



## Minutes for Board Meeting of November 14, 2007

PARC Board Coordinator: Kathleen Harvey

### Board Members Present

Chris Kirby, PARC Board Administrator  
Dale Mitchell, PARC Co-Chair  
Gail R. Shibley, PARC Co-Chair  
Brad Knotts, ODF  
Chris Kuenzi, OSFM  
Greg Pettit, DEQ  
Garnet Cooke, OR-OSHA

### Board Members Absent

Sandy Giffin, OHSU/Poison Control  
Will Lackey, ODOT  
Richard Kepler, ODF&W

### Consultants Present

Dr. Fred Berman, CROET  
Justin Waltz, OPHD  
Jeff Jenkins, OSU/Env. & Molecular Tox.

### Consultants Absent

Dr. Dan Sudakin, OSU/Env. & Molecular Tox.

### Guests Present

Deanna Conners, OPHD  
Dr. Carol Gunn

## **I. Introductions:**

- a. Called to order: 9:10 a.m.
- b. Introductions of all present took place. The guests introduced themselves. Deanna Conners introduced herself as the new OEPH toxicologist.
- c. The September 2007 draft minutes were unanimously accepted as presented.

## **II. Old Business:**

### **Status of Data Base**

- The Coordinator stated that the database is functional and still having data entered, as she was gone for most of October on statewide training for another program.

### **Florence Case**

- Dale Mitchell stated that ODA is still in discussion with EPA regarding the interpretation of labeling language with regard to ventilation and that EPA is still considering legal action that might be taken regarding this incident.

### **Kasch's Garden Center**

- Citations have been issued by OROSHA in this incident. Kathleen asked that DEQ provide a contact so that she could find out what had been accomplished at this site.

### **Reforestation Services Inc.**

- This company has three incidents that are of concern at this time.
  - The Linnton Community Center Day Care case has been classified and is addressed later in the meeting minutes.
  - An employee complaint is generating OROSHA action with regard to PPE, Worker Protection Standards training and the lack of decontamination equipment (soap and water) on application sites. OROSHA will be taking well samples due to the claims of contamination made by the employee. After discussion it was determined that DEQ

would not have the time to analyze the samples, so OROSHA will be taking samples to a local laboratory. Additionally, after discussion with Jeff Jenkins and the OEPH toxicologist, OROSHA will not be asking for dioxin to be one of the chemicals.

- Two helicopter applications, by Reforestation Services Inc., of herbicides to the forest in Lane County have generated complaints of health affects. ODA and ODF are involved in investigations. One of the complainants has contacted EPA regarding a lack of response by government with regard to their concerns about these kinds of applications. These complaints are also related to the following item.

#### **Pitchfork Rebellion/LRAPA**

••The Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority was sent a letter by PARC that outlined the role of PARC in the state as well as gave summaries of official complaints, from the last ten years, by Lane County residents who live along the Highway 36 corridor. It was pointed out that each agency has different policies regarding recordkeeping and a request was made to create and share a chart of the different recordkeeping of each member agency.

One of the Lane County complainants who is also a representative of the “pitchfork rebellion” has contacted U.S. EPA to complain that state lead agencies were not “responding” to public complaints regarding the application of herbicides, as well as numerous other issues that he feels have not been addressed by government agencies. Mr. Downey, of U.S. EPA spoke with ODA regarding the specific investigation and generally about health affects complaints. This person has complained that he wrote a letter to PARC, as well as other state agencies in 2005, and that he never received a response. He has been asked to send a copy of that letter to U.S. EPA so that PARC may respond to it.

Members discussed the need for a communication strategy to help the public to effectively document and communicate events of concern and also to communicate, to these concerned citizens, the actual role of public agencies. There was also discussion of a letter directly to the members of the Pitchfork Rebellion regarding the role of PARC that will give important agency contact information. During this and the discussion of the Waldport Petition the role and training of local physicians was reviewed, with the aim of identifying means of communication with these local physicians to remind them of the symptoms of pesticide poisoning and the requirement to report suspected pesticide poisonings.

#### **Waldport Petition**

••Greg Pettit was recently contacted by Senator Wyden’s office regarding what was being done in the Waldport, Oregon area. Senator Wyden expressed interest in what PARC was doing. Here also the Board discussed the need for a more proactive role in determining how to respond to general and chronic illness complaints. Important in this discussion was the determination of what PARC does and doesn’t do. This item was also connected to the agenda item under new business, Workgroup on Pesticide Use in Oregon Schools.

### **III. New Business:**

#### **Workgroup on Pesticide Use in Oregon Schools**

••This workgroup was created in response to concerns voiced during the '07 legislative year that surrounded proposed legislation to limit use of pesticides. The workgroup, chaired by representative Bonamicci consists of legislators, public agencies and the public. There are four meetings planned, with two having been held in October and November, with two more to be held before the interim legislative session in 2008. The meeting in November included a presentation on PARC and the Pesticide Control Act. Representative Bonamicci has developed a subgroup to define the issues with regard to schools.

The workgroup meeting in November became a sounding board for several different groups that have concerns about the use of pesticides in their watersheds, around their homes and in forests. During discussion of these issues, the Board members requested a letter be sent to one of the principles in the meeting who is associated with the “Pitchfork Rebellion”. In

addition, the Board asked that the PARC coordinator develop an informational letter to send to concerned or affected parties regarding what PARC does, how the regulatory agencies respond to complaints, and to explain what they must do to get involved in the complaint process.

#### **Case Classification**

- Two cases were classified using the classification protocol in November. The two cases are the antimicrobial Truck Driver Case ('06) and the Linnton Community Center Day Care Case ('07).

#### Linnton Community Center Day Care PARC Case # 070006

- The classification of this case has been requested by media and the Linnton Community Center Board and may wind up being of concern to the media. The investigation was hampered by the lack of timeliness of reporting the incident and the rain event that occurred on the weekend following the application of pesticides to the railroad.

The panel proposed that PARC case # 070006 be classified as the following: Certainty Index: 4, Unlikely and Severity Index: 4, Low

The PARC Board unanimously affirmed the classification proposed by the panel.

#### Antimicrobial Truck Driver Case

- Dale discussed that further follow-up to this case would be made by ODA on proposed labeling for disinfectants. U.S. EPA has already written in the determination of legality of use that it will consider changes to the labeling language for the active ingredients. Greg brought up the idea that there should be standard language for antimicrobials as the lack of labeling language is a problem for other disinfectants/antimicrobials, including directions for ventilation. Additional discussion concerned the Oregon Emergency Response System perhaps needing a contact to assure that information regarding these kinds of incidents is forwarded to the correct departments. There is a continuing lack of understanding that disinfectants and antimicrobials are pesticides.

The panel proposed that this PARC case be classified as the following: Certainty Index: 3, Moderate severity illness or injury and Severity Index: 3, Possible.

The PARC Board unanimously affirmed the classification proposed by the panel.

#### **New Incidents/cases**

- The list of new and continuing cases was included in the handouts. Since the meeting had gone past 12:00 pm, members and consultants were asked to read the list and call Kathleen if they had questions about any of the incidents.

#### **V. Agency Updates**

No agency updates were given during this meeting due to time constraints.

**Adjourned at 12:35 p.m.**

Next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2007.