

# WQPMT Committee Meeting Notes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
4/18/2024	Virtual	1:00 pm	3:00 pm

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Kathryn Rifenburg	Kathryn.Rifenburg@ODA.Oregon.Gov	971.600.5073

## Attendees

**Kathryn Rifenburg** – Oregon Department of Agriculture

**Kaci Buhl** - Oregon State University

**Todd Hudson** - Oregon Health Authority

**Warren Hanson** - Oregon Department of Agriculture

**Thomas Whittington**- Oregon Department of Forestry

**Steve Mrazik**- Department of Environmental Quality

**Wade Peerman**- Department of Environmental Quality

**David Gruen** – Department of Department of Environmental Quality

**Gilbert Uribe** – Oregon Department of Agriculture

**Rob Hibbs**- Oregon Department of Agriculture

**Serhan Mermer** –Oregon State University

## Introduction

- Meeting is called to order by **Kathryn Rifenburg**.

## **2023**    Data

- **David Gruen** presented on the 2023 water quality data collected by the PSP Program and opened the floor for questions.
  - **Kaci Buhl** asked for access to presentation slides for further review. **David** agreed to share slides with committee members only until all data was finalized.
  - In response to a question from **Rob Hibbs**, **David** shared his plan to draft the biennial report for 2021-2023 to assess a longer period of record to help contextualize the data gathered over the last two biennial years. This will help show how current data compares to previous years, thus assisting in further trend analysis and other data assessments. This kind of report will help avoid generalizations when comparing historical data, especially as sample processes change over time.
  - **Kathryn** referred to a previous comment that the PSP data shared was helpful and

extensive, but not necessarily easy to absorb within one committee meeting. She asked the group for feedback on how to make it easier to have discussion around these data updates in future meetings. One suggestion was to provide the slides to the basin committee and WQPMT ahead of time for preview.

- **Kaci** noted that the snapshots shared showed consistency with samples and detection frequency from previous years, and agreed with David that conclusions outside a thorough trend analysis should be avoided.
- **David** updated the committee that the data viewer is now back online and will be added to the DEQ website.

### ESA Strategies

- **Kathryn** began the discussion with a reminder about the different strategies for protecting endangered species from pesticide use released by the ESA last year. This will impact pesticide users in the valley, in particular. EPA will release their final strategies for the public around July/August 2024.
- **Kathryn** and other water quality representatives have been meeting approximately biweekly to discuss ideas for a locally led approach to ESA protection around pesticide use. No plans or strategies have been solidified.
- An ESA Grower Workshop Grant was offered by CSI, OSU, and WSDA/ODA through a Western IPM Center grant for the purpose of holding Pesticide ESA grower workshops. Two were held in Washington and two were held in Oregon. Workshops focused on interpretations of label language, ideas for on-site implementation, implementation support for growers, possibilities/impossibilities, and general feedback on what these changes would mean for their businesses and livelihood.
  - Hermiston-area growers appeared less concerned about the strategies being implemented, while Willamette Valley growers showed greater concern.
  - Agency staff and others plan to meet in Washington on May 15-16 to discuss what was learned/observed at the workshops and next steps for the grant.
  - **Kaci** added further commentary on the Willamette Valley workshop and emphasized the importance on concrete strategies with clear definitions.
- NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) has released Biological Opinions for malathion, diazinon, and chlorpyrifos that are live in Bulletins 2 as of April.
- The EPA released an update on their herbicide strategy that they hope will be easier to understand, increase flexibilities to growers, and help to implement mitigation strategies. They are considering reducing the amount of mitigation needed when growers have adopted practices to reduce run-off.
- **Gilbert** commented that drafts and final drafts of the strategies mentioned are still forthcoming.

### Agency Updates

- **Kaci** updated the group that experts have been convened to help with educational materials regarding a spill of wood preservative near Sheridan.
- **Kaci** invited the committee to submit any messages for pesticide applicators for the coming fall and winter agendas.

- **David** shared that he and Kathryn were approached about applying for a USDA grant that would potentially involve sharing water quality data. More information would be needed for further discussion.
  - **Serhan Mermer** added more context.
- **Rob** shared that ODA's Field Assessment Tool is being used in Morrow County and by WRD in Wallowa.
- **Todd** shared about an upcoming morbidity/mortality report from Alan Martinez describing impacts of pesticide drifts on different communities in Oregon. The report will highlight acute pesticide poisoning systems, decontamination, and those affected.
- **Todd** shared that the pest program is receiving reports of pesticide exposures in Oregon, which is typical for the time of year. Outreach events will be coming soon.
- **Wade** shared that Alan Hamill has returned to work as PSP Coordinator at the lab. Sediment sampling will happen this summer at some of the PSP sites and more information will be provided later.

### Adjourn

- **Kathryn Rifenburg** adjourned the meeting.