

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee
Monthly Conference Call
12/15/21
Call Notes – Final

Join by Zoom: <https://nau.zoom.us/j/89303644703>
or phone: 312-626-6799 or 888-788-0099 (toll free)
Meeting ID: 893 0364 4703
Password: 186136

Roll call:

Tribes (19)

- Dana Adkins, Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Brittani Clairmont, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Ryan Evans, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Joe Herrera, Yakama Nation
- James Jackson, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Phil Jackson, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Sheldon Jones, Navajo Nation
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation
- Carol Kriebs, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Tony McCandless, Gila River Indian Community
- Andrea Mitchell, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation
- Julie Simpson, Nez Perce Tribe
- James Williams, Muscogee Creek Nation

Tribal Organizations (1)

- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association

EPA (9)

- Peter Earley, EPA/Region 9
- Amanda Hauff, EPA/OCSPP
- Blake Huff, EPA/Region 8
- Loren LaPointe, EPA/OCSPP
- Thomas Lopiano, EPA
- Rachel Ricciardi, EPA/OCSPP
- Meleia Rose, EPA
- Mary Rust, EPA/OPP
- Emily Ryan, EPA/OCSPP

Other (3)

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

Welcome/Introductions

Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes facilitated the roll call.

2. Request for Feedback on EPA's Federal Certification Training for Private Applicators of RUPs within Indian Country (Thomas Lopiano and Meleia Rose, EPA Certification and Worker Protection Branch)

They are currently in the process of updating the EPA Private applicator training and are gathering feedback from those who have completed the training.

Jasmine mentioned that it didn't feel like a Tribal training and things like cultural resources and waterways need to be integrated into the core manual. Rachel Ricciardi, EPA, mentioned that they offer this training quarterly. EPA would like to incorporate specific Tribal examples into each chapter so that there is broad representation from various areas of the country.

Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation, noted that in the training bleach is recommended to clean pesticide spills and that this can cause a chemical reaction and cannot be used with all pesticides. She felt the training was very thorough.

Rachel suggested contacting everyone who has completed the training in the past 2 years for feedback on both Tribal and applicators perspective.

Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes, feels that the applicator training was established without Tribal input or concerns being addressed. He disagrees with some aspects of the program as a whole.

Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, asked if there is a part of the training that deals with Ethics on Tribal lands and if not, this should definitely be incorporated as the training is supposed to promote responsible application of pesticides. Jasmine would also like to see Worker Protection Standards (WPS) and Pollinator protection included. Renee mentioned that WPS is included but spread out over sections where it's pertinent.

3. EPA Updates (Rachel, Emily, Amanda, Blake, Helene, Loren)

Amanda Hauff, EPA, provided an update on making changes/edits to the Status of Pesticides in Indian Country Report. They are meeting with lawyers this week on how the document can be used in the future, with regard to changing existing text and adding new sections. UC Davis has licensing rights for the images and the cover.

Jasmine and Nina brought up the EPA's PFAS roadmap and it was decided to add this to the January meeting agenda for further discussion as PFAS and pesticides often overlap. **Jasmine offered to give a presentation from the Tribal PFAS workgroup.**

Next steps for the EPA Climate Adaptation Plan is that the OCSPP will be sharing the implementation plan soon.

4. TPPC Administrator Updates (Mark, Mehrdad)

- a. New EC Call Format Starting in January: the TPPC will incorporate a closed-door Tribal Caucus portion for the first 30 minutes of the TPPC monthly meeting. If it works well we will continue it for future meetings as well.
- b. At-Large EC Representative Runoff Election Last Call: vote today for the 4th at-large position
- c. The Spring Meeting will be held April 19-21 and hosted by White Earth Nation. We are aiming for an in-person event, but will likely end up with a hybrid offering, as some folks may not be able or willing to travel yet.
- d. Draft Issue Paper on Opting out of the Federal Certification & Training (C&T) Plan: Dan Hoyt, Gila River Indian Community, prepared an excellent draft to get us started. Anyone interested in helping flesh it out should contact Mark.
- e. Website Upgrade: upgrades are currently happening and should be live in early January.
- f. Website visit Stats: November had 528 views from 155 users and YTD is 3996 views from 1194 users.

5. IPM Invasive Species Discussion (Amanda Hauff, All)

When battling invasive plants, it's important to determine which pesticides can be used and how to navigate dealing with them. There is concern about the Federal policy of bringing in invasives to deal with other invasives and how climate change is affecting what is 'normal'. There are differences between the Tribes and the government in how IPM is practiced and understood.

Mary Rust, EPA/OPP IPM Center mentioned that they have several webinars on invasive species available on their website. They can also put together new webinars if anyone has suggestions. The EPA recognizes the importance of consulting with Tribes on webinars as some plants are culturally integral to Tribal practices.

6. TPPC Comment Strategy Discussion

Nina gave a summary of the topics addressed in the draft Comment Strategy document, which is available for comments through a shared google document. The topics include Pollinators strategic plan, Cannabis paper, the C&T opt-out paper, updating the Status of Pesticides in Indian Country Report, the EPA strategic plan, National Program Guidance, co-op agreement guidelines and microplastics. We will be working with ITEP's Technical Advisory Committee to help with the commenting procedure. Both TPPC and other Tribal issues can be added to the list. Jasmine suggested that **Mark could share the link to TPPC members so all could contribute.**

7. Slideshow of the Status of Pesticides in Indian Country Report (Nina, All)

Nina is working on a slide presentation that will be available for anyone to use. She will ask Mark to share a draft with everyone for comments before being finalized.

Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association, mentioned that they are working on four pamphlets for different regions of California on pesticides for basketweavers.

8. December SFIREG Meeting Report (Jim Mossett, All)

Jim gave a presentation at the SFIREG meeting about Tribal and TPPC activities. Please send any items from the different workgroups that you would like presented to SFIREG (to showcase what TPPC is working on) to Mark.

9. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics/COVID Check-in (All)

Jasmine mentioned that a white paper on microplastics might be necessary soon.

Renee has been involved with the Minnesota Migrant Workers consortium to increase protections for migrant workers when it comes to pesticides, Covid precautions and heat related illnesses. They are pushing for a big change in legislation. If other states bring this up with the Department of Agriculture they can push for national changes.

Someone asked if Emergency Plans exist for facilities containing pesticides in the event of natural disasters such as tornados or hurricanes. Carol Kriebs, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho believes this falls under FEMA.

James Jackson, Muscogee Creek Nation mentioned that invitations will be sent out in January for the Tribal PERT being held May 17-19, 2022.

10. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST

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