

**Tribal Pesticide Program Council Executive Committee**  
**Monthly Conference Call**  
01/17/24  
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 (24)**

- Alexis Bruce, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Brenda Pusher-Begay, White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Brittani Clairmont, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Camilo Perez, Quechan Indian Tribe
- Dorla Tartsah, Kiowa Tribe
- Eric Gjevre, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe
- James Jackson, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Jefferson Biakeddy, Navajo Nation
- Jeremy Phillips, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Jessica Raspitha, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes
- Cricket Herrera, Yakama Nation
- John Wright, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
- Judy Stillwell, Choctaw Nation
- Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- Luis Sanchez, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Renee Keezer, White Earth Reservation
- Ron Workman, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Sheldon Jones, Navajo Nation
- Tacy Jensen, Gila River Indian Community
- Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Tony McCandless, Gila River Indian Community
- Troy Techlin, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

**Tribal Organizations (3)**

- Lawrence Atencio, Eight Northern Indian Pueblos
- Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- Melanie Kirby, Institute of American Indian Arts

**EPA (4)**

- Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSP
- Emily Ryan, EPA/OCSP
- Vanessa Emerson, EPA/OCSP
- Brian Irwin, EPA Region 6

## **Reported in advance as absent (4)**

- Diania Caudell, California Indian Basketweavers Association
- Helene Ambrosino, EPA/OECA
- McKenna King, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
- Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians

### **1. Tribal Caucus**

### **2. Welcome/Introductions**

Mark Daniels, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), facilitated roll call.

### **3. EPA Updates (Linsey, Emily, Vanessa, Helene)**

#### **a. Rodenticide Biological Evaluations**

Linsey Walsh, EPA/OCSPP, shared that the public comment period for the Rodenticide Biological Evaluations has been extended by 15 days with a new deadline of Feb 13 2024. Linsey provided a link for this in the chat and has sent the announcement to the TPPC listserv. **Please submit comments if you would like to.**

Jasmine Brown, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, is interested in providing a comment letter summarizing the TPPC Rodenticide Survey. **Linsey will double check to see if a comment letter can be submitted to the docket after the public comment period closes** so that TPPC members have more time to compile the letter. Members of the Pesticide Reevaluation Division and Environmental Feedback Division will be attending the February TPPC Executive Committee call to speak about the biological evaluations.

#### **b. Public Incident Data System**

Ted Puetz, Ak-Chin Indian Community, inquired regarding updates on this topic. Linsey had checked in with Susan Jennings about the website malfunction, but there is no update regarding the website being fixed. Linsey has requested Susan come speak at the March TPPC meeting to talk about the incident data system. Linsey has sent Ted's specific questions to have them addressed when Susan attends the meeting.

### **4. TPPC Administrator Updates (Mark, Mehrdad, McKenna)**

#### **a. Spring Meeting Update**

The Spring Meeting will be held March 6-8, 2024 at EPA headquarters. TPPC members will be staying at the Holiday Inn Washington Capitol at the National Mall. Mark shared that walking to the meeting location from the hotel is under 1 mile and that the meeting location is 1 metro stop away from the hotel. Mark has sent out a link for registration and requested **those who plan on attending in person and who would like travel support to register by Monday 1/22**. ITEP can provide 18 people with travel support and 10 of those with travel support for the AAPCO meeting. **Mark will send out a draft agenda of the TPPC Spring Meeting shortly.**

**b. TPPC Presentation to AAPCO Meeting**

Renee Keezer, White Earth Reservation, will be presenting on White Earth's risk assessment project and the TPPC Rodenticide Survey results. Melanie Kirby, Institute of American Indian Arts, volunteered to present on pollinator work. **Mark will email Renee and Melanie to coordinate with them for their presentations.**

**c. New Trainings Page on Website**

The page provides past TPPC training materials such as recordings of presentations and handouts. Upcoming training information is also displayed. TPPC members are welcome to provide feedback to improve this webpage.

**d. Training Needs Survey**

The training needs survey from 2 years ago indicated a need for pesticide code development training. Mark is working with the Yurok tribe, specifically Judge Abby Abinati to collaborate on this training. Mark is also coordinating with attorney Steohanie Dolon who worked on the Tribal Pesticide Code Template which is on the TPPC website and can be found [here](#). The goal is to produce a 2 part webinar training, one in late spring and another in late summer. **Mark will be sending a new training needs survey in the next week to assess current training needs.**

**5. Tribal Caucus Report-out**

**a. Endangered Species Act (ESA) Collaboration Concerns**

TPPC members are interested in working with a contact from the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to address issues related to the ESA . Jasmine reported specific concerns around ESA such as FWS issuing permits to spray pesticides in Indian Country, or very near by, and adjacent to areas of concern such as wetlands and goose/duck habitat, as well as issuing oil permits nearby endangered species nesting areas with no notifications to Tribes. Jasmine would like more coordination and partnership with FWS, as it is currently lacking. **Linsey will follow up with this question,** "How can FWS headquarters encourage local offices to foster a better relationship with Tribes before activities such as permitting and spraying occurs?"

**6. Workgroup Report-out**

**a. Policy Work Group**

This is the new work group meeting monthly focused on issue papers, white papers and comments. In the meeting they discussed treated seeds and Mark has drafted a comment letter on the topic.

**b. Pollinator Work Group**

Linsey shared that the group has been working through a document of ideas. Topics of recent importance include finding a speaker to share about pollinators beyond bees such as bats. The group also worked through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Pollinator Priority Report to provide comments and questions. Next steps are to prioritize specific goals with trainings, speakers, and resources.

James Jackson, Muscogee Creek Nation, suggested working with the Tribal Alliance for Pollinators (TAP) as a resource for plants and seeds for native plants. Mark asked for a contact for TAP for a presentation for the spring meeting. **James will send TAP contact information to Mark.**

Mark shared that McKenna recently drafted an article for the TPPC newsletter on non-bee pollinators that could be of interest to those in the pollinator work group.

Melanie shared that a tribal pollinator training event will be hosted at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, NM on May 28th-30th. This will be a collaboration between Bureau of Land Management (BLM), EPA, USDA, FWS and Tribal representatives to better learn what is of interest for tribal communities in terms of pollinator conservation. There will be a monitoring workshop, presentations, round table discussions, and potentially a field trip. **Melanie will send invitation information to Mark to be passed along to the TPPC.**

## **7. NTC Updates (Meyo Marrufo)**

No updates noted.

## **8. Other Issues/Concerns/Hot Topics (All)**

### **a. TPPC Member Pollinator Subcommittee Appointment**

Melanie shared she has been appointed by the US Secretary to the inaugural Pollinator Subcommittee and looks forward to sharing indigenous perspectives with this platform.

## **9. Next TPPC Conference Call: Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 2:00-4:00 p.m. EST**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- March 3-6: AAPCO Spring Meeting (Alexandria, VA: <https://aapco.org/2015/07/31/aapco-2/>)
- March 6-8: TPPC Spring Meeting (Washington, DC)
- April 22-25: Certification and Training PREP (Fort Collins, CO: <https://agsci.colostate.edu/agbio/prep/>)
- June 24-27: Compliance and Enforcement Management PREP (Davis, CA: <https://agsci.colostate.edu/agbio/prep/>)

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