

July PARC Board Meeting Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
7/16/2025	Virtual meeting	9:00AM	10:00AM

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)*

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

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

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

Mark Johnston, Assistant Chief Deputy, *Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM)*

PARC Consultants Present

William Lackey, Statewide Vegetation Management Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)*

Other Persons Present

Christina Higby, Citizen Advocate Liaison, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*

Meredith Cocks, Project Coordinator, *National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)*

Alan Martinez, Occupational Health & Pesticide Exposure Program Coordinator, *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*

Dani Lightle, Policy and Stewardship Director, *Oregonians for Food and Shelter (OFS)*

Kaci Buhl, Associate Professor PSEP, *Oregon State University (OSU)*

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 May were reviewed and approved.

Agency Updates

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

- We had just a couple of bills that were introduced and tracked by the agencies. One of those was a registration fee cap for pesticide products. This is not the actual fee increase, that will have to go through the rulemaking process, but rather it raises the highest cap for fees from \$ 400 to \$ 550 per pesticide product. We are currently only charging \$ 360 per pesticide product. We are also going through some analyses of the program and the budget to see what we need to do moving forward to maintain program function. Another thing that was approved was a policy option package for three positions within the Certification and Training program. These are the people that work on exams, manuals, and exam development. We are an agency that relies heavily on fees, whereas other agencies may be able to more utilize the general fund. We'll be looking to fill those positions in the near future. They will support the implementation of the certification and training plan. We've been working closely with the Washington State Department of Agriculture and Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District to see how they do their Worker Protection Standard train the trainer trainings. We've had participants from OR-OSHA to attend those trainings. We still seeing that there is a need for those trainings here in Oregon, so we are looking at their trainings to see what we may be able to use here in Oregon.

Alan Martinez, Occupational Health & Pesticide Exposure Program Coordinator, *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*

- An update about The Occupational Public Health program, we may be able to begin working on a *photonovela*. That would be information for pesticide decontamination and exposure events. That's one of the projects in mind for the future. Our tracking system for pesticide cases had been glitching but has been resolved. We will also attend the Binational Health week, which happens in October. On another note, *plaguacid* is regularly used in parts of Latin America, while here we use

pesticidas. However, when I've been interviewing people for pesticide cases, they sometimes use the word *químico*.

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

- We don't really have any updates.

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

- The only thing I have is that with the long session behind us, we have the short session to look forward to, which I believe begins on February 2nd. I've already begun preparing for the session. I also recently sent updates to OSHA's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for PARC.

William Lackey, Statewide Vegetation Management Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)*

- Nothing as far as PARC is concerned, but we're going through a few things here at ODOT.

Mark Johnston, Assistant Chief Deputy, *Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM)*

- Business as usual, we've been out in the field with forestry and federal partners, so we're about halfway through the season. We also closed out the legislative session, which is always nice. Nothing to report except the Community Right to Know program is fully staffed now. We're much more able to get out into the field and visit facilities all over the state. Each month, we're adding about 20-30 facilities each month. We're also cleaning out the system of facilities that are no longer operating or don't need to report.

Other Group Updates

Meredith Cocks, Project Coordinator, *National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)*

- We launched our live chat on our website in the winter and we are getting inquiries from around the country and around the world. It's very interesting to have those conversations, but it's very tough to talk about risk with people from other countries where they are using products that may not be allowed here.

Kaci Buhl, Associate Professor PSEP, *Oregon State University (OSU)*

- The Pesticide Safety Education Program season is shaping up, as I'm asking speakers to come out to events, but it appears that a lot of speakers are being worn a little thin. The federal landscape has also been very volatile and difficult to navigate at this time. I also work on the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative. Our experts are working on updating the glossary of pesticide terms in both English and Spanish and came to us yesterday saying that they wanted to update the term for 'pesticide'. 'Pesticidas' is the term we usually use, but that is only a word that is used in the United States. It is a 'Spanishization' of an English word. In other Spanish speaking countries, 'plaguacidas' is the term used. We are in the process of updating our materials with that update.

Christina Higby, Citizen Advocate Liaison, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*

- I don't have anything other than an uptick in questions about bees. So I've been looking for more resources about that.

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

- I'm seeing a lot of chatter about pollinators and why people aren't seeing bees around this year. It's just interesting to see the psychology of chatter on social media and how people jump to conclusions about why they aren't seeing pollinators.

Dani Lightle, Policy and Stewardship Director, *Oregonians for Food and Shelter (OFS)*

- No updates, but thanks for asking!

OR-OSHA agency overview

See PARC website for presentation about OR-OSHA's scope, purpose, and function.

PARC SOP's

Warren: We're in the process of updating PARC SOP's but this fine tuning is not just limited to that. Recently, I was working with one of the intake specialists with DEQ, who use a list of pesticide terms to search their database for cases that involve pesticides. During this time, we decided that I would send an updated list of pesticides terms, to ensure that everything is being caught. That includes a lot of lesser known pesticides terms, including treated wood, disinfecting wipes, growth regulators, and other things you may not think of as pesticides. Because of that, the next search for cases brought in a number of cases from them that may have normally fallen between the gaps. The point is, if you have any updates or need to fine tune any processes, I'm happy to meet with you or any of your staff members to be sure that we are catching all the PARC cases that are coming in.

PARC Case Discussion

PARC Case #26-0003 – 26-0006: because of the fine tuning of the search terms, we did get several cases all related to the burning of treated wood. For the beginning of the fiscal year 2026, we got four burning treated wood cases. Some were just about burning treated wood, while others were burning treated wood and then throwing it into a lake or river. Those were all similar, and as they were air quality concerns that originated with DEQ, and the fact that treated wood is weird, they did not go to any other agencies.

PARC Case #25-0149: This case was a report that came in through OERS about a farm shop that was on fire. There were concerns about there being totes of pesticides and fertilizers on-site, as well as a diesel fuel tank. The fire crew reacted quickly and were able to knock the fire down. The HAZMAT crew was also on-site. I passed it along to OSFM and DEQ. This happened in Hermiston.

Mark: I can't remember if CR2K investigated this case. If this was at a farm, it's exempt from reporting. In general, ag facilities are not required to report for CR2K. We use NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) business codes to identify business for the program. However, if there is another code that is applicable to the site, and they have a reportable quantity, they would then need to report that to us. If the grower only grows grass seed (for example), they would not need to report to us. If they also processed or do mixes, that's a different NAICS code, and would need to be reported. That's only if they have reportable quantities, but they would be subject to reporting, due to the additional code related to the facility. If they had a 500 gallon propane tank for a forklift for that activity, they may need to report that to OSFM.

Warren: If the facility has to report chemicals for the processing side of the business, would they also need to report chemicals in reportable quantities for the agriculture portion?

Mark: It would only be reportable for the processing portion, or the NAICS code that made them subject to reporting.

Gail: What is the logic behind exempting ag facilities from reporting to OSFM?

Mark: Great question. This happened a while ago, but I believe it was due to wanting to not overburden the ag industry. I suspect that they are exempt in many other areas as well. Another component is that substances are also subject to a fee, so it may be more about not wanting to impart another fee. In addition, other ag operations are very small crews working very long hours to capitalize on a short season. So wanting to prevent regulatory burden. After the explosion in St. Paul, I met with the fire department and the ag community who asked about ag facilities reporting. Because there is an exemption, it is optional.

PARC Case #25-0152: This report came in from a family that was staying at a resort on tribal land and reported that someone was spraying pesticides in the area. The complainant reported that he believed he had been exposed. He has concerns about the risks. He and his family had been staying nearby and that at the time of the application, he was close to the application, while his daughter and grandchild were up a hill away from the treatment site. Both he and his daughter could smell what they believed to be the pesticide, and that he felt it contact him directly. As this happened on tribal land, it was sent along to EPA Region X.

Christina: We're still waiting to hear back from the tribe before they will approve an investigator to go out there.

Public Comment

Closing

The next PARC board meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2025, at 9am. If you have any suggestions for agenda items for that meeting, please let Warren know.