

**TRIBAL PESTICIDE PROGRAM COUNCIL  
MONTHLY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL**

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Call Notes

**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 (12)**

- Brenda Pusher-Begay, White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Dwight Carlston, Gila River Indian Community
- James Jackson, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Jessica Raspitha, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Joe Herrera, Yakama Nation
- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Reservation
- Sheldon Jones, Navajo Nation
- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community

**Tribal Organizations (1)**

- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association

**EPA (3)**

- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSP
- Emily Ryan, EPA/OCSP
- Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA

**Other (2)**

- Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- McKenna King, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

**Reported in advance as absent (2)**

- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians

**1. Tribal Caucus**

**2. Welcome/Introductions**

Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, welcomed everyone and facilitated roll call.

### 3. EPA Updates

Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSP, announced that an EPA team has met to work on training updates for private applicators of RUPs in Indian Country. Some of these team members will attend the next TPPC monthly executive meeting in December to be part of the conversation around what TPPC members would like added to and/or removed from the training. Jasmine requested the training be sent to TPPC executive members to develop comments and questions. Emily Ryan, EPA/OCSP is working on getting a shareable PDF version of the training and will ensure that TPPC members are sent a copy of this as soon as possible. Other options could be a temporary work group where members view and critique sections of the training together. The current plan is to meet next month and to create an updated training very soon based on feedback.

Jasmine inquired about what is considered a commercial license. Linsey is unsure and thinks the certification and worker protection branch could help to clarify this and will check in with them.

Emily shared that emails have been sent out to Tribes providing notice of the finalization of the EPA plan in Indian Country rule. She also announced that Mike Metzger is retiring at the end of the month. There is a final meeting of the Risk Assessment work group with him next Monday. Emily will be sending out an invitation to a Microsoft Teams meeting that will be held Monday November 20, 2023 at 11am-12pm Eastern time. If you are not on the risk assessment work group list already and would like to attend, email Emily to receive the link for the invitation for this meeting. The work he was doing related to the risk assessment pilot project will still be continued.

### 4. TPPC Administrator Updates

#### a. Fall Meeting Follow-up

Fall meeting agenda, links to presentations, notes, attendee list, and photos are on the website. Travel reimbursements should be issued very soon.

#### b. Spring Meeting Announcement

The Spring Meeting dates are March 6-8, 2024 and will be held in Washington DC. The AAPCO meeting is March 4-6, 2024 so people can attend both meetings, although the APPCO meeting will be held in Alexandria Virginia. Mark will send out information regarding hotels and meeting location as plans move forward to gather feedback for members preferences.

#### c. Election Update

Results from the election were sent out October 31, 2023. Representatives are missing for region 8. If anyone from region 8 would like to be the representative, let Mark know.

#### **d. ITEP Performance Evaluation Results**

Mark will send out the report. Mark will look into the payment logistics for a working lunch at the next meetings. Members had shared that they would like the newsletters to be provided as drafts to members to receive feedback before publishing.

#### **e. Newsletter Survey**

TPPC members can share their ideas and preferences for the TPPC quarterly newsletter by completing the newsletter survey by November 29, 2023. Link to the survey [https://qualtrics.nau.edu/jfe/form/SV\\_e9RDZx9AhEps818](https://qualtrics.nau.edu/jfe/form/SV_e9RDZx9AhEps818)

#### **f. December Meeting Date**

The next Executive Committee conference call is now rescheduled to December 13, 2023.

### **5. Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Overview (Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA)**

[Presentation slides.](#)

Helene provided an overview of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and offices within OECA; the Office of Compliance (OC), Office of Civil Enforcement (OCE), Office of Criminal Enforcement Forensics and Training (OCEFT), Office of Administration and Policy (OAP), Office of Site Remediation Enforcement (OSRE), and Federal Facilities Enforcement Office (FFEO). OC oversees the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program and allocates funding to the regions which provides funding for inspections by grantees. Serves on rule-making work group. The OC Monitoring, Assistance and Media Programs Division has many roles related to compliance monitoring such as inspector credentialing, cooperative agreements, and releasing inspection reports. See slide 7 for links that provide resources related to compliance assistance. See slide 10 for links to documents related to Pesticides, Waste, and Toxics Branch guidance.

Jasmine asked about funding due to concerns related to staff retention in tribal environmental departments. She expressed concern that funding into the future may not support employees long term and is concerned about the stability of funding. Helene shared that funding is not guaranteed but that in recent years funding has generally increased.

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

Jasmine shared about the White Paper/Comment Paper work group that will replace the Direct Implementation work group.

## 7. Workgroup Report-out

No updates noted.

## 8. NTC Updates

No updates noted.

## 9. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics

Jasmine spoke about a rodenticide work group issue shared with her by Amy Sullivan, secretary of State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG). She is interested in creating a survey to assess if there are reservations that would prefer to not have rodenticides or to have restrictions on rodenticides to provide to SFIREG or AAPCO at the spring meeting or sooner, by March at the latest. Linsey will reach out to Dana Friedman to ask about the timeline to see how quickly feedback is needed to be incorporated into decisions.

Jasmine is interested in the incident data that EPA recently made publicly available. Linsey is on a workgroup for incident screening and can ask if someone from the group can attend a future meeting.

Jasmine inquired about supervisors using remote technology to monitor farms from further away than 100 miles away. Linsey can ask to see if anyone who works with certification and worker protection has any insight into this issue. Ted Puetz came across a similar issue and they determined that supervisors must be within line of sight of the activities they are supervising.

Jasmine asked if EPA could get John Deere data to better understand pesticide use. Helene stated that pesticide use data is not collected. States and local authorities perform use inspections. Helene would like to follow up on this conversation when there is more time and to see what authority would allow them to do this but is unsure of how they would be able to collect use information from John Deere.

## 10. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- December 4-7: Basic PIRT (Savannah, GA: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/pesticide-inspector-residential-training-pirt>)
- December 4-5: SFIREG Meeting (Washington, DC: <https://aapco.org/2015/07/30/sfireg-3/>)
- March 3-6: AAPCO Spring Meeting (Alexandria, VA: <https://aapco.org/2015/07/31/aapco-2/>)