

# WQPMT Committee Meeting Notes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
6/20/2024	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  
**Colin Donald**- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
**Paul Measeles**- 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  
**Rebecca A. Anthony** – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**Serhan Mermer** –Oregon State University

## Introduction

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

## PSP Biennial Report 2021-2023

- **David Gruen** presented a draft of PSP Biennial Report 2021-2023, particularly highlighting the data analysis section. David identifies three primary considerations that drive the PSP program overall: detection frequency, concentrations relative to aquatic life benchmarks, and trend analysis during biennium. David also reviews and addresses comments on the document from advisory members throughout the presentation:
  - emphasizes the necessity of a high-level view of the data presented in the biennial report to present PSP data to different audiences and readers, summarize 58,000+ analyses, and highlight moderate and high-level concerns;
  - reviews the method for displaying data for Seasonal Concentrations (pesticides) reports. The method used highlights statewide relevance to readers;

- The team discusses the pros and cons of various data graphical representations. Some methods require more instruction to the reader for accurate interpretation of data. David and **Colin Donald**, who collaborated on the data presentation methods, are open to and welcome feedback from the group;
- reviews the findings of Seasonal Concentrations of pesticides in the nine basins tested in 2021, 2022, and 2023;
- reviews the Trends in Pesticide Water Quality data report and explains the reasoning for displaying the findings of the analyses in more detail rather than using a graph with plot points. The Trends report (3.5) covers a 10-year trend analysis and requires a more in-depth approach to summarizing the data findings;;
- reviews Table 5 which highlights pesticide findings of high concern. **Paul Measeles** opens a discussion about the method used to communicate the sensor data. **David** offers clarification on terms and parameters used in the data presentation method used in Table 5, and how the data presented in Table 5 coincides with other data in the report. **David** adds that the PSPs approach to data presentation mirrors the same approach DEQ uses in statewide status and trends reports for all other water quality parameters.
- compares this report to the last biennial report and highlights significant improvements and changes to data presentation methods based on feedback received.
- **The team has a discussion about** the effectiveness of the tables reflecting seasonal concentrations of imidacloprid and diuron. It is brought up that the tables reflect the advisory team's request for raw data on specific active ingredients. However, the data points don't clearly reflect the results of testing above baseline. Suggestion for more adjustments for greater accuracy and ease of understanding for readers is presented. The group discusses more ideas to improve the tables for the intended audience.
- **David** welcomes comments from the group to be added to the document and concludes the presentation.
- **Kathryn Rifenburg** suggests dividing into small groups to work on giving feedback on the document in sections. The group decides to review the document individually and collaborate as needed.

### EPA/PSP Grants

- **Kathryn Rifenburg** recalls the Columbia River Basin Toxic Reduction grant submitted by DEQ to the EPA. PSP and Water Quality Monitoring were both awarded grant funds. Kathryn explains that the EPA grant runs on a 5-year cycle and the PSP is in the middle of its current biennium (funding cycle).
  - Grant funds will be distributed to a 1-year grant to finish the current biennium with the PSP. PSP partners who applied for and were approved for grants will receive grant funds in the coming funding cycles.
  - **Paul Measeles, Rebecca A. Anthony, and Warren Hanson** were grant reviewers for this cycle.
  - **Kathryn** highlights that Pudding applied for their grant as contractors through Yamhill's

PSP grant application as approved by Yamhill's board members.

- **Kathryn** gave a brief overview of all the projects proposed by PSP partners.
  - Hood River is planning to offer 20 days of bilingual training (Nov 2024-April 2025). They also plan to release biocontrols in their basin and work with unmanaged orchard removal.
  - Yamhill and Pudding applied for mirroring projects to allow their commodities to work together. They will work with hazelnut orchards and are hoping to install pheromone traps to disrupt mating of pests in orchards. They will host listening sessions with growers to receive feedback on what growers need to be successful and implement IPM strategies and reduce spray events. They were also looking for ways to release biocontrols, but the amount of money needed to rear biocontrols was not feasible for the current grant cycle.
  - Dechutes plans to pursue drought mitigation.
    - **David** asked for more information on this proposal. **Kathryn** explained the need for more information on IPMs and how to limit off-target movement of pesticides in the Dechutes basin as sprayers increase herbicide application during annual weed takeover.
  - Wasco applied for funds to support work already in their strategic plan, such as hosting meetings and conversations with growers.
- **Kathryn** reviewed the scores for each proposal.
  - For Wasco it was unclear if they were seeking funding for what they had already proposed to EPA/PSP grant versus the standard PSP grant. Kathryn requested more information on their request and hopes to hear back soon.
  - All other proposals received high scores.
  - **Paul** opens a discussion about the Pudding/Yamhill/Mill Creek hazelnut project that depends heavily on grower participation.
- **Kathryn** reviews the amounts requested by each group.
  - **Kathryn** highlights that Hood River is requesting the highest amount of funds of all the proposals, but would still be the lowest funded area historically upon approval of the full amount requested.
- **Kathryn** reviews the funding recommendations and what can be offered to each group, with an approximate \$32,000 remaining in the budget.
  - **Kathryn** suggests using the remaining funds for a collection event. These events are popular, well attended, and have a clear outcome of keeping pesticides out of the environment.
  - **Paul** asks about where a potential collection event would be. **Kathryn** shares that Coos Bay is next on the docket, and remaining funds could also be used to support an event in Clackamas.
  - **David** mentions that Coos Bay is outside the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program boundaries. The team discusses more event location options, including the differences in funding and travel for participants depending on location.
- The group discusses how funds should be allocated if funding isn't granted to Wasco.

- It was decided to not approve Wasco's grant proposal, and instead use the remaining funds to further support Hood River and more collection events.

### PSP Partner Survey

- **Kathryn** refreshed the team on how the original survey was distributed and what questions were asked related to sampling costs. Another survey will be sent now that costs have been standardized and other changes made since the previous survey.
- **Kathryn** reviewed the survey details with the team.
  - The survey included three major sections/categories: Administration, Water Quality Sampling and Analysis, and Outreach and Education.
- The team discussed feedback on the survey questions.
  - Questions were added to the survey about ESA, gauging the knowledge of pesticides of moderate/high concern in their area, and partner access to technical assistance.
- **Kathryn** plans to send out the survey in approximately two weeks and will share the document with the group for more feedback before finalizing and sending.

### Updates

- **Rob Hibbs** – working on EPA grant and Polk enhanced SIA process with OSU folks
- **Kaci Buhl** – slow time of year as applicators are working in the field; planning for recertification season this fall/winter; planning to offer a Right-of-Way training for the first time; working with Todd Hudson on DCOI concern and develop outreach strategy
- **Todd Hudson** – meeting with Kaci about DCOI (non-ag pesticide that will be used more in the future); OHA May-Sept high season for pesticide case investigations; Alan Martinez working with community partner to host radio program in Spanish to deliver safe pesticide messages to Oregon communities
- **Thomas Whittington** – FERNS new notification system coming in mid-July; continually partnering with other agencies on EAB and outreach
- **Rebecca Anthony** – working on PARC cases related to poisonings of wildlife
- **Warren Hanson** – recently attended Portland International Society for Ag Safety and Health; working on data analysis and closing DEQ cases; will begin working on biennial report shortly
- **Gilbert Uribe** – agency working on shifting to new website and internal platform, reviewing materials, updating materials in preparation for migration; new Worker Protection Standard Outreach Specialist Vanessa Vassilaros came on board this week and will help update study materials
- **Colin Donald** – appreciated data analysis discussion and welcomes more feedback
- **Serhan Mermer** – will attend same conversation with DCOI; hiring a MPEG new staff member

### Adjourn

- **Kathryn Rifenburg** adjourns the meeting.