

**Tribal Pesticide Program Council-Full Council Meeting**  
Virtual (due to ongoing pandemic)  
**DAY ONE, Tuesday, November 2, 2021**  
**Meeting Notes**

The meeting was called to order by Jasmine Brown at 10:00 AM MDT.

Attendees (for the overall, three-day meeting):

**Tribes (31)**

- Brenda Ball, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Earl Bautista, Tohono O'odham Nation
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Dwight Carlston, Gila River Indian Community
- Brittani Clairmont, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Ken Clark, Nez Perce Tribe
- Ryan Evans, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Joe Herrera, Yakama Nation
- Page Hingst, Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska
- Daniel Hoyt, Gila River Indian Community
- James Jackson, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Phil Jackson, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Shylah James, Navajo Nation
- Tacy Jensen, Gila River Indian Community
- Mark Junker, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation
- Breanna Knudsen, Chippewa-Saginaw of Michigan
- Tony McCandless, Gila River Indian Community
- Andrea Mitchell, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Jeremy Phillips, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Sarah Ryan, Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation
- Julie Simpson, Nez Perce Tribe
- Dorla Tartsah, Kiowa Tribe
- Ron Workman, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Ann Wyatt, Klawock Cooperative Extension

**Federal (22)**

- Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA
- Peter Earley, EPA/Region 9
- Zoe Emdur, EPA/OCSPP

- David Gruen, EPA/Region 10 (Water Division)
- Amanda Hauff, EPA/OCSPP
- Laura Hubbard, USGS
- Blake Huff, EPA/Region 8
- Hayley Hughes, EPA/OCSPP
- Robert Koethe, EPA Region 1
- Loren LaPointe, EPA/OCSPP
- Sierra Moline EPA/Region 6
- Jackie Mosby, EPA/OCSPP
- Amy Mysz, EPA/Region 5
- Eric Nystrom, EPA/Region 6
- Kaitlin Picone, EPA/OSCPP
- Brenda Rashleigh, EPA/ORD
- Rachel Ricciardi, EPA/OCSPP
- Monica Rodia, EPA/ORD
- Emily Ryan, EPA/OCSPP
- Lance Wormell, EPA/OCSPP
- Jose Zambrana, EPA/ORD

**Other (3)**

- Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- Jennifer Glennon, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- Mehrdad Khatibi, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

**Reported in advance as absent (1)**

- Carol Kriebs, EPA

**Traditional Opening Ceremony, Welcome, Introductions**

Many thanks to Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation for delivering the opening prayer.

**TPPC Opening Remarks, Jasmine Brown and Nina Hapner**

Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians provided opening remarks and Welcome to attendees. The recent news regarding the potentially endangered American bumble bees was mentioned.

**EPA Welcome Remarks, Amanda Hauff and Hayley Hughes**

Amanda Hauff, EPA/OCSPP, introduced Hayley Hughes, Office Director, OCSPP/Office of Program Support. Ms. Hughes talked about her background and some of the things her office does and expressed her desire to continue working with Tribes on issues of importance to them.

**TPPC Coordinator Update, Mark Daniels**

[Slide Presentation](#)

Mark Daniels, ITEP provided a summary of the project activities for March through November 2021. The results from the recent survey of TPPC members for training preferences show the top three as 1. Development of pesticide codes and ordinances, 2. General pesticide education and 3. How to communicate risk of pesticide exposure to the community. He concluded with an update on the current budget.

Nina made a request for bumble bee information to be added to the TPPC website.

### **TPPC Technical Advisory Committee Member at Northeastern IPM Center, Susannah Reese**

#### [Slide Presentation](#)

Susannah Reese, Northeastern IPM Center presented on the activities and functions of the four regional IPM centers which include IPM partnership grants, education, funding research (examples include the Spotted Lantern Fly <https://www.stopslf.org/index.cfm> and keeping the Black-legged ticks out of school grounds) and working groups. Their current project, Stop Pests in Housing Program ([stoppests.org](http://stoppests.org)) for multi-family housing, deals primarily with cockroaches, mice and bed bugs, and finding alternate solutions to using over-the-counter pesticides. She provided a summary of how to lower pesticide risk and which products are best to use.

Sarah Ryan, Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians commented, "please don't use an algaecide on cyanobacteria without a plan in place regarding toxins - if the cyanobacteria contains toxins, the algaecide will lyse the cells and spread the toxins everywhere".

TPPC bed bug education package: <https://tppcwebsite.org/bed-bugs/>

### **AAPCO Update, Pat Jones**

#### [Slide presentation](#)

Pat Jones, AAPCO President provided a summary of AAPCO (Association of American Pesticide Control Officials) activities and issues. Included are the Revision to the Certification & Training Plan, devices that produce pesticide substances that make public health claims and backyard mosquito application. More information can be found on their website: [Association of American Pesticide Control Officials \(aapco.org\)](http://Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (aapco.org)).

### **ASPCRO Update, Allison Cuellar**

#### [Slide presentation](#)

Allison Cuellar, ASPCRO Vice President provided a general overview of the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO), whose mission is to be an informational resource regarding structural and non-agricultural pesticide use, regulation and compliance. This is accomplished through technical working committees and partnerships with stakeholder organizations and the EPA. Some of their current topics include 1. Pesticide devices making public health claims, 2. Residential mosquito applications and 3. Pyrethrins.

For more information visit the website: [www.aspcro.org](http://www.aspcro.org).

### **SFIREG Update, Gary Bahr**

Gary Bahr, State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Chair, introduced himself and talked about the structure of the organization and their meetings. He noted that there is an in-person meeting coming up in early December and that he hoped the TPPC would be able to provide a presentation like we did at their last meeting. He also discussed the various SFIREG working groups and the issues they are addressing, noting overlap with several issues of importance to the TPPC. He concluded with some of the work they have engaged in regarding advocacy in his home state of Washington.

Nina noted that Gary had presented about the issue of state bills and SFIREG advocacy in a PREP course a couple months ago and thanked him for it.

**Demonstration of Gila River's Tribal Regulatory Activity Compliance and Enforcement Records (TRACER) Database, Daniel Hoyt, Gila River Indian Community**

[Slide Presentation](#)

Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) in AZ deals with 50 agricultural entities and growers cultivate 36,000 acres. They have 12 small-scale marketplaces that sell pesticides and work with 89 non-agricultural pest management entities. Their office authorizes use based on the pesticide code and deal a lot with compliance and assistance. A large amount of data is collected at inspections and various functions necessitating a tool to query, summarize, and identify trends in the community. They submitted a proposal and received funding from the EPA for designing, developing and implementing a database with Unicon using a Sharepoint 2016 platform that is hosted locally. Dan went through a live version demo for everyone to see how it works. They are still in Phase 3 which is monitoring and debugging and will continue to build the database out for their functions and hope to incorporate other programs within the department to share data and decrease redundancy.

Renee asked how this program may become available to other tribes. Yes, as this was federally funded, other tribes could put together a proposal similar to GRIC. One objective of theirs was developing something that could be used by other tribes as well.

**Meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Tribal Program (APHIS), Office of National Tribal Liaison, Terry Clark, USDA APHIS Director**

[Slide Presentation](#)

APHIS has a broad mission that includes protecting and promoting U.S. Agricultural health, regulating genetically engineered organisms, administering the Animal Welfare Act and wildlife damage management activities. The Agency's emergency protocols has enabled them to respond and prevent potential pest and disease threats to U.S. Agriculture. Terry's slides gave an overview of Animal Care, Plant Protection, Veterinary Services and Wildlife Services.

The APHIS Office of National Tribal Liaison seeks to understand Tribal needs and expand partnerships often through youth programs and education. They have funding for projects addressing critical needs and opportunities to strengthen, prevent, detect and mitigate invasive pests and diseases. Terry provided a summary of several future Tribal projects that involve re-introducing APHIS to Tribes again in order to better prepare and respond to emergencies.

*Questions:*

Jasmine asked if a Tribe gets notified of a disease found in deer, is that transmissible to people that eat the meat? Terry responded that the more recent detection of SARS in deer (per CDC) is not transferable to humans if the meat is cooked properly, but hunters need to take precautions when dressing any wildlife.

Mark Junker, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska asked if invasive species factor into the work that APHIS does? Yes. And what about aquatic species? They will address the National Aquaculture Health Plan to Tribes in a webinar series with the first one on December 1 ([Aquaculture Webinar Invitation Letter.pdf](#)). Jasmine asked if they should list APHIS as a contact in their Emergency Response Plan? Yes, APHIS should be the point of contact.

[Terry.w.clark@usda.gov](mailto:Terry.w.clark@usda.gov)

## Tribal Hot Topics

Nina mentioned that they had the Region 9 Work Group annual conference at the end of October. There was discussion about shothole borers showing up on Tribal lands. They may apply to the Western IPM Center to re-activate their work group which focuses on AZ, CA and NV.

Jasmine offered that their new Preservation Department Head has been working with elders on a YouTube series about Traditional White Bark Pine. These are old trees that retain snowpack and an important Climate Change effort. This is the first in a series about plants that retain snowpack, wildlife, seeds and how disease and invasive species have impacted them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vg8iFwQEN54>

Renee asked what others are doing to combat bedbug outbreaks in their communities? Jasmine mentioned that there is a kit on the TPPC website with useful information. Along with hot and cold temperatures, many chemicals end up getting used to treat them, often people have to hire a specialist for a thorough treatment with follow-up but this can run up to \$3,000. Joe Herrera, Yakama Nation offered that they hand out the TPPC kits when doing an inspection.

Susannah Reese mentioned the need for increased outreach materials for DIY that actually work (casements, traps, Diatomaceous Earth).

<https://tppcwebsite.org/bed-bugs/>

Brenda Ball, Ak-Chin Indian Community in AZ mentioned that after recent heavy rains there has been an increase in mold and mildew, and some non-licensed applicators are showing up to treat the problem. Is this happening anywhere else? Jasmine said that sometimes they have applicators come at the end of a workday so it's hard to sample and test the products that the Restoration companies are using. Often you have to take them on their word. Joe Herrera agreed with this because when labels are presented to him at inspection, he has to trust that those are the actual contents of the container. Brenda said they are working on a plan to test samples but it's costly.

Jasmine added that the IPM Center helped their community with supplies (shampoo, combs, etc.) and outreach materials for schools when they had a head lice breakout several years ago.

<https://cig.uw.edu/resources/tribal-vulnerability-assessment-resources/>

Renee mentioned the annual Monarch Festival in October was a great event and lots of information on pollinators and IPM.

'Gather': Show on Netflix recommended by Jasmine:

<https://www.netflix.com/title/81152263>

## Tribal Pesticide Program Council-Full Council Meeting

Virtual (due to ongoing pandemic)

DAY TWO, Wednesday, November 3, 2021

### TPPC Opening Remarks, Jasmine Brown & Nina Hapner

Jasmine provided opening remarks and welcome to attendees. Additionally, Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation in Window Rock welcomed everyone and mentioned that he is working with the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Facilities Maintenance personnel on gathering information to submit a funding request to hold a Pesticide Chemical Disposal Event. Jefferson also would like to share his presentation on Navajo Hemp Inspections with the TPPC at the Spring 2022 meeting.

### PFAS in Indian Country at a Glance, Mark Junker, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas & Nebraska

#### [Slide Presentation](#)

Mark is a member of the Tribal PFAS working group that was formed two years ago to address PFAS on Tribal lands. A study conducted in the 90's suggests that 95% of people in the U.S. have PFAS in their blood. The guidance indicates that PFAS are everywhere in the environment and very complicated. The EPA council on PFAS have demonstrated engagement with Tribes regarding the PFAS roadmap on contamination and remediation. He provided a map of PFAS contamination sites within 5 miles of Tribal lands as well as charts of the top 20 states, counties and Tribal lands. He also included maps of areas in AZ, OK and MN where PFAS have been detected.

There was a substantial discussion on occurrences of PFAS contamination on Tribal lands, cleanup methods and previous lawsuits filed against industries responsible for contamination. Page Hingst, Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska mentioned that Tribes are sovereign nations and should be recognized as regulators in the PFAS roadmap. Mark J. answered Rachel Ricciardi, EPA question about the roadmap: it currently does not take into account Tribes and the information on reservation boundaries is only federal (BIA). He isn't sure if the maps are archived.

Link to Tribal PFAS Map: [https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/PFAS\\_tribal\\_lands/map/](https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/PFAS_tribal_lands/map/)

Nina mentioned a Tribe in California in which numerous health issues have been reported as environmentally caused and PFAS have been detected nearby. Page said they should contact her office. Ryan Evans, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes asked if phosphates were used in fire suppression methods? Mark said yes. Monica Rodia, EPA will provide feedback from this discussion to EPA personnel. Rachel asked about improving the map's interactive capabilities, Mark agreed. Someone asked if there has been discussion of a suit against manufacturers. Three Tribes have filed suit as part of a larger lawsuit. Danielle Pensley, Jill Grant and Associates offered that in 2015 PFAS were detected in the aquifer in South Fairbanks, AK and they were the first to start a federal lawsuit against 3M and Dupont. It was a multi-district case that was slow and complicated.

<https://pfasproject.com/2020/04/06/kalispel-tribe-northern-quest-file-suit-against-3m-tyco-fire-products/>

In Alaska, Tribes have less power in suits (not land based) and its unclear how Tribes fit into the state and federal government and municipalities on PFAS regulation.

Nina asked if there are current cleanup methods being considered or employed? Mark said there is an outfit called Regenesys with webinars on semi permeable membrane techniques to handle more difficult chemicals. Page mentioned the 3 options to get rid of PFAS: 1. Incineration which only gets rid of 95%, 2. Put in containers for future disposal, and 3. Injection wells. An activated carbon filter can help reduce it. Jasmine asked if there is discussion on banning future use? The U.S. system isn't designed to be precautionary, more of a focus on clean up after the fact. Also, can Tribes join an existing lawsuit? Danielle said that a Tribe can start their own suit, then request to join a multi-district litigation. She feels

that further discussion needs to center on environmental justice and the subsistence issue for Tribes, and EPA needs to recognize this.

John Oliver Video on PFAS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9W74aeuqsiU>

#### **EPA Lead Region Update, Blake Huff, EPA Region 8**

##### [Slide Presentation](#)

Blake provided regional updates for Regions 4, 5 and 8. Region 4 held several activities related to Pollinator Protection Week. Highlights for Region 5 include a project to monitor pesticides in water for the Upper Sioux as well as technical support activities. Region 8 hosted a fall webinar series for Tribes in that region.

Jasmine asked about the Birdie the Bee Children's Coloring Booklet that will be an educational resource for Pollinator Protection and pesticides. It is under review now and will be available in 2022.

Montana State University did a bee ID guide that has common bees from western MT on it (Brittani Clairmont, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes)

[https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/u.osu.edu/dist/f/6281/files/2017/04/Bee\\_ID\\_Poster\\_2ndProof-2lmb5yn.pdf](https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/u.osu.edu/dist/f/6281/files/2017/04/Bee_ID_Poster_2ndProof-2lmb5yn.pdf)

Jasmine mentioned how they are providing seeds and educational materials about the benefits of planting native yarrow for people and for pollinators.

#### **USGS Office of Tribal Relations and Ecosystems Mission Area, Chris Hammond**

##### [Slide Presentation](#)

Chris Hammond, USGS provided an overview of what they do and a description of TESNAR (Technical Training in Support of Native American Relations). They are funded through Science Support and located in the Office of Science Quality and Integrity. They build awareness, advise leadership on Tribal concerns, serve as a resource and represent USGS on interagency working groups. Chris also serves on the board of geographical names.

##### *Questions:*

Do Alaska and Hawaii have their own regional representatives? Alaska is its own region and Hawaii is grouped with the Pacific Island Territories.

Nina asked about marine management. Chris said he doesn't know of anything happening lately but he will inquire into this.

#### **Outreach Coordinator for Ecosystems Mission Area, Suzanna Soileau**

##### [Slide Presentation](#)

Suzanna Soileau, USGS gave an overview of the function of the USGS Ecosystems Mission Area. They are considered the primary biological science agency within the Department of Interior (DOI). They are organized into 7 programs having to do with biological threats, Climate Adaptation Centers, cooperative research units, environmental health, land management, land change science and species management. They work with many Tribal communities, Alaska villages and Pacific Islands to incorporate Traditional Knowledge with research.

##### *Questions:*

Mark D. asked if the eDNA samples water resources to identify DNA from animals living in the watershed? Yes, mostly rivers and streams and this is used to find invasive species, pathogens and rare species. They will be do more trainings on this technology in the future.

Nina inquired about USGS funding and how Tribes can learn about what projects there is funding for. Suzanna mentioned that there is a useful tool called the Green Book that is publicly available (<https://www.usgs.gov/media/files/fy2022-usgs-budget-justification-greenbook>) and lists the projects that they are focused on. Chronic Wasting Disease map: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/science/expanding-distribution-chronic-wasting-disease>

**Overview of Technical Training in Support of Native American Relations (TESNAR), Nimish Vyas, USGS Research Biologist, Eastern Ecological Science Center**

[Slide Presentation](#)

Nimish presented on how he got involved with TSNAR (USGS Technical Training in Support of Native American Relations Program). He has been an instructor with the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) since 1996 which deals with real world harm from pesticide applications. The first Tribal student he had wasn't until 2019 and he provided some possible reasons why Tribal students had not participated in the past. Wildlife incidents are rarely reported from Tribal lands and this led him to develop the TSNAR course which was offered in August of 2021 with students from 9 Tribes in the Missouri Basin. The goal of the course is to provide attendees with a general understanding of pesticide's effects on wildlife. Nimish showed a video from the course demonstrating the effects pesticides can have on birds. The course will be offered again in 2022 and can be brought to you. Jasmine highly recommends the training.

**Indoor Air Quality in Schools: Use of Disinfectants to Treat COVID-19, Mansel Nelson, ITEP**

[Slide Presentation](#)

Mansel discussed the work he does with schools to maintain and improve indoor healthy air quality. The presentation covered Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), the evolution of COVID science, the hierarchy of controls for COVID, measuring ventilation and how improvements now will improve overall health post-COVID. Some key elements from this discussion have to do with the importance of outside air ventilation in schools, filtration, avoiding unproven air cleaning technologies, using only safe and effective cleaning products that are approved for use with children, sensors to see the unseen (CO<sub>2</sub> monitors, PM monitors and smoke puffer) and PPE for preventing the spread of COVID.

<https://bit.ly/IAQSchools> (contains many useful resources)

Questions:

Is the list of products for people with asthma on List N? No but EWG.org (Environmental Working Group) has a sub list of products such as hydrogen peroxide that are safe for asthma.

Are they still recommending the N95 masks? They will provide more protection than cloth masks.

Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community asked if A/C or heat is not needed, will running a system's fan for a few hours a day improve the air quality? Yes, HVAC's can run fans continuously and it's always good to change filters regularly. Homes don't often have that option so opening doors and windows improves indoor air quality.

**Overview of USGS Pesticide Related Research, Tim Bargar, USGS Research Ecotoxicologist**

[Slide Presentation](#)

Tim provided a summary of The Land Stewardship Integrated Science Team of the USGS Environmental Health Program regarding contaminant issues and a focus on pesticides. Three research focus areas they have are insecticides for mosquito control, use of rodenticides and chemical control for non-native species. A study in the Florida Keys showed that mosquito insecticides impose a significant risk to butterflies. For agricultural and urban settings, natural resource managers are looking at the risk of rodenticides on non-targeted species (such as raptors who eat rodents) with the goal of ultimately

setting regulatory guidelines for their use. Studies are also being done of the effect of chemicals targeted at non-native species (crayfish) and how this effects native fish.

If anyone is interested, Rachel R. can put you in touch with USGS to learn about research results.

<https://www.usgs.gov/ecosystems/environmental-health-program/science/science-teams>

<https://medlineplus.gov/bloodthinners.html>

#### **Food Integrated Science Team, Dana Kolpin, USGS Research Hydrologist**

The goal for food production is to maximize both production and profit. Dana provided a summary of how chemical compounds change and evolve and how they are applied to plants, seeds and genetically modified plants and animals. Animal manure can contain numerous contaminants (pharmaceutical, hormones) that end up in the landscape. Treated seeds, in particular have a large impact on insecticide concentrations in the environment as they are spilled and then ingested by birds and transported. He discussed several pesticide research projects that involve testing tap water in Iowa, bees in California and cornfields in Oklahoma. It was mentioned that it's often too expensive to filter water for pesticides and PFAS so companies are not doing this. The USGS provides the scientific studies and findings for EPA and other agencies to make decisions on regulation.

#### *Questions/Discussion:*

Nina asked if there is any testing being done on dried effluent material? Yes, they have done some studies on biosolids.

There was discussion of how multiple pharmaceuticals can be found in wastewater, how far they can travel in water and the physiological effects of these chemicals on animals and humans, often exemplified in children.

#### **Environmental Health Program, Bethany Kunz, USGS Research Biologist**

##### [Slide Presentation](#)

Bethany highlighted a few approaches in the Environmental Health Program with a summary of the 4-step Risk Assessment Process. The three basic questions they are researching are: 1. Where are pesticides in the environment? 2. How might Tribal members be exposed to pesticides and other contaminants through a common exposure pathway? And 3. How can Cultural and subsistence activities be included in Tribal exposure scenario pathways?

An example that she highlighted that relates to pesticides but focuses on metals, is the withdrawal of mining near the Grand Canyon. Many studies are being conducted targeting Tribal concerns around subsistence activities and exposure to metals through traditional foods and ceremonial practices.

#### *Questions:*

Can Tribes potentially collect sage and mail it to them for sampling? Yes, with standardized collection techniques something like this could be done.

It was mentioned that the TPPC is an all-volunteer organization and any partners (such as the USGS) are welcome to help since it is difficult to get data.

Jasmine mentioned that the USGS was very helpful in providing assistance and training to them in 2008 with development of a Tribal plan.

## Tribal Pesticide Program Council-Full Council Meeting

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DAY THREE, Thursday, November 4, 2021

### Closed Door: TPPC Tribal Caucus, facilitated by Jasmine Brown

The Tribal TPPC members convened in a private Zoom meeting for the Tribal Caucus session

### Penobscot Nation's Water Quality Standards and Wild Food Series, Dan Kusnierz, Penobscot Indian Nation, Water Resources Program Manager

#### [Slide Presentation](#)

Dan gave a presentation entitled 'Protecting Health while Preserving Culture' covering water quality standards, toxin studies and communicating complex toxin data to the Tribal audience. Traditional lifeways for the Penobscot Nation in Maine include fishing, hunting and gathering wild foods. The Tribe has always had sustenance fishing rights and in the 1980's a Water Resources program was formed to monitor water quality by testing samples for mercury and various toxins. One of the many uses of the data collected is for fish consumption advisories and Tribal water quality standards. These standards that focus on human health criteria and are higher than state standards, and have been approved by the Tribe but are still waiting for EPA approval.

Dan discussed some of the challenges in communicating advisories and fish consumption recommendations with people. Often the information is complicated and confusing so they worked with an organization to develop brochures, posters and educational outreach materials in order to simplify the message and help people feel comfortable with the information. Their goal is to guide people to safe fish consumption while still supporting cultural lifeways.

[Dan.kusnierz@penobscotnation.org](mailto:Dan.kusnierz@penobscotnation.org)

There was additional discussion with Nina, Jasmine, Renee and Dan about the impact of high levels of mercury in fish and its neurological effects on people as well as high incidences of cancer that can be linked to environmental conditions. Jasmine asked if other Tribes can use their labs? Dan said that most of the work was done in outside labs and theirs is not set up for external projects at this time.

*Mentioned in the Chat:*

[www.waterwordsthatwork.com](http://www.waterwordsthatwork.com)

Aamjiwnaang: A culture in Schock with Ron Plain.

[https://www.healthandenvironment.org/partnership\\_calls/15224](https://www.healthandenvironment.org/partnership_calls/15224)

### Pollinator Protection Research Priorities, Loren LaPointe, EPA

Loren talked about the annual USDA Pollinator Priorities and Goals report, and said she would like input from the group on suggested changes for the next version of the document:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pollinator-priorities-2021R4-508-version.pdf>

Loren started working through an interactive activity with the group to gather feedback on the document. Due to a shortage of time and some technical difficulties it was decided to try this again at the next TPPC Pollinator Protection Workgroup meeting.

### Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Enforcement, Helene Ambrosino, OECA

#### [Slide Presentation](#)

Helene gave an overview of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement. WPS provides protection for over 2 million agricultural workers at over 600,000 agricultural establishments and is designed to inform, protect and mitigate. Part of Compliance

Monitoring has to do with the labels on agricultural pesticides and how the labels are enforced through inspections by states, EPA and Tribes. She provided a summary of typical inspection activities and violation penalties.

*Questions:*

(Ted Puetz) Would you recommend the checklist be part of the inspection package for either commercial or agricultural establishment? Yes, many entities have their own checklist. Both Jasmine and Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe have found a checklist is very helpful. Helene mentioned that the WPS manual is due for a revision and comments for the revision can be sent to her anytime.

**Status of Pesticides in Indian Country Report Dissemination and TPPC Outreach, facilitated by Jasmine Brown and Nina Hapner**

There was discussion and brainstorming on how to disseminate the report and improve outreach. Jasmine addressed the need for a revision/updates and how often this should be done going forward, Nina suggested that the next revision be done in 2023. The need for a mini video and slide presentation that can be widely distributed and used by Tribes was brought up as a priority in 2022. This could be added to the TPPC budget in the future.

Mehrdad mentioned that a Communication Strategy could potentially be included in the upcoming TPPC consultant-led Strategic Planning.

Rachel contributed that a one pager fact sheet could be sent along with the entire report.

There was some discussion regarding copyright of the first report and how the TPPC can get a Microsoft Word copy for editing purposes. Emily Ryan, EPA said that any report created from a grant has different copyrights and a new grantee has access to any information in the report. Jasmine would like to see a more Tribal feel to the revision. Amanda will confirm the copyright at the next TPPC monthly call.

**Tribal Caucus Report-out/Open Discussion with EPA, facilitated by Jasmine Brown**

The first issue brought up has to do with a Tribe that is being affected by fracking operations and the Tribe's lack of communication or input with the permitting agencies. The fracking uses surface water causing low water levels and inability to harvest rice, and toxic chemicals are being found in the mud and sediment. Does the EPA have any authority with permitting agencies? Amanda offered her help in getting in touch with the agencies, it may take many agencies to come together to discuss the situation. It was decided to come back to this issue to develop a plan for moving forward.

Another issue is insufficient funding for pesticide programs (hazardous waste, pollinator protection, IPM), many tribes are using Tribal funds to conduct and complete the workplan deliverables.

There was concern from a Tribe about retaliation if they don't get along with the Regional representative. Amanda said that should absolutely not be the case, and if a Tribe is feeling that way to contact her. The TPPC can also be used as an intermediary for resolving conflicts. Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe mentioned how the culture of various federal agencies and Tribes as well as personalities can all contribute to disagreements.

It was brought up how important it is for Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) be combined with scientific information in reports, workplans and trainings (for P.O.'s specifically).

**Closing Remarks**

Thank you to everyone for participating in the Fall Meeting!

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