

May PARC Board Meeting Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
5/20/2026	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)*

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

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

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

Anne Duncan, Interim Director, *Oregon Poison Center (OPC)*

Mark Johnston, Special Operations Unit, *Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM)*

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

Other Persons Present

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

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

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

Jennifer Eisele, Pesticides Manager, *Beyond Toxics*

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

Tomas Torres, *Oregon Employment Department (OED)*

Benita Picazo, *Oregon Employment Department (OED)*

Paul Khokhar, Pesticide Investigator, *ODA*

Gail Langelloto, Professor – Department of Horticulture, *Oregon State University*

Introductions and Meeting Minutes

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

Agency Updates

Ted Bunch, Senior Policy Analyst/Legislative Coordinator, *Oregon OSHA*

- 1) No updates from OR-OSHA at this time.

Mark Johnston, Special Operations Unit, *Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM)*

- 1) No updates from us.

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

- 1) No complaints from the last meeting, but something we don't talk about a lot is the use of pesticides in the forestry environment. One thing we're seeing is that there is a difference between how to manage buffers along streams. It has created a system where the harvest units were created under the old rules and now we have a new ruleset that changes what can be done in those stream areas. The need on the ground to do some management in those areas is different. We're answering a lot of questions about how pesticides are used in those areas, and sometimes about our jurisdiction because sometimes they're targeting noxious weeds and we don't really exercise jurisdiction in there, so that would mean following the label and possibly working with ODA in those situations. We're going to see a little bit of that in those units for a while.
- 2) David: Thanks for the update, I want to add a plug for the DEQ NPDES 2300A General permit for pesticide applications near water bodies within 3 feet. I just want to highlight that the permit exists, and we are happy to

provide resources about it.

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

- 1) No updates from DEQ at this time.

Paul Khokhar, Pesticide Investigator, *ODA*

- 1) No updates from ODA at this time.

Warren Hanson, PARC Board Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*

- 1) The ODA Pesticides program just filled 2 positions, both created during the '25 legislative session: Operations and Policy Analyst 2, permanent position. This position will primarily be working out of the Certification and Licensing group, focusing on using data guide how the program can be more efficient.
- 2) Bilingual Certification and Licensing specialist (NRS3). This position will be working within the Certification and Licensing group to assist in updating and creating Spanish language resources.
- 3) Not pesticides, but in a related program, there is currently an open recruitment for a vacant [Fertilizer Case Reviewer](#). The program also recently filled two vacant pesticide product registration specialist (NRS3) positions.
- 4) The program is seeking funding from the [Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund \(OERF\)](#). The funds are derived from a settlement between the state and Monsanto for PCB contamination over a lawsuit filed in 2018. Monsanto settled with the state for \$698 million. The program's intended use of funds is to enhance the current work we're doing, updating manuals, exams, and outreach materials, to ensure pesticide applicators and users have updated materials, are meeting the necessary standards, and thereby reduce the risk of exposure to themselves, others, and the environment.

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

- 1) It's been busy on my end, lots of questions about notification. I've been working to educate them on the lack of notification rules, as well as HOA pesticide rules. The HOA pesticide rule ([HB 2409](#)) allows people to opt out of pesticide applications on their private property within an HOA.

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

- 1) At the beginning of the year, we were talking about how NPIC was only going to get half a million dollars, but in April we were happy to receive a second increment. So, we're happy to keep the center up and running. Unfortunately, we lost some of our specialists, but we trying to regrow back again so we can keep providing out NPIC services.

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

- 1) It's been a busy month, we've had multiple cases coming in and will continue for the next couple of months. Last year, we were busy until October.

Benita Picazo, *Oregon Employment Department (OED)*

- 1) Thanks so much to Gilberto for inviting us to this group. As far as outreach for the Migrant Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW), we have a busy season ahead of us. We're working with partner agencies to create educational materials in all aspects of the agricultural world, so pesticides and any other type of education our MSFW's are in need of. We're working hard on making that connection to MSFW and employers so they can receive that information from the experts. I know that some fields are already working to harvest (including strawberries), so I can share my contact information for anyone who may need it.

Tomas Torres, *Oregon Employment Department (OED)*

- 1) Thanks for having us. It's looking as if it will be a busy season this year. We've had a lot of MSFW's out there as well as visa workers. Strawberry season is starting.

Anne Duncan, Interim Director, *Oregon Poison Center (OPC)*

- 1) No updates from OPC at this time.

Gail Langelloto, Professor – Department of Horticulture, *Oregon State University*

- 1) No updates from me.

[Multi-person Exposure Event](#)

Alan Martinez – This came to us last week from PARC, it's an open investigation. I talked to multiple workers about exposures at a pesticide manufacturing facility. Some of the interviews I did, they did exhibit adverse health effects and did seek medical treatment. I'm happy to provide additional information to any interested agencies.

Warren Hanson: I talked with the complainant and provided some additional information and resources for him following his exposure, including about the active ingredient, finding a medical toxicologist, and information from NPIC. This was passed along to him to give out to his brother and a couple of friends. OSHA was also involved in the case, due to some other issues. An HVAC system was apparently installed incorrectly, which is what prompted the OSHA investigation.

The PARC case number is 26-0139.

Alan: another factor that may have played a role, beyond the HVAC system, was the inappropriate use of PPE. The workers were not provided with respirators shortly after they started working in the area. That could have played a factor in the situation.

Gail: When a worker comes forward and makes a complaint against their employer, what protections are in place?

Ted: generally speaking, workers have protection against retaliation from their employers. These protections are written in statute, for reporting their concerns about occupations safety or work issues. One of my jobs in my role at OR-OSHA, is to audit BOLI case files. BOLI investigates these claims about retaliations against workers.

David: Was this exposure limited to the facility or was there any release into the air or water?

Warren: Not that I know of. The complaints were only coming from workers who may not have known about any releases.

David: To the extent that there was a release from the facility, I would recommend relevant agencies make a referral to DEQ through PARC for additional follow-up and/or investigation.

Alan: Some of the workers were concerned about the release of chemicals from the facility. What do they do with the water that is used to clean the area?

Commercial Pesticide Operator Requested Workshop

Alan Martinez – We were requested to attend an event in June or July and are going to give a short presentation about pesticide safety at a Commercial Pesticide Operator (CPO) event. It will be for agricultural workers in the Pendleton and Boardman area. We'll be bringing information in Spanish, as well as information to indigenous Mixteco workers. I'm hoping it does come to fruition. If anyone would like more information, I'd be more than happy to share that information.

PARC Case Discussion

There were 46 cases that came in to PARC since the last meeting. Below are two cases, both related to schools.

PARC Case #26-0108: A caller contacted ODA to ask questions about the safety of surfactants to be used in a school. The caller stated that per Oregon regulations these products are not pesticides, but in California and Washington state they are considered pesticides. The caller only mentioned concerns around whether it was legal to use these products at a school in Portland where they are employed. ODA's lead pesticide investigator and one of our experts on the use of pesticides in schools spoke with the complainant to get them more information.

PARC Case #26-0123: Caller seeking regulatory information about the use of Lysol wipes in her son's school. She said that the 7-year-old students are using Lysol wipes to disinfect their desks without any gloves or hand protection, and then not washing their hands afterwards. She also reported that the students are also then eating at these desks without rinsing the surface. The caller was referred to the National Pesticide Information Center, the Oregon Poison Center, City of Portland's 311 Services, and the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division.

ODA's lead pesticide investigator responded to the complainant and spoke with them about the use of the wipes and pesticide regulation. She offered a follow up investigation if she wishes to provide additional information on the school.

Public Comment

Closing

The next PARC board meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2026, at 9am. If you have any suggestions for agenda items for that meeting, please let Warren know.