

March PARC Board Meeting Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
3/19/2024	Virtual meeting	9:00AM	10:30AM

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, PARC Board Administrator, Pesticides Program Manager, *ODA*
Ted Bunch, Technical Specialist, Standards and Technical Division, *Oregon OSHA*
Rebecca Anthony, Water Quality Specialist, *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)*
Stacy Savona, Forest Practices Field Support Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)*
Jen Seamans, Program Manager, Pesticide Exposure, Safety and Tracking Program, *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*

Other Persons Present

- Alan Martinez**, Occupational Health & Pesticide Exposure Program Coordinator, *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*
Serhan Mermer, Assistant Director, *National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)*
Katie Murray, Executive Director, *Oregonians for Food and Shelter (OFS)*

Introductions and Meeting Minutes

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

Agency Updates

Gilbert Uribe, PARC Board Administrator, Pesticides Program Manager (*ODA*)

- 1) We are trying to keep up with changes that are coming in from EPA in regards to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). EPA is evaluating comments right now, so we are waiting for adjustments to the strategies to see how that effects pesticide users in the state. One of the things we are doing in the mean time is looking at outreach with different groups/growers in relation to the ESA.
- 2) Currently we are trying to get more organized to have a better understanding of the different efforts, so we are not duplicating work that has already been done.
- 3) There have been a few logistical hiccups with the hiring for the Worker Protection Standard (WPS), but we are getting closer. The purpose of the position will be to work with other agencies, handlers, and agricultural workers to make sure they are all up to speed about all the requirements for the WPS and its requirements. We will be working closely with OSHA to ensure that all the agencies and partners to disseminate all the resources that are already out there for the WPS.
- 4) We have been getting a lot of inquiries about our licensing exams and study materials. Many of these materials are quite old. We have been spending a lot of time on a pilot project in the Hood River area to help growers and Spanish speaking workers develop a training for WPS. We are working with OSU, WSDA, and Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District to develop the training pilot project. They are going to take the Spanish applicator exam from Washington and Oregon and compare the pass rate for each. This will help us evaluate the differences between the exams and see where we can improve, as the pass rates for both exams were very low. We know the exams need to be updated, but we are using this project to assess the information we have.

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

- 1) I'm part of the planning committee for the Governor's Occupational Safety and Health (GOSH) conference for 2025. Right now, we are in the early stages of planning. Currently we are looking at dates and looking for speakers for the conference. The plan is for there to be specific sections at the conference in Spanish, possibly in the afternoon. This might give some of the workers and employers time to get off and come to the conference.

- 2) Other than that, we are getting busier with cases.

Ted Bunch, Technical Specialist, Standards and Technical Division, *Oregon OSHA*

- 1) I attended the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) annual conference, and there were many great talks.
- 2) I recently gave two presentations at the Oregon Vegetation Management Conference, and had the pleasure of meeting Katie Murray for the first time. I stepped into a new role at the beginning of February, as OSHA's Legislative Coordinator. Fortunately, it is on a job rotation, so if I don't like it I can go back to my old position.
- 3) The pesticide symposium also starts tomorrow, but I will not be there as I am not feeling well.

Stacy Savona, Forest Practices Field Support Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)*

- 1) I have the number of warnings and citations issued by ODF for 2023. In 2022, we did not have any citations, but we did have a handful of warnings. These are all related to pesticide application rules, they involved notice requirements. In 2023, we issued 9 warnings, 7 of these were for a failure to mark a pending application the night before the application. Two of them were for failing to mark the application complete. The way our rules work, we have two seasons. You kind of get to start over if you have warnings on the first season. We did issue 7 citations in 2023 for helicopter pesticide violations. They were all one company for a failure to do their recordkeeping in the FERNs online system for their application. What happens a lot is they have very long notices with many units, so I believe it is an organizational issue. We work with them to find out why they violated the rules, whether they don't know how to contact ODF, or did not know the requirements, or did they forget. None of these cases were PARC cases.

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

- 1) This is the time of year where vector control districts submit their pesticide use plans for the year. ODFW approves those, but one of the issues that has come up this year is the potential ESA listing of the northwest pond turtle, which has a very similar habitat to where these mosquito control districts are applying pesticides. One of the areas where there are a lot of these turtles is in southern Oregon, so we've had some discussions about how they must reduce their pesticide use in the area. We are working on updating our sensitive area guidance to include the northwest pond turtles. This may be a good case study for ESA things that we may want to work through.
- 2) I've also been working on a couple of PARC cases that I'm working with Warren on.

Expanded Pesticide Decontamination

Jen Seamans - This is a topic that came up with OHA and we have had some initial discussion with ODA about improving resources for pesticide decontamination. OHA has been hearing of cases of illness and injury where there has been a consistent pattern of people not being able to or knowing how to decontaminate following a pesticide exposure. Many also did not know that they were eligible under Worker Protection Standards (WPS) to decontaminate. One of the tricky areas is when there is drift from an adjacent property onto workers, it makes it complicated to deal with. We are wanting to improve resources but also find any gaps that can be addressed.

Ted Bunch – Certainly from an OR-OSHA perspective, we would love to be involved in the conversation with regards to the WPS. Who is responsible when drift comes from an adjacent property is very tricky. Does PARC/OHA believe that more outreach materials need to be developed?

Jen Seamans – Alan has begun doing some of that already. We have also heard from the Oregon Employment Department (OED) about improving education materials that are available to their field staff. He has been working on a very thorough guide that includes decontamination contamination and prevention information and other safety concerns for field staff. We see this as a need for a large worker population throughout the state. OHA has had a conversation with a group within OHA, the Community Partner Outreach Program (CPOP) the entity that sponsored 27 farmworker serving organizations during the pandemic and we spoke with them about doing a pilot program with one or two groups to develop materials for workers.

We've also been considering how we might develop similar information that will go directly to farmworkers and other occupational categories.

Ted Bunch – I'll have to think about this, as field staff won't be covered under the WPS, but it doesn't mean it's not a good idea to provide those employees with decontamination supplies and information about how not to be exposed to pesticides.

Jen Seamans – that information will be helpful to a lot of people, not just field staff. We might setup meetings outside of PARC meetings to work on the materials/information. The intent is to prepare a draft within the next month or two and then review the information.

ROUGH DRAFT

Gilbert Uribe – if any other groups come to mind that may not qualify under the WPS or other frameworks, but may still benefit from this information, please let us know. In the past we have heard from people who have been exposed to pesticides but end up wearing the same clothes the entire day. We want to make people aware of immediate decontamination to minimize the amount of time they may be exposed. It also needs to be clear that if you are not the person's employee, you are not covered by the WPS. The Employment Department has a certain set of workers that are out in the field, if your agency has other workers out in the field that may benefit from that information Jen and Alan know.

Alan Martinez – Thanks to Jen for sharing this information. There are other outreach workers other than the Employment Department or Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers program. This guide will serve as a very valuable tool for protecting workers and preventing exposure. When I was an outreach worker, every year we would change the air filters for farm vehicles.

OHA Descriptive Analysis

Alan Martinez – We've been working on this since last year, to highlight all the events from 2011-2021. There are 992 confirmed acute pesticide poisoning during that time. Some of the cases did not have enough incident, product, or other details to classify it as a confirmed exposure. We did a causal pathway analysis, which looks at the symptoms, toxicity of the product and the time of exposure. There were some cases that were unrelated and did not involve pesticides. I'll share the link to the report, so please take a look at it.

PARC SOP's

Gilbert Uribe – I just want to give the reminder to review the PARC SOP's and to remind your field staff. If you find cases that aren't making their way to PARC according to the SOP's, please work with Warren to resolve the issue. We are happy to have Warren come and present to your agency to ensure that PARC SOP's stay on their minds and we get cases sent to PARC in a timely manner. With all the new staff, especially in the field, there is a lot being thrown at them. They are learning a lot, we just want to make sure that this is on their radar. If something is a little funky, let us know how we can help.

Ted Bunch – I've heard that there is a meeting that happens every year where field staff from different agencies get together to discuss issues like this. I think it's called the Oregon Pesticide Symposium.

Warren Hanson – I guess it's a good thing I included a section about that in my presentation for this event that may be happening.

PARC Case Discussion

Warren Hanson shared the information from the following PARC cases:

PARC Case #24-0091: Five deer were found dead in a field near Smith Rock. Upon investigation, the presence of strychnine was discovered from an accidental spill. ODA is currently looking into the incident. ODFW is also aware of the issue.

PARC Case #24-0095: In Mt. Tabor Park in southeast Portland, a Northern Spotted owl was found on a trail looking very sick. It eventually passed away, despite the care given to the owl. Analytical results indicated the present of bromadiolone in the owl's system. It occurred in November 2023, but didn't get to PARC until February 2024. It was a case of secondary toxicity. ODFW note: the delayed response was due to the Northern Spotted owl being a threatened species. They were waiting to hear from Fish and Wildlife Service about what they were going to be doing with it.

Andrea Sonnen – the sooner we hear about it, the sooner we can respond to the incident and potentially investigate. If it comes to us four months later, there is no way for us to investigate. Please let us know as soon as possible.

Becky Anthony – I'm going to send a reminder out to field staff to help ensure a quick response from ODFW.

Public Comment

Serhan Mermer – Is ODA reporting wildlife deaths to EPA?

Andrea Sonnen – I do. I went ahead and sent the information about the eagle, spotted owl, and barred owl to EPA. Our threshold for non-threatened or endangered species is five, so the deer death case was also reported to EPA.

Becky Anthony – this case was being run through Oregon State Police, as compared to ODFW.

Closing

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The next PARC board meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2024, at 9am. If you have any suggestions for agenda items for that meeting, please let Warren know.

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