

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee
Monthly Conference Call
09/16/20
Call Notes – Final
Call in number: 202-991-0477, Pass Code 6135015#

Roll call:

Tribes (11)

- Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Brenda Ball, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Andrea Mitchell, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Tony McCandless, Gila River Indian Community
- James Jackson, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Carol Kriebs, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Dana Hopkins, Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- Gerald Wagner, Blackfoot Tribe
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation

Tribal Organizations (2)

- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association
- Carolyn Smith, California Indian Basketweavers Association

EPA (5)

- Emily Ryan, EPA/OPP
- Lauren LePoint, EPA/OPP
- Peter Earley, EPA/Region 9
- Rachel Ricciardi, EPA/OPP
- Amanda Hauff, EPA/OCSP

Other (2)

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

Reported in advance as absent (1)

- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community

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

Jasmine Brown, Vice Chair, facilitated the roll call. Attendance was logged throughout the call for the 13 tribes and tribal organization representatives.

2. TPPC Update on Briefing with EPA Leadership: Status Report (Jasmine) (00:05 - 00:15)

Received a request to do a briefing on the Status Report with Alex Dunn and other EPA leadership on 9/18. Plan is to provide printed copies to the TPPC member who request them. Amanda will send Larry Scrapper, Diania Caudell, and Andrea Mitchell invitation and list them as attendees.

Amanda added more details about the call.

Purpose of the call -

- for the TPPC to brief the AA on the Report
- to allow senior leadership an opportunity to meet with the TPPC to learn about and discuss issues within the TPPC's Draft Status of Pesticides in Indian Country Report.

Amanda has gone through the Report to provide final review comments and has a few more things she's working on and will forward soon.

3. Updates from Status of Pesticides in Indian Country Report Workgroup (Bob) (00:15 – 00:25)

Amanda reached out to Bob and allowed an extension for EPA comments until Monday 9/21 due to the preparation for 9/18's briefing.

4. EPA Updates (Emily, Amanda, Peter, et. al.) (00:25 - 00:35)

Emily Ryan, EPA/OPP – OCSPP reorganization is imminent. Would impact a small part of OPP. AD is getting a restructuring to better address emerging issues.

Rachel Ricciardi, EPA/OPP – She will serve as the PO for the new cooperative agreement awarded to ITEP. Rachel is excited to take on this role to learn as a PO and is excited to learn from everyone. Jasmine expressed her optimism that all will work well together and how pleased Jasmine is that Rachel has will . Federal Certification Plan in Indian Country - EPA is doing follow up with this.

Peter Earley, EPA/OPP – some tribes have returned to their office and others are still working remotely. Region 1 following hits closely. Yakama Nation with 30K members - has suffered high losses due to COVID19 with many of the older tribal members passing away. Eric spoke with Joe and Yakama Nation is open on a limited basis M/W/F.

Amanda Hauff, EPA/OCSPP – The news about the reorganization is moving faster than EPA is on this. OSPP is working on the National Program Guidance and will have more to report soon.

Action item: On the next call we will observe a moment of silence for Yakama Nation and others who have lost members and loved ones.

5. TPPC Tribal Administrator Update (Suzanne) (00:35 – 00:45)

a) Administrative

- Resignation from Dustin Roy, White Earth, Region 5 Exec Comm. He's moved to the superfund / water program.
- Region 5 RTOC has requested an updated 1-pager from a TPPC member who might also attend another RTOC in their region. Does anyone else have something already created?
- Spending time helping to edit the Status Report workgroup and coordinating with the report formatter on timeline.
- Shout-out to Carolyn Smith and CIBA for proving some 11th hour images for the Report.
- Coordinating with the EPA Tribal Team on the Sept. 18 briefing with the AA and others.
- Beginning talks with EPA about grantee transition. Include Suzanne on the October monthly call. retain the URLs.
- Topics for October call?

Action items:

1. TPPC to update on a quarterly basis, a collaborated 1-pager to provide to Executive Committee members as to what's going on. This item could also be used for RTOC updates.
2. Suzanne to update in the DropBox folder the TPPC membership brochure.
3. Jasmine to ask Brittani to update the membership brochure with Nina reviewing it.

Jasmine wanted to reassure everyone that Suzanne will still be a resource even once the new grantee joins and will contribute as a stakeholder.

Representatives for the Coordinator Team at ITEP:

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6. Impacts from COVID to Cocopah Indian Tribe's Agricultural Operations (Andrea Mitchell) (00:45 – 01:10)

The tribe has lands in New Mexico and Arizona and it borders with California and Mexico. Cocopah holds 2,400 acres of agricultural land on three separate reservations; they lease out three tribal farms. They have monitored workers for COVID symptoms. U.S. Border Control said that pick-ups for day-labor will still be allowed near the border. However, no regulations were mentioned that would limit the number of people being transported on the bus or in the fields. The tribe provides cleaning equipment and supplies; the availability of sanitizing equipment is being worked on. They have adequate community housing and supplies are being provided to clean their housing. There is concern on the part of TPPC members that these protections may not be adequate to keep the Cocopah people safe.

Carol Kriebs said that Indian Health Service (IHS) should be the ones writing these plans along with their emergency managers to make sure people are complying with regulations on tribal lands. This is what's happening in Region 10.

Last year the tribe faced another crisis with the border walls going up. The dust and other debris affected the lettuce crop yields significantly. There is always a new challenge.

7. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics (All) (1:10 – 02:00)

Shylah from Navajo Nation joined the call and would like to revisit the topic of hemp. Jefferson explained it's been something unexpected in Navajo Nation. All of a sudden about 12 commercial operations were present. Navajo nation EPA did their part in the way of multimedia inspections but they got kicked out by the growers' legal representatives. It's still illegal to grow hemp on the reservation. Next summer it's likely that all their inspection would be focused around this area.

8. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 21-22, 2020: SFIREG Joint Working Committees Meeting (virtual)
- Sept 28–October 2, 2020: Basic Inspector Training PIRT, Savannah, GA
- Oct 2020 (dates TBD): Region 3 FIFRA Inspectors Workshop
- Oct 6/8, 13/15, 20/22, 27/29: PREP: Senior Executive Program Management Course, Davis, CA (webinars)
- Nov 4-5, 2020: Region 5 Pre-SFIREG, Chicago, IL
- Nov 16-19, 2020: PREP: Registration & Re-evaluation Course (virtual) (rescheduled from May 2020)
- Nov 17-18, 2020: Region 10 Pesticide Directors Meeting with SLAs and Tribes, Seattle, WA
- Dec 7-8, 2020: Full SFIREG Meeting, Arlington, VA