update (Suzanne Forsyth)

Suzanne reported on activities since last month's call. These include:

- a) The final meeting minutes are ready to go out for the 11/9/15 call and will be shared today
- b) Updates to the membership and list serves
- c) Completed edits to the FY2016 work plan and budget and sent to Fred and Nina for their review
- d) Winter meeting preparation, travel approvals and travel planning are now underway
 - o Meeting is Jan 13-14, 2016, hosted by Ak-Chin Indian Community. Meeting will be held at their Water Reclamation Facility and they have offered to shuttle folks back and forth between the hotel and meeting site daily. Travel dates are 1/12 and 1/15.
 - o A hotel agreement is in place. Harrah's Ak-Chin in Maricopa and about 2 miles from meeting site. The nightly rate is \$75 plus local taxes and attendees will call and reserve and pay directly. The hotel requires 1 night deposit. Attendees will need to save this receipt for reimbursement after the course. The room block will be held until 12/20 after which date they release any unreserved rooms.

- The University of CA travel policies will be in effect and differ from GSA. There will be some differences in the meal limits, requirement of receipts, travel day coverage, and others.
 - UCDE will provide at the meeting site daily: breakfast, lunch and light refreshments so folks on travel won't receive any reimbursement for those meals – only dinners. This will also streamline the time needed to drive to get lunch, and to foster greater networking at the meeting by having folks dine together.
 - An Exec Committee meeting planned for January 13 at the hotel and after adjournment of Full Council meeting. Time TBD.
 - A networking suite will be reserved for the 1/13 Exec Comm meeting yet will be available at other times (evenings) over 1/12-1/14.
- e) Coordinated with Bob Gruenig to draft a letter summarizing the C&T rule comments. Working on a process to finalize and for Fred to submit to the docket before 12/23/15.
- f) Sent out a request to all TPPC members for either the original or updated appointment letter from tribal councils which authorize a tribal representative to serve as a liaison between their tribe and the TPPC. The notice was sent 11/16 and requested to be supplied to TPPC on or before the January meeting. Very little response has been received so far and a reminder will go out with another upcoming emailing.

3. EPA Updates (Cindy, Carol, Gabriela)

a) Cindy Wire, OPP

- Cindy worked with Tom Moriarty and Tom Steeger with OPP on 2-day MP3 symposium in March. They are trying to make certain there is funding for tribal members to participate. The symposium will hold 180 people to be held in the DC area and by invitation only. EPA/TPPC will want to secure a number of seats for tribal representation. Jim Mossett has done a great job in shaping the agenda in having issues proposed in the context of tribes. The TPPC would be asked to provide 6 names of attendees by sometime in January. Jim Mossett reported that there will be an MP3 call this Friday 12/18/15 along with any info on the symposium and they will share with TPPC members. Cindy is exploring funding options so anything in writing would be helpful from Jim (e.g., draft agenda, invitee list, copy of the application.)
- The MP3 symposium is titled, "Best Practices to Develop Your Managed Pollinator Protection Plans." The dates would tag onto the AAPCO meeting (March 6-9). MP3 is March 10-11. So this will make it easier for states/tribes to attend both.

Action item: Cindy and Suzanne will coordinate on the email to solicit TPPC member interest in attending the MP3 Symposium in March 2016, with the proviso that EPA may not be able to commit to fund tribes. Goal is to send email by 12/18/15.

Action item: Jim Mossett to send to Cindy and Suzanne a copy of the current MP3 symposium draft agenda for them to include in the solicitation of interest email.

b) Gabriela Carvalho, Region 10

- Folks should expect to hear from their EPA regional office about the recent pollinator protection course.
- Not everyone who was at the pollinator course is on the TPPC list so the thought is to share the info about the MP3 event with as many folks as could be interested.

Action item: Gabriela to send Suzanne the attendee list from the recent tribal pollinator protection course so all of these names could be included in the solicitation email noted above.

4. Federal Certification Plan Workgroup Activities Update (Lorry)

Lorry has set up a workgroup conference call on 1/21/16 at 2 PM Eastern to discuss. This subject not necessarily slated for discussion at the January 2016 meeting.

5. Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3) Symposium Planning (Jim Mossett)

This topic was discussed and reported above.

6. Pollinator Protection Activities (potential TPPC workgroup?) Fred, Gabriela

A recommendation from the recent tribal pollinator protection course held in November was that the TPPC consider forming a workgroup on this topic. A presentation at a recent meeting on the template revealed concerns that the template may not be appropriate for tribes. There are some things unique for tribes which are not in the current state template. There might be a tribal template to include unique tribal considerations. Perhaps a workgroup could do this work. Fred feels this is directly in line with the mission of the TPPC and to be a technical resource to other tribes. He feels it's important that the TPPC take a leadership role in this effort in how it affects other tribes across the country looking to develop a plan, asking questions moving forward. Part of the TPPC's mission is to be a resource / clearing house for plans and provide information assists other tribes who have less knowledge on certain topics. One way to approach this is via a workgroup. One of the lessons learned for workgroups in the past is if they have a defined mission and defined activities with tangible deliverables then they are more successful. One member commented that the workgroup idea has a lot of merit, but he wondered if there's been a change in emphasis based on all of the recent information and forums. Cindy Wire stated that given that there is a focus from the President on pollinator protection, that this issue won't go away anytime soon and we'll see a continued emphasis for the next couple of years, if not longer.

Gabriela Carvalho reported that EPA asked tribes at the tribal pollinator course what interests in pollinator protection would be, what managed beekeeping services they used, and other questions. 15-20 attendees indicated they had smaller beekeeping operations on their tribal lands. Half of the attendees said they were interested in native pollinator protection work. This work will look a lot different than commercial bee protection in the MP3s as it takes into account the quality of forage and habitat for native pollinator. There are about 3-4 tribes looking at the managed plan.

Fred suggested that there may be some ways to partner with other workgroups such as AIEO and others with master mailing lists to get info out to tribes. Once we have info to make tribes aware of, there are other avenues we could better utilize to get the word out about resources. The consensus was that the formation of a workgroup would be supported.

AAPCO has a similar workgroup, formerly led by Steve Dwinell. Perhaps we could fashion a TPPC workgroup after the AAPCO one. Steve is taking another role in FL and won't be working on pesticide issues but he has offered to continue to work with pollinator issues. In former years, there was money in the TPPC budget to have the workgroups meet in person independently. That could not happen today unless there was already another meeting where they were meeting and they could align this way. There may be a way for workgroup to look at external resources, such as the IPM Center, Suzanne Ratcliff at the Northwest Center. So there are other possibilities here. There was a suggestion to develop a list of potential activities and then decide what resources needed and how to go about getting them. Fred feels it makes a lot of sense to work with EPA reps as they have access to established networks to help move things along. The TPPC Guidelines mention a seal-proscriptive process for the formation of workgroups. More time will devoted to the January meeting agenda to discuss this

Action item: Fred and Cindy to look into the AAPCO pollinator workgroup and report back on formation and activities.

7. January TPPC Meeting Agenda / Travel Planning – (see attachment) (All)

UCDE reviewed the travel logistics for the event and clarified questions regarding travel policy. The hotel block has a firm deadline of 12/20/15. Someone asked if the EPA reps attended the Executive Committee meeting or can others attend? Fred said it has sometimes been a tribal caucus but generally

it is open to EPA and all if they would like to attend. The deadline to finalize the agenda will be 12/30/15.

Action item: Suzanne to follow up with Cary Giguere, SFIREG chair, to see if he can attend and what his logistical needs are.

Action item: Fred to coordinate with Ak-Chin regarding inviting the Arizona Dept. of Ag to see if they would like to address our group.

Action item: for interested TPPC members to work with Fred in planning the pollinator session on 1/14, the goal of the session being to propose a scope and structure for a pollinator workgroup for TPPC consideration.

8. Certification and Training Proposed Rule Comments (discuss approval process – comments due December 18) (All)

Earlier this week we had a conference call to discuss the draft letter by Bob Gruenig. TPPC members had a chance to speak up throughout the comment process and submit items to Bob.

Action item: Suzanne will share the currently revised letter with TPPC members and offer them one final review. If anyone has serious heartburn about certain aspects then they should contact Fred. Fred will remove any egregious comments from letter, sign and submit to the docket on 12/21/15.

Some of the feedback from the 12/14 call was that tribes did not feel there was adequate consultation by EPA on the proposed rule changes. Cindy spoke with Richard Pont in a neighboring branch at OPP. Richard reported that EPA engaged in a formal tribal consultation when the C&T rule was originally proposed for changes yet this was perhaps 2-3 years ago. Cindy relayed TPPC's feedback to EPA that the consultation was not adequate on this issue.

9. Action Item Process/Review (Fred, Nina, Suzanne)

Not addressed

10. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics (All)

Executive Committee Nominations will soon be underway. Ballots will be printed and brought to the January meeting. The Coordinator administers the ballot and EPA may assist in the tallying. Part of this process includes preparing a list of eligible nominees/members in each region.

Action item: Fred and Suzanne will work out a process to have all of the nominations solicited and summarized by the end of 2015.

11. Next TPPC Conference Call (Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 1-3 p.m. EST)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- TPPC Fall Meeting: January 13th-14th, 2016, Ak Chin, (Maricopa), AZ
- 5th Annual Tribal Pesticide Inspector Training, co-hosted by Inter Tribal Council of Arizona and Ak Chin Indian Community: February 9th - 11th, 2016, Maricopa, AZ
- Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) Annual Meeting: March 6th – 9th, 2016, Alexandria, VA
- Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3) Symposium: March 10th – 11th 2016, Alexandria, VA
- Tribal PIRT (Pesticide Inspector Regulatory Training), hosted by Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe: August 8th - 12th, 2016, Polson, MT