

WQPMT Committee Meeting Notes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
08/15/2024	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

Gilbert Uribe – Oregon Department of Agriculture

Todd Hudson - Oregon Health Authority

Daniel Brown – Department of Environmental Quality

Thomas Whittington- Oregon Department of Forestry

Paul Measeles – Oregon Department of Agriculture

Warren Hanson - Oregon Department of Agriculture

Kaci Buhl- Oregon State University

Rebecca Anthony- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (late arrival)

Rob Hibbs- Oregon Department of Agriculture

Introduction

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

2021- 2023 Biennial Report

- Kathryn expressed possibly having a short meeting due to talking about the data portion of the Biennial report and David being absent from meeting. She asked if there was any comment on the draft that got sent out.
 - No comment about draft;
 - Kathryn shows draft of the Biennial summary;
 - Draft goes over PSP mission, what the budget was, and some quick stats and data information;
 - Everyone discusses the layout of the data, pros/cons;
 - Paul talks about how Imidacloprid is in cat flea medication, and if it should be put in the example products;
 - Any last comments regarding layout data, Kaci mentions choosing between icons and crops, that crops would be more useful;
- It was noted that from the report that Mercuric Chloride was collected at one of the collection

events. Kathryn mentioned that it was brought to the Medford/White City Event.

- Page 2 gets discussed, it's for pesticide monitoring and data results.
 - The publication designer is working to make it fit more with the overall feel and look of the document.
 - Scrolling down on the document there is graphic on the left side depicts Seasonal Kendall Tests for 2024, discussion continues about the data and how it is presented. There is agreement and disagreement on the Season Kendall Tests graphic vs spelling out the data.
 - Kathryn asks if anyone finds any other noteworthy points that anyone would like to see in the graphic.
 - Discussion happens on the basins with significant changes.
 - Warren states how he wanted to make an example representative graphic in case it needed to be expanded to more active ingredients or more specific sites.
 - Kaci states how it would be helpful to know how many sampling sites and how many samples were taken up front.

Pudding Boundary

- Kathryn provides some background about the previous partnership with the Pudding Watershed Council, and the current partnership with the Marion SWDC as the local lead in that area. When the PSP was started the boundary was the Pudding Watershed area, when Marion SWCD took over, about 1/3 of the Pudding PSP area is outside the Marion SWCD boundary.
 - Kathryn further explains that part of the PSP is to take water samples and provide outreach and education to people within the PSP. However, with some of the sampling sites being where they are in Marion's boundary they are unable to provide outreach and education, technical assistance, or engage with a portion of the population that is in the PSP area.
 - Discussions have been had with Marion SWCD on how to provide that outreach, but a good method has not been found.
 - Reached out to Clackamas SWCD to see if they would be interested, but there hasn't been any resolution.
 - Kathryn shows map referencing the areas of discussion relating to the possibility of moving the PSP boundary. Blue line is current PSP boundary, and pink line is the Marion SWCD's governmental boundary. There is proposal to keep the same Western and Southern boundary but cut along the pink line. Reiteration that there is not outreach, education, or technical assistance being provided in the eastern portion of the sampling locations.
 - The team then discusses:
 - the high imidacloprid concentrations being detected, up to 1700 times above benchmark;
 - The need to continue education and outreach in this PSP;
 - Would reengaging the Pudding Watershed Council fill the coverage gaps?
 - The topic hasn't been discussed with the Pudding Watershed Council, nor

a funding mechanism for their possible involvement.

- Landowner engagement has historically been challenging in that area.
- Kaci says it would be helpful if they knew our sampling sites are down river of areas where the outreach can be done, but if they're not than we would be getting unactionable information.
- Daniel asks if the SWCD can't do outreach, would the cities be interested in doing outreach? Kathryn states they can pass the idea on.
- Kathryn summarizes the discussion and asks if that if in the short term everyone is okay with the Marion SWCD adjusting their boundary to the governmental boundary, and then the discussion can continue whether the sampling locations move. Everyone agrees.

PSP Partner Survey Results

- Kathryn put together a survey for the partners to get a feel for how they viewed and spent time with the PSP in terms of administration, water quality sampling, outreach, and the education they did. The previous survey was sent out in September of 2021, so it was due for another partner survey to be sent out.
 - The results of the survey were shared with the group.
 - Benefit of quarterly meetings with partners:
 - 11% were dissatisfied, noting that the meetings were beneficial, but too infrequent. 33% found them neutral. 55% of people found them beneficial.
 - Other parts of the survey display what other PSP partners are doing that are successful, outreach and education, the future of the PSP, and where the program can be taken in the future as well as programmatic changes.
 - Biggest time constraints around PSP is creating and implementing outreach. One group felt restricted by sampling locations and timing based on lab capacity and then waiting on sampling data and how to relate it to outreach. The percentage of time spent in following areas. Followed by sampling and program administration.
 - During the 2023-2025 grant cycle Kathryn overhauled the grant application and reporting process, everyone who responded seemed to be happy or neutral with how it went.
 - There are suggestions on how to improve the grant process, David and Becky agreed to review documents that have been updated for the next biennium.
 - There was a question asked about seeing a decrease in pesticide concentrations or detections frequencies as a direct result of education or special project, most people found that to be a difficult question to answer.
 - Question about physical barriers to collecting water sample; about half of the people said there was difficulty accessing sampling points. There was weather related issues and physical barriers.
- Kathryn asks if basin areas have not changed their sampling locations in the last 3 years, and

no detection have been found to create education and outreach, should locations need to be changed? There is agreement from everyone that this is a good idea.

- Organizations use the data once it's received from DEQ for education and outreach, hold annual meeting with interested parties, and for creating annual sharing materials from partner organizations to share, determine if any resources are needed for the project based on the results, share with their local monitoring team, and developing strategic plans.
- The team discusses how to give credit to areas without detections, especially if sampling sites get moved due to lack of detections. Several members agree and suggest including that information in the biennial report. The discussion moves on to how many hours does an organization spend analyzing/interpreting the water quality data once received from DEQ.
 - David and Collin give a PowerPoint annually to most of the PSPs.
 - The partners can also get the data from the data viewers.
 - the data viewer was down for 6 months to a year.
 - Partners spent about 5-30 hours with the data annually from DEQ.
- When Kathryn came on board there wasn't a flat compensation rate created for our partners, some requesting \$14,000 for water quality sampling. Some were requesting \$2,000. The survey asked how much it costs them to collect samples and set a flat rate of \$55 per sample.
 - The water sampling can range between \$12.00 up to \$177
 - Paul mentions that it seems that it is a very wide range for cost and so maybe the question is getting interpreted differently.
- The data viewer was down for a large portion of the year, so Kathryn mentions that the question is a bit biased, but that several/almost half of the PSPs accessed it several times a month.
 - Most people were neutral on finding the data viewer helpful.
 - Kathryn asks how, moving forward, could the data viewer be more helpful to the PSP Partners?
- More than half of people would rather get the data from DEQ in presentation form vs the data viewer
- Three groups didn't have strong knowledge of their pesticides of concern.
- One of the groups didn't have enough knowledge of the data or data visualization.
- Due to extensiveness of the survey everyone agrees to read through the rest of the results on their own time and to reach out with any questions.

ESA Strategies and the PSP Advisory Group

Kathryn provided context on the EPA's newly released strategies aimed at protecting endangered species from pesticide exposure.

- Agricultural pesticide users may need to adopt additional on-site mitigation if they are in a Pesticide Use Limitation Area (PULA).

- Users must use an online tool to check if their application site is in a PULA within 6 months of planned application.
- Users must follow mitigation measures on both product labels and EPA-issued bulletins.
- Kathryn demonstrated how to navigate the EPA's **Bulletin website** to match products with use sites and review relevant mitigation measures.
- Paul asks if this is something that is going to be taught in the pesticide program and be a part of the curriculum, Gilbert states that EPA is expecting the states do the outreach and the enforcement of the strategies.
- Rob asks about recordkeeping, Kathryn responded that EPA currently does not require recordkeeping, as it's not part of enforcement and is not included in ODA's rules.
- Users must follow bulletins for each active ingredient in tank mixes, in addition to the pesticide label.
- ODA gives feedback to EPA through public comment and national workgroups.
- ODA participates in EPA regional discussions and workshops with growers to determine next steps.

Questions being brought up and asked:

1. What are the pitfalls of these programs?
 2. How does ODA want to do this?
 3. Who's doing what?
 4. What support does ODA need from others?
 5. What is everyone's roll in this and how are the gaps being addressed?
 6. Communication and how the communication and feedback loop between the groups work?
- Rebecca asks if this is just for terrestrial species or aquatic as well. Kathryn confirms that it also applies to aquatic species.
 - Thomas asks if there are any exceptions on whose to do the extra work. Gilberts responds with it depending on the strategy, for most part right now, many of them are going to be for agricultural uses, but that Forestry will land in somewhere. Kathryn includes if it says it on your pesticide container that the bulletin needs to be checked and then it's required to follow the bulletin if that pesticide is to be used.
 - Paul mentions that a lot of things are still in development and asks how proactive people should be when it's not certain where it will land. Kathryn states that there are some knowns that EPA has come out with strategies, pesticide users are going to have to follow the label and then look at these bulletins and implement what the bulletins require, herbicides and insecticides will need to achieve a certain number of points before you can use them, but there are still many unknowns.
 - Kathryn asks several more questions about the role PSP should play in the ESA Strategy implementation. Discussion follows.

Round-Robin Agency Updated

- Thomas doesn't have anything to share other than that they are chasing a lot of wildfire.
- Todd shares that Oregon is going to have a new EPA Superfund site later this year, which is all

pesticide related.

- Rebecca does not have any updates.
- Daniel shares that Alan Hamel, who coordinates the PSP sampling, has been going through to do a comprehensive review of the metadata that goes along with PSP sampling. Looking at the frequency of duplicates and identifying where there could be process improvements for the sampling and shipping of those samples to make sure we get high quality data.
- Gilbert shares the implementation of the new certification and training plan for pesticides, that's a direct result of updates to the competency standards at the federal level for most pesticide applicators that EPA updated back in 2017, it required that all states update their certification and training plans if they wanted to continue offering licenses.
- Warren shares that he is getting started on the biennial report.
- Rob mentions the advanced SIA.
- Paul shares that he is getting ready to transition to his other job.

Adjourn

- **Kathryn Rifenburg** adjourned the meeting.