

September PARC Board Meeting Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
9/17/2025	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)*
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)*
Tim Moss, Forest Practices Act (FPA) Field Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)*
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, Special Operations Unit, *Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM)*
David Gruen, Columbia River Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)*

PARC Consultants Present

William Lackey, Statewide Vegetation Management Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)*
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)*
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 Langelotto, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, *Oregon State University (OSU)*
Jennifer Eisele, Pesticides Manager, *Beyond Toxics*
Andrea Sonnen, Lead Pesticide Investigator, *ODA*
Serhan Mermer, Director, *National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)*

Introductions and Meeting Minutes

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

Agency Updates

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

- Fire season is still going, but hopefully the end is around the corner. A lot of usual business, navigating the Governor's directive on budget impact. Wrapping up the summer.

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

- As is usually usual, nothing really to report.

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

- Not much to share, pesticide cases are going down a little bit. We're working on the fotonovela project. We're looking forward to this, as it is going to give us the ability to work with the community and get some input and launch the fotonovela. Besides just pesticides, we are looking to create one for wildfire smoke and also heat, as this impacts farmworkers and others on site. Not much for outreach right now. We have the Binational Health Week coming up in October, which takes place at Chemeketa Community College.

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

- The fotonovela project: Alan and I, along with others at OHA have been meeting with staff from other agencies. With OHA's focus and responsibilities, we have been discussing with other agency outreach partners for possible collaboration to expand beyond OHA's purview. If people from other agencies that have interest in collaborating, please reach out.
- Ted: can you give a quick overview of the project?
- Jen: the idea of the project is to deliver information in a more accessible format than a lot of our other outreach. The fotonovela is more of a comic book format, with examples coming from the Migrant Clinicians' Network, however, these are not Oregon specific. The intent is that even if a worker doesn't speak Spanish, the graphic format would be more likely to be understood regardless of language or literacy.

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

- No updates for DEQ at this time.

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

- We're in the process of updating our PARC SOP. I believe that the person who will lead that is slated to start working on October 1st.

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

- Nothing pesticide related, thank you.

Tim Moss, Forest Practices Act (FPA) Field Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)*

- Nothing really from ODF. Just getting back from fire season and getting caught up on emails and other things.

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

- Nothing pesticide related, but we're just sitting in budget limbo right now. We're supposed to have a vote today, but it got delayed. So we're kind of sitting on pins and needles right now.

Other Group Updates

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

- I'm curious about how the increased sightings of Emerald Ash Borer will mean for pesticide applications in the Portland area. I'm just keeping an eye on chatter in the gardening world.
- Andrea: I can say that it is likely going to lead to an increase in tree injections. It's not something that most homeowners would do on their own, licensed applicators would be needed to take care of it. We've also done use observations in the area to ensure that things are being done correctly. There may be more commercial applicators that may be getting into the business due to the increased sightings.
- Kaci: we've been doing education in the licensed applicator community for the last two years about Emerald Ash Borer.

Andrea Sonnen, Lead Pesticide Investigator, *ODA*

- We're approaching our presentation season, so we're being asked a lot to present at different events. We're backlogged at the lab, as we had 9 vineyard cases with tons of vegetation samples for active ingredients with no tolerance. Plus, they are wanting to harvest right now, as the end of the season came early this year. There are still cases coming in. They've shifted away from ag to more residential/apartment complexes. Complexes are doing their fall maintenance, so we're getting more calls about applications. There was a bill that passed about changes to licensing requirements for mechanized backpack sprayers for public applicators, but that does not become active until January 1, 2026. Gilbert and Colton are gearing up for more rulemaking in relation to Certification and Training changes to clarify some portions of the new statute.

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

- We've had significant budget cuts, but we thought we might be able to get some incremental funding around September, but we got a call from EPA that we would not get that funding. We are surviving with support from the University, but we're hoping to get better news from EPA next year.

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

- UAV: The FAA is considering allowing the use of drones beyond the line of visual sight. This would change a lot of things about how the work is done, and there is the possibility of using swarming in higher numbers. PERC has been developing educational materials about this. Several states are anxious about having an exam around UAVs, but there are so many things changing. Their adoption is skyrocketing.

DEQ agency overview

See PARC website for presentation about DEQ's scope, purpose, and function.

PARC Case Discussion

Warren Hanson: A general trend has been applications at or near vineyards. To say this has been taking up a lot of time is an

understatement, and it has been holding up lab samples for all other cases.

PARC Case #26-0021: General concerns about pesticide use on a neighboring vineyard. There was no specific application in question.

PARC Case #26-0033: Near Silverton and Salem, someone reported some deaths with domestic ducks and her whole flock of seven ducks all died. A couple weeks later, she saw a vulture land on her property and drink out of a small pond, and then noticed that it was acting strange and then died on her property. She wanted to get it tested. ODFW came and picked up the vulture, but there was no evidence of pesticide exposure with the analytical results. I found a lot of other resources for the complainant as far as testing was concerned. She lived down the hill from a nursery and the spring that feeds the pond comes directly from that area. She was concerned there may be pesticide runoff coming from the nearby property and into her pond.

PARC Case #26-0024: This happened at the Washington County Fair. As part of their safety and biosecurity process, they had people spraying a sanitizer on shoes. There was at least one family that had some adverse health effects to the use of the disinfectant. The product was reportedly being put into pump sprayers and then sprayed by fair goers. One sprayer was reportedly malfunctioning and getting onto children and other people.

Andrea: I can provide more information. They had started using Virkon and used it several years ago in response to a child getting E. coli and dying at a different fair. They required anyone going into or out of the livestock area to apply the product onto their shoes. The child in question had serious chemical burns on his legs as the sprayer malfunctioned and got his pants very wet. He ended up wearing the pants all day and extended the contact with the product. There were several people that indicated having issues, including a concern raised that one of the security people had to go to the emergency room after it splashed onto their face. We were never able to get a hold of that person. Part of the reason there were issues was that the pesticide itself is very hard on plastics, and they were using Home Depot hand sprayers for the product. The case is being wrapped up by the investigator.

Ted: We just updated our biosecurity protocols. If there is anything from an exposure perspective, if you could share that with me, I would appreciate it.

Andrea: I would appreciate that, as we have had several issues with this product and biosecurity. Another case last year happened at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, as they were using it as part of a footbath. They were also using it in their bird enclosure to address avian flu. They were not removing the birds when they were using the product, which went against the label.

Public Comment

Closing

The next PARC board meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2026, at 9am. If you have any suggestions for agenda items for that meeting, please let Warren know.