

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee
Monthly Conference Call
05/20/2020
Call Notes – Final
Call in number: 202-991-0477, Pass Code 6135015#

Roll call:

Tribes (11)

- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- James Jackson, Muscogee Creek Nation
- James Williams, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Andrea Mitchell, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation
- Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes
- Tony McCandless, Gila River Indian Community
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Gerald Wagner, Blackfeet Tribe & National Tribal Caucus
- Dana Adkins, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Tribal Organizations (2)

- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association
- Africa Dorame-Avalos, ITCA

EPA (6)

- Emily Ryan, EPA/OPP
- Rachel Ricciardi, EPA/OPP
- Peter Early, EPA/Region 9
- Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA
- Amanda Hauff, EPA/OCSPP
- Lance Wormell, EPA/OPP

Other (2)

- Suzanne Forsyth, University of California Davis Continuing and Professional Education
- Bob Gruenig, TPPC

Reported in advance as absent (2)

- Fred Corey, Aroostook Band of Micmacs
- Eric Gjevre, Cour d'Alene Indian Tribe

1. Welcome/Introductions (00:00 - 00:05)

Jasmine Brown, TPPC Vice Chairperson, facilitated the roll call. Attendance was logged throughout the call for the 11 tribes and tribal organization representatives.

Introduction of Dana Adkins, Chickahominy Tribe in VA. Dana is a Chickahominy citizen and serves as the tribe's environmental director. The tribe is located on its ancestral homeland. It is largely agricultural and is located in the tidewater area of Virginia. Has over 1,000 enrolled citizens. Currently no lands in trust, but there are 200 square acres in their lands. In October 2019 with EPA GAP funds, the tribe established an environmental office, making it the second tribal program in Region 3 to do so.

(Pamunkey was the first.) Soon after, the tribe distributed a questionnaire as a means of prioritizing the tribe's environmental concerns. There was a need to establish a tribal pesticide program. The office aims to provide useful info to citizens for outreach. Partner with local agencies to establish a program and asks that the TPPC to serve as a mentor to increase their knowledge of pesticide program management and build their programmatic capacity.

2. EPA Updates (Emily, Amanda, Peter, et. al.) (00:05 - 00:15)

Emily Ryan, EPA/OPP – EPA has administered tribal consultations on federal certification of RUP applicators in Indian Country. EPA extended the consultation period until August 3rd. EPA performed two consultations sessions, plus an outreach session with tribes. Emily will re-forward the announcement to Jim. He wants to participate as he has questions about limited use products and some of the harmful products.

Rachel Ricciardi, EPA/OPP – last week she facilitated training for the private certified applicator who wants to apply RUPs in Indian Country. The next trainings dates are in August. Rachel can offer info on the next upcoming dates and Suzanne will share. The EPA website mentioned is [Training for Private Applicators under the EPA Plan](#). The next training dates are Wednesday, August 12th and Thursday, August 13th.

Amanda Hauff, EPA/OCSP – no updates.

Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA – no updates.

Peter Early, EPA/Region 9 – no updates.

3. TPPC Tribal Administrator Update (Suzanne) (00:15 – 00:25)

a) Administrative

- The March meeting materials are all posted to the website including the meeting notes and evaluation.
- Going back to make sure that monthly meeting agenda and call notes are also posted.
- The EC vacancy – At large position will go out next week. The P&P states this is how I need to address this: In the event that an At-Large position becomes vacant, there will be an election among the alternates for this position to fill the vacated primary At-Large position in a timely manner. The process shall include a call for nominations for the position, a ballot issued to TPPC members on which they shall cast their vote for a specific candidate, and any other steps that the full Council shall deem appropriate. There will then be a subsequent election process to fill the vacated alternate position.
- Based on an inquiry from Dana Adkins at the Chickahominy Tribe, Suzanne has been corresponding with Brian Hamilton, the Region 3 tribal coordinator. Region 3 (VA exclusively) has several federally-recognized Indian tribes and the newest is Chickahominy. Brian reached out this week to Chickahominy and Pamunkey to make them aware of the TPPC as a technical resource, the benefits of prospective membership with TPPC, in addition to making them aware of other EPA partnership groups.

4. Certification Rule Question (Jim Mossett) (00:30 – 00:40)

A question came up about submission of plans. Emily Ryan said that tribes can still submit C&T plans in the future. Tribes not already submitted will fall under the EPA plan. At any point in the future a tribe which falls under the EPA plan can still submit their own plan in the future. Regarding the deadline for the regulation – tribes are still subject to the federal law and regulation.

5. Topics to Consider for Upcoming Monthly Calls (All) (00:40 – 00:50)

The group talked about potential topics for upcoming monthly calls and were given a few options based on what was discussed since March 2020:

- **Hemp with Ed Messina
- ASPCRO training opportunities with Liza Fleeson Trossbach
- Label improvement project with Liza Fleeson Trossbach
- **Disinfectants – cases coming into EPA and illnesses related to these; need guidance.

The group consensus was to invite the ** items for the next monthly call and invite Liza to join the July call to talk about the other items.

6. Status of Pesticides in Indian Country Report (Bob) (00:50 – 01:50)

EPA sent Bob their feedback comments this week, which he shared with the workgroup and also spoke about on the call.

One of the tribes spoke up and felt uncomfortable that EPA is trying to prescribe the manner in which TPPC is addressing tribes and EPA. Helene assured the TPPC that EPA is not trying to tell tribes how to speak to other tribes. There are several places in the Report where OECA was characterized for being dismissive or inflexible. OECA would like that substantiated and it would be helpful to have more information about that.

The group had a chance to share ideas on perceptions and interpretations about claims, direct implementation, and other things highlighted in the report.

Nina understands and appreciates EPA's comments for the feedback on the vast majority of the comments, with the exception of bullet #1. She asked EPA for specifics on which cooperative agreement descriptions were in error. Helene is willing to sit on the next WG calls to better delineate their feedback.

Amanda reminded the group that there should be a disclaimer on the document as was done with other partnership group documents.

Action item: Bob to send out an email to reconvene the Report workgroup.

7. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics (All) (01:50 – 02:00)

Disinfectant use, training gap, guidelines needed.

Action item: Suzanne to share the link to the NPIC training video.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfkzHv40Pz0&feature=youtu.be>

Tribal governments have been closed to the public along with travel restrictions. Phase 1 of reopening in Montana. The CSKT Council is asking for a plan to keep restrictions in place. Part of the discussion was if CSKT sets the guidelines for themselves or does EPA set those guidelines?

8. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, June 17 11 AM – 1 PM Pacific Time.