

January PARC Board Meeting Minutes

| DATE | LOCATION | START TIME | END TIME |
|-----------|-----------------|------------|----------|
| 1/21/2026 | Virtual meeting | 9:00AM | 10:10AM |

| FACILITATOR | CONTACT EMAIL | CONTACT PHONE |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Warren Hanson | warren.hanson@ODA.oregon.gov | 971-600-7447 |

PARC Member Agencies Present

Warren Hanson, PARC Board Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*
Jen Seamans, Program Manager, *Pesticide Exposure, Safety and Tracking Program, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*
Gilbert Uribe Valdez, PARC Board Administrator, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*
Becky Anthony, Water Quality Specialist, *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)*
Charisse Pizarro-Osilla, Director, *Oregon Poison Center (OPC)*
Todd Raska, Community Right to Know Program Manager, *Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM)*
David Gruen, Columbia River Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)*
Ted Bunch, Senior Policy Analyst and Legislative Coordinator, *Oregon OSHA (OR-OSHA)*

PARC Consultants Present

William Lackey, Statewide Vegetation Management Coordinator, *(ODOT)*
Fred Berman, Director, Toxicology Information Center, *Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences (OHSU)*

Other Persons Present

Krystal Abrams, Programs Director, *Beyond Toxics*
Serhan Mermer, Director, *National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)*
Dani Lightle, Policy and Stewardship Director, *Oregonians for Food and Shelter (OFS)*
Andrea Sonnen, Lead Pesticide Investigator, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*
Alan Martinez, Occupational Health & Pesticide Exposure Program Coordinator, *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*
Gail Langellotto, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, *Oregon State University (OSU)*

Introductions and Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. with housekeeping and review of the agenda. PARC Board minutes for November were reviewed and approved.

Agency Updates

Jen Seamans, Program Manager, Pesticide Exposure, Safety and Tracking Program, *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*

- 1) We've hired two epidemiologist positions that will have a small part within the pesticide program, as well as lead and occupational health programs.

Alan Martinez: Last quarter we had 47 cases, which is double from the same time period last year. I'm also giving a 15-minute presentation about pesticide exposures at multi-family household units. We talked with some of the cases, and there were a variety of pests, situations, and exposures.

Gilbert Uribe Valdez, PARC Board Administrator, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*

- 1) We have several vacancies that we are looking to fill, including for our pesticide registration team. Currently, we have two vacancies within that team. One new registration specialist starts tomorrow, and the other starts at the beginning of February. We also have an opening in our fertilizer team.
- 2) We're also starting the rulemaking process for recordkeeping for some applicators, working to clarify some of the rule language.

Rebecca Anthony, Water Quality Specialist, *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)*

- 1) February is when I get the vector control plans, other than that it has been quiet.

Ted Bunch, Senior Policy Analyst and Legislative Coordinator, *Oregon OSHA (OR-OSHA)*

- 1) I have a draft agenda for the upcoming pesticide symposium. Thanks to those who have agreed to speak, and thanks in advance for those who are going to agree to speak.

ROUGH DRAFT

David Gruen, Columbia River Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)*

- 1) No updates from me. Thank you.

Todd Raska, Community Right to Know Program Manager, *Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM)*

- 1) It is reporting season for the CR2K Program, January 1 to March 1. We have over 13,000 facilities that need to complete their reports in the online reporting system. Audit staff are out in the field conducting investigations for violations and proper reporting.

Fred Berman, Director, Toxicology Information Center, *Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences (OHSU)*

- 1) No updates from me.

Charisse Pizarro-Osilla, Director, *Oregon Poison Center (OPC)*

- 1) I'm going to gather information about the 2025 exposures and present it at the next meeting.

Gail Langellotto, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, *Oregon State University (OSU)*

- 1) I have no updates, but happy to be here.

Serhan Mermer Director, *National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)*

- 1) We are having a significant reduction in services, as we currently only have two specialists on staff. We are in the process of searching for other funding opportunities.

Aerial Pesticide Label language

Gilbert Uribe – I'm just going to give a brief overview of the guidance we give to aerial applicators. At the symposium, we will talk about the licensing requirements for drone applicators. A lot of the current labels don't have specific language allowing or not allowing drones. How do we allow the use that doesn't go against the regulations? Drones are referred to as unmanned aerial vehicles or unmanned aircraft systems. They both have slightly different technical definitions, but for our purposes, they are used interchangeably.

In Oregon, our statutory language states that applicators may not spray with drones unless they have a valid aerial pesticide applicator certificate issued by ODA. We've seen that there is some confusion about if someone has another license that allows them to use a drone to spray. Even if they have a private applicator license and are spraying their own land, they still need an aerial license.

Generally, we tell people that the label cannot prohibit applications by air. If it says, "Do not apply by air", then drones cannot be used for the application. If the label says that only a helicopter or fixed wing aircraft may be used, then drones are not allowed to be used. Applicators must still adhere to all other label restrictions. The label is the law.

Multi-unit housing complex exposures

Warren Hanson – Due to an increase in complaints about pesticide use at apartment complexes, we created a suite of materials about risk communication and pesticide use at apartment complexes, including study materials (with information in both English and Spanish), a brochure, and an advisory. Since the introduction of that material, we have seen a decrease in the number of those cases. Of course, I don't know if that is due in part to the information we've passed out to applicators, but I'd like to think so.

Alan Martinez – Over the last couple of months, we've seen an increase in residential multi-family settings. Most of the cases had adverse health effects, with contributing factors including drift, lack of notification, lack of PPE, foggers, and not reading the label. The route of exposure was mostly respiratory, but some dermal exposure. We also saw an increase in cases all the way out into December.

OHA and case confidentiality

Jen Seamans – Over the last year, people have changed how willing people are to share information with government entities. We thought it would be timely to review Oregon statute and how they collect data and use it. A couple references to statute that guide our work. For protective health information, this applies to OHA and the state. It basically states that individually identifiable information is protected. Some of our statute governs information obtained during our investigations, and that some information remains confidential despite public records law. Only general information about the case can be provided if there is a public records request. OHA is authorized to share that information with other agencies for the purpose of protecting public health, but it is still limited to that general information.

What this means for us at OHA is about balancing public trust and the release of government data. During the pandemic, we ended up changing our policies about the release of data. To keep some information private yet still provide information that was helpful about COVID exposures at workplaces was a balancing act. What this means for PARC is that we want to be able to provide useful information while still protect identifiable case data.

PARC Case Discussion

PARC Cases #26-0084

A grass seed farmer was noticing dead raptors over multiple months. He said that he had first-hand information that his neighbor was mixing strychnine and vole bait to make it more effective. The complainant thought the two issues were related. After speaking with the complainant, he planned to go collect a dead raptor that he knew was out in the field. Unfortunately, due to flooding in the area, the carcass was washed away, and he was unable to collect the animal. He did say that in future, he would be certain to collect it as soon as possible.

PARC Case #26-0086:

In this case, a farmworker was found unconscious and was taken to the hospital and was in a coma for an unknown amount of time. The doctor believed that it was due to pesticide exposure.

Andrea Sonnen: We've been asking additional questions about this case, but we have not been able to identify a specific acute exposure for the person. It appears that it may be more of a chronic exposure.

Ted Bunch: Can you send me the employer contact information for this case, please? Workplace exposures are required to be sent to OSHA within eight hours.

Public Comment

Closing

The next PARC board meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026, at 9am. If you have any suggestions for agenda items for that meeting, please let Warren know.