

**Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee**  
**Monthly Conference Call**  
2/15/23  
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 (16)**

- David Anderson, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Monroe Burianek, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Josiah Candelaria, Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council
- Brittani Clairmont, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Jasmine Courville, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Joe Herrera, Yakama Nation
- Daniel Hoyt, Gila River Indian Community
- James Jackson, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Nation
- Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes
- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Jessica Raspitha, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Gerald Wagner, Blackfoot Tribe & Chair of National Tribal Environmental Caucus
- Ron Workman, The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

**Tribal Organizations (1)**

- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association

**EPA (6)**

- Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA
- Jonathan Binder, EPA/OECA
- Vanessa Emerson, EPA
- Judith Kendall, EPA/OCSP
- Loren LaPointe, EPA/OCSP
- Emily Ryan, EPA/OCSP
- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSP

**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 (2)**

- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe

## 1. Tribal Caucus

## 2. Welcome/Introductions

Jasmine Courville, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes welcomed everyone and facilitated the roll call.

## 3. EPA Updates

### a. Bee Course (Loren LaPointe, OCSPP)

An Instructor from Cornell University spoke at the Pollinator Protection Workgroup meeting recently with an overview of a weeklong Bee Course taking place in Arizona in August. There is a possibility of sending someone from the TPPC to take the course but may be cost prohibitive (tuition is \$1200). He may be able to speak to our group sometime with a shortened version of information about native bees. Loren will follow up on this.

<https://www.thebeecourse.org/>

Jasmine mentioned that during the Tribal Caucus portion of today's meeting they discussed an item to bring up with Ed Messina regarding native pollinators and native plants and fixed carbon found in soil. Linsey Walsh, EPA agreed that putting together a one-pager ahead of time would be beneficial so that EPA is prepared to provide useful information to the group. **She and Mark will work on putting this together.**

### b. OECA's National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives consultation.

Jonathan Binder, EPA/OECA reported that in early January they sent a letter to Tribal leaders announcing an opportunity to consult with the EPA on National Enforcement and Compliance initiatives which they establish every 3 years. The next cycle is FY2024-2026.

Link to consultation opportunity: <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/national-enforcement-and-compliance-initiatives>

In the United States there exist serious and widespread violations and they set priorities and develop strategies to address them using 3 criteria: 1. Widespread non-compliance problem, 2. Federal enforcement by EPA can make a difference, and 3. Fits with the agency's strategic plan.

Currently they are addressing what those 6 national priorities should be. The agency is proposing to keep 4 of the 6 so that they would continue because they don't feel like the work is sufficiently far enough along yet.

Jonathan displayed 4 (of the 6) Existing National Enforcement Initiatives that are the highest priority that the agency focuses on and will be continued:

- Creating Cleaner Air for Communities by Reducing Excess Emissions of Harmful Pollutants.
- Reducing Risks of Accidental Releases at Industrial and Chemical Facilities.
- Reducing Significant Non-Compliance in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program.

- Reducing Non-Compliance with Drinking Water Standards at Community Water Systems.

They are seeking feedback on four additional initiatives: (2 of these will be added to the list)

- Mitigating climate change
- PFAS contamination
- Lead in water and paint
- Coal combustion residuals /by-products in the environment

They will hold a webinar on Feb. 22 to provide more information. They are open to additional related suggestions from Tribes. The consultation period closes on March 13. The TPPC can submit comments through the public docket:

[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Docket # EPA-HQ-OECA-2022-0981-0001

Jasmine asked if there is any mention of Indian Country being a priority area of non-compliance. Jonathan responded that it has not been proposed as a stand alone initiative. The National initiatives dealing with drinking water and the Clean Water act cover public water systems and permits in Indian Country.

#### **c. NTC FY25 budget/guidance planning FYI**

Emily Ryan, OCSPP mentioned that more information will be coming soon about the annual NTC funding request and the TPPC will be asked to contribute.

#### **4. TPPC Administrator Updates**

- a. Spring Meeting Update
- b. Website statistics

This information will be sent out in an email to the group.

#### **5. Community Lead Awareness Project**

Judy Kendall, EPA provided an overview of their 2023 Community Lead Awareness Project identifying the overall goal of reducing harm to children from exposure to lead in underrepresented and underserved communities. Here is a link to the presentation:

[Community Lead Awareness](#)

They will be conducting training pilot sessions in some areas and then going to several communities in each EPA Region for training centered around increasing awareness about sources of lead contamination (mostly paint) and ways to reduce risk. It is their goal to collaborate with many Tribes and the funding includes money for traveling to Tribal communities to conduct in person training.

#### **6. Tribal Caucus Report-out**

This will be reported at the next meeting.

#### **7. Workgroup Report-out**

## 8. NTC Updates

Gerald Wagner was present and filling in for Meyo Marrufo. The NTC will be planning dates soon to bring in Tribal groups early so that they can get back to EPA ahead of funding decisions.

There was an inquiry about Alaska Tribes and how they receive consultation invitations. The group would like to have a representative from Region 10 join a future conference call to explain how it works.

## 9. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics

There are none at this time.

**10. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, April 19\*, 2023, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST \* There will be no monthly call in March due to our semi-annual meeting March 8-10**

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