

May PARC Board Meeting Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
5/15/2024	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)*
Ted Bunch, Technical Specialist, Standards and Technical Division, *Oregon OSHA (OR-OSHA)*
Rebecca Anthony, Water Quality Specialist, *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)*
Jen Seamans, Program Manager, *Pesticide Exposure, Safety and Tracking Program, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*
Charisse Pizarro-Osilla, Director, *Oregon Poison Center (OPC)*
Fred Berman, Director, Toxicology Information Center, *Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences (OHSU)*

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)*
Jennifer Eisele, Pesticides Manager, *Beyond Toxics*

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

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

- 1) We have a lot going on with cases, we have a number of outreach projects in the works regarding decontamination resources and a handbook requested by the Oregon Employment Department support the safety and health of outdoor outreach workers.
 - a. Ted Bunch added: Oregon OSHA has an interagency agreement with the OED about precertification of agricultural labor housing. It might be an opportunity to loop everyone in to the conversation.
 - b. Jen: That would be awesome. I know that Alan has been meaning to reach out to you about that.

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

- 1) Thanks for expressing a desire to collaborate with us on occupational health and safety handbook for outreach workers. This gives us a good opportunity to provide the workers with an occupation health and safety perspective so they can protect themselves in the field or whatever setting they may be going into
- 2) We are also working on materials for indigenous communities with the possibility of doing a radio show with the OHA Community Partner Outreach Program.
 - a. Jen: During the pandemic, CPOP and OHA worked with 24 farmworker organizations across the state. It was unprecedented the amount of support we were able to provide to farmworkers. WE are trying to make use of the established partnerships between OHA and community partners to get feedback about decontamination resources and informational needs. Charisse, I know we want to speak with you about supporting us, and Gilbert/Warren we are looking into organizations to assist with resources for indigenous communities.
 - b. Alan: Thanks to Warren for providing outreach materials for us for a recent event. We ran out of materials quickly. Once fall come around, we will start doing additional outreach events.
 - c. Charisse: Which communities do you mean when you say indigenous communities?

- d. Jen: Research has shown that there are about 28 indigenous dialects spoken by farmworkers originating from Mexico, Central America, and South America.

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

- 1) We don't really have any updates, but we wanted to talk to Warren and Andrea about potentially meeting with new ODFW staff, including our new land resources manager. We are wanting to get new materials out to the staff so that they know how to respond to incidents as they pop up.

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

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

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

- 1) No updates from OPC at this time.

Other Group Updates

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

- 1) NPIC is hiring for a new pesticide specialist! We are hoping to find a bilingual specialist if possible. I'll send the announcement to Warren to pass along to the board. This time, we are going to try and steal someone back from ODA.

PARC Board community member

Warren Hanson – this has been a long time coming, as the last time we had a PARC board community member was before the pandemic. We finally got the announcement is live, after some delays. I'll send out the link to the application after the meeting. The announcement closes on July 4th. We are hoping to get the board member on board to attend the July PARC board meeting.

Indigenous Community information and resources

Jen Seamans – We are looking for ways to improve information access and availability for indigenous communities. As I mentioned earlier, a study found that there were about 28 different indigenous languages and dialects spoken by farmworkers in Oregon. Currently, we are looking to identify ways to support information being more available to people in those communities. One of the difficulties is that some of the languages/dialects are spoken languages, and so one of the strategies OHA used during the pandemic was to make 2 minutes videos posted on Facebook and hire a contractor to translate those videos. The videos were used as a way to reach those communities and provide vaccine information during the pandemic. We do have some knowledge of contractors that could assist with the project. If anyone has examples or information to make an inventory of resources to share, that would be very helpful.

Ted: We do not, but many of our resources are translated into Spanish. We do have people in-house that can do that. Most of our interactions are with employers, but we do interact with the employees as well. I'm going to make a note about that.

Jen: During Alan's tenure at OHA, has improved our materials, so the OHA PEST website has a great number of resources available. One of the priorities for us is to improve information was about pesticide decontamination. A number of cases last year involved indigenous farmworkers. Having information about decontamination to equip farmworkers with as a means to prevent illness and injury.

Warren: We should think about making a list of topics to touch upon with these resources. I know Alan mentioned that he was working on doing the radio show, so making a list may be a good way to spread the information further.

Ted: OR-OSHA just entered into an alliance with Lamar advertising for another campaign about heat illness. They are providing this to us free of charge. This may be another avenue for OHA to look into, if it may be usable.

Jen: I've dropped a link in the chat to the OHA en Español Facebook page with the videos in indigenous languages.

Applicators, communication, and drift

Jen: I mentioned the pesticide drift cases we had last summer, these were multi-household events. The estimate was 79 or more people exposed during these three incidents. For all three incidents, there was no notification from the adjacent property about the treatment. Even though there is not a requirement to notify neighbors about an application taking place. What strategies can we use to encourage applicators to notify those nearby. Does anyone have any resources/talking points in this area?

Ted: ODA's previous director preached coexistence. We all have to get along, right? Certainly, we would encourage increased

communication between neighbors. There's nothing wrong with someone requesting that they be notified. As you mentioned, there is no requirement, but that's where the conversation should start.

Christina Higby: I get this quite a bit from concerned individuals. If they feel comfortable or are able to share that information, a lot of times neighbors are comfortable sharing that information. They have to be willing to be nice about it, so if you say it in a nice way, they may be more willing to share that. ODA has a process for having an investigator come out and do an observation of an application. With that process you can get feedback from an investigator to know they are doing things right. We do have applicators who do utilize that service and find it useful. Especially in areas where there are regular concerns from those nearby. Encouraging neighbors to communicate and get along is probably the best bet.

Jen: In the three incidents, it was farmworkers that may have been long term residents of the area, and may not know who was doing the application on a nearby property. If someone has a point person, that if there is an application, they may be able to communicate with the person to inform them of the treatment.

Ted: The landowners probably know each other, but getting that information to the people in the field that really need it is another side to the equation.

Warren: PARC put out some resources last year to applicators about better communicating with the public about pesticides and pesticide risks. It was more focused on applicators in residential areas, but when we sent it out it went to several thousand applicators around the state. That of course would reach some applicators that may be treating in agricultural settings. When it comes to minimizing exposure, I would put in a plug for all the resources at NPIC.

PARC Case Discussion

Warren Hanson – some of the common themes for recent cases have been drift from agriculture to residential areas, as well as treated lumber/railroad ties. Warren shared the information from the following PARC cases:

PARC Case #24-0132: In SW Oregon, near Gardner a man broke into a hatchery and poured a bottle of bleach into one of the holding tanks and killed about 18,000 Chinook salmon smolts. I spoke with the hatchery manager and found out that the product used was not a disinfectant bleach, but rather a cleaner bleach product. The person who allegedly did that has been arrested and charged. I do not know what the charges were. I have not seen any information about a motive. There were four holding tanks, but only one of the tanks was effected.

PARC Case #24-0126: This was in the Sisters area. There was a complaint of drift from a neighboring hay field onto an uncertified, but organic farm. There were claims of dead plants and health effects to the family that live on the farm.

Ted: I don't know how often railroads replace railroad ties, but when they stack them for replacement, you can smell them nearby, including at ODA. Especially when it gets hot.

Public Comment

Closing

The next PARC board meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2024, at 9am. If you have any suggestions for agenda items for that meeting, please let Warren know.