

# PARC Board Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
05/19/2021	Virtual meeting	9 AM	Noon

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Michael Babbitt	PARC@oda.state.or.us	503.986.6470

## PARC Member Agencies Present

**Michael Babbitt**, PARC Board Co-Chair- *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*

**Rose Kachadoorian**- PARC Board Administrator, Pesticide Program Manager, *ODA*

**Curtis Cude**- PARC Board Co-Chair, *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*

**Toby Primbs**- Program Manager, *ODA*

**Amy Cross**- Project Coordinator, *National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)*

**Anne Hayden-Lesmeister**- Water Quality and Quantity Program, *Ore. Dept of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)*

**Garnet Cooke**- Pesticide Coordinator, *Oregon Occupational Safety and Health (OR-OSHA)*

**Kate Jackson**- Western Region Liaison, *DEQ*

**Jamie Kometz**- Special Operations Unit, *Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)*

**Christina Higby**- Citizen Advocate Liaison, *ODA*

**Jay Walters**- Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry, ODF (Stepping in for Nathan Agalzoff)

**Crystal Weston**- Coordinator, Pesticide and Occupational Health Program, *OHA*

**Charisse Pizarro-Osilla**- Director, Poison Center

## PARC Consultants Present

**Dr. Fred Berman**- Co-Investigator, NPIC, *Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU)*

**Will Lackey**- Vegetation Management Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)*

**Dr. Jeff Jenkins**- Professor, Dept. of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology, *Oregon State University (OSU)*

## Introductions and Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. with housekeeping and review of the agenda. January's PARC Board minutes were reviewed, and accepted with a few corrections.

## Agency Updates

Michael Babbitt

Program Manager and PARC co-chair, ODA

### 1) PARC Current Activity

- a. We have not had a significant number of cases since the January meeting. There were 25 cases since then that were considered incidents as opposed to concerns. Even among those, none are especially significant cases.
- b. The most significant case involves an individual tending to a swimming pool in Toledo who was exposed to a chlorine-based disinfectant resulting in burns. That individual was the only one affected by the incident.
- c. We have a number of new cases that are awaiting additional information on products used. We are still following up and will get information to people as we can.
- d. We had a dog fatality, pig fatality, and a couple of cattle that died. In those cases, we simply do not have a lot of information on causation.
  - i. **Fred Berman**- Co-Investigator, NPIC, (OHSU)- What we look for is any objective evidence from a veterinarian that might support the claim. There has yet to be any provided.
  - ii. **Curtis Cude**- PARC Board Co-Chair, (OHA)- We are starting to get to the point where we can see signals that relate to cyanobacteria in lakes and reservoirs around the state. DEQ has done a great job developing the technology to scrape the data from EPA websites. Depending on where these animal deaths are happening, we might want to consider the possibility of cyanotoxins. Gerber reservoir was the site of a major cattle die off a couple summers ago. I can see that there are high levels of cyanotoxin bacteria. About ten years ago down in Elkton there were some cat and dog deaths that were thought to be the result of pesticide poisoning, but in turns out that the area has high levels of anatoxin, a sort of cyanotoxin. We have a permanent advisory in the mainstem Umpqua and South Umpqua rivers just for that very reason. A dog could get down in that and just drinking or consuming the attached cyanobacteria or floating mats of it could succumb in hours or even just minutes. It's really bad.
- e. We had a couple of spill incidents that were transportation related located on a loading dock. Both of them involving fungicides. Still waiting on additional information.

Curtis Cude

PARC Board Co-Chair, OHA

- 1) We will be bringing on an OSU MPH student as an intern this summer to help us with our occupational public health program. This will lead to an evaluation of contributing factors from a public health perspective. This is something we have not done since Justin Waltz preformed this type of analysis. We have our data all caught up from a big back log, so now we are in a good position to be able to do that work. Perhaps that person will be able to help us out with some case investigations as well throughout summer.

Crystal Weston

Coordinator, Pesticide and Occupational Health Program, OHA

### 1) Pesticide Poisoning Trends

- a. We are continuing to see an uptick in self harm cases. We are continuing to use surveillance data with the Emergency Department visits, and that has been a really rich source of case information that has helped to

find some of the more severe cases that we would have otherwise missed. This is a busy time of year, but we are staying on top of it pretty well.

Rose Kachadoorian

PARC Board Administrator, Pesticide Program Manager, ODA

- 1) Legislative Informational Meeting on Pesticide Use and Its Impacts on Human Health (The House Committee of Agriculture and Natural Resources, May 18, 2021, 3:15 PM)
  - a. Attendees
    - i. Alexis Taylor (ODA)
    - ii. Michael Wood (OR-OSHA)
    - iii. Ali Hamade (OHA)
    - iv. Kaci Buhl (OSU)
    - v. Representative Neron
    - vi. Ashley Chesser, (NW Center for Alternatives to Pesticides)
    - vii. David Carpenter MD and Shaili Rajput MD
    - viii. Katie Murry (OFS)
  - b. This was focused on pesticide use and impacts to health to not only children but also farm workers. Presentations lasted for an average of ten minutes and were very comprehensive.
- 2) PARC Coordinator
  - a. Michael Babbitt was kind enough to do a rotation into this position due to an absence left by Ted Bunch through a job rotation with OR-OSHA. Ted Bunch notified us that his rotation was to be extended another year (June 30, 2022). What that means is that because Michael Babbitt is retiring mid-late 2021, we will be advertising for another job rotation opportunity. We will be advertising for that within the current state system, rather than just ODA. We wanted to extend the opportunity to individuals in other agencies who would like the opportunity to be a natural resource specialist by serving as PARC coordinator for a year.
- 3) Legislation
  - a. House Bill 2031
    - i. This is related to certification training and pesticide applicators. So far this is going pretty smoothly.
  - b. House Bill 2409
    - i. This deals with HOAs and notification and choice.
    - ii. If someone does not want their property treated as a part of an HOA, they may have their property excluded from treatment (there are certain exceptions). These considerations are for people with pets and small children.
  - c. Forestry and SB 1602
    - i. We will be incorporating some information from a house bill on forestry into our pesticide applicator's certification study material. People will have to take an examination using certain pieces of study material from that agency and bill so that they will know their legal responsibilities. This will also include test questions. ODA is working with Jay Walters, Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry

Jay Walters

Forest Practices Field Coordinator, ODF

- 1) State Forester Peter Daugherty has resigned, effective May 31st<sup>t</sup>.
  - a. The Board of Forestry is meeting May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to begin the process of finding an interim State Forester. They will also start the process of the recruitment for a full-time permanent State Forester.
- 2) Stewardship Forestry
  - a. Stewardship Foresters across the state are the front-line administrators for the forest practice rules. They have been very busy recently administering notifications for salvage harvesting from all of the Labor Day fires.
  - b. Since last fall we have been working very closely with federal and state partners providing technical assistance for restoration funding addressing fires and drought.
- 3) Senate Bill 1602
  - a. This has occupied much of my time. I currently serve on the implementation team. Governor Brown passed this legislation June 2020.
  - b. Much of this is in relation to helicopter application of pesticides. There are new and increased buffers. These have been in place since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Much of the training for Stewardship Foresters and stake holders concerning buffers has gone very well.
  - c. We are also spending much of our energy on updating the FERNS e-notification system. The FERNS system is the electronic online system that operators and land owners use to tell ODF all that occurs concerning

forestry activity. This is a way in which ODF is able to engage in a conversations and provide resources.

- 4) Study Materials
  - a. We are currently working with Rose Kachadoorian and Colton Bond to produce relevant test questions and study materials that reflect the new requirements from SB1602.

Garnet Cooke

Pesticide Coordinator, Oregon Occupational Safety and Health, *OR-OSHA*

- 1) COVID-19
  - a. OR-OSHA has adopted the permanent COVID rules. Permanent does not mean it is a “forever rule”. It is one that will last as long as needed and then will be repealed.
  - b. Due to lack of clarity by CDC regarding masks, we have been inundated with complaints, questions, concerns, and confusion on workplace policy concerning mask enforcement.
- 2) Annual Heat Stress Emphasis Program
  - a. Every inspection will have heat stress added into it.
- 3) Ag related training provided to in house staff.
  - a. I provided a presentation on WPS for labor housing, PARC, and the importance of referrals.
    - i. Instead of confirm something before referring, I laid out specific words and phrases that should prompt referral.
- 4) Pesticide Symposium
  - a. It was very well attended with over 100 participants, and a great turn out day from the Department of Forestry. You guys rock! We also always have a great turnout from the Department of Ag. We are all hoping for an in-house meeting.
  - b. We also had Lieutenant Hunter (Marion County SWAT Commander) present. This was something that all the attending agencies have requested over the years. He was really well received.
- 5) Pesticide Emphasis Inspections
  - a. Things are steadily marching along

Jamie Kometz

Special Operations Unit, *OSFM*

- 1) Personnel
  - a. We are still working to fill the twenty-five limited duration positions that opened earlier this year along with existing vacant positions.
  - b. With these limited duration positions we are welcoming two programs to our office to address the changing fire conditions.
    - i. Oregon Response Ready
    - ii. Fire Adaptive Oregon
- 2) House Bill 2927
- 3) **OSFM is closely monitoring House Bill 2927 due to the potential impact on our office, which would separate OSFM from Oregon State Police.** Fires
  - a. May is Wildfire Awareness Month. We are supporting our wildland partners in encouraging Oregonians to begin to prepare for fire season. Our focus has been amplifying vital fire prevention messaging and resident preparedness actions.
- 4) Community Right to Know
  - a. Staff continue to quality control facility reports to ensure that they are accurately reporting.
  - b. We recently had a staff change. The current program coordinator is Todd Raska. If anyone needs access to CHS Manager or have questions about reported inventories or access to a SDS, Todd would be your point of contact.
- 5) Hazmat Program
  - a. We continue to operate business as usual. **We continue to be limited in training opportunities due to public health restrictions however due to lowering restrictions some agencies have been able to train new HM Technicians by offering our Technician Academy in a local format limiting exposure to their staff.**
  - b. Four heavy rescue vehicles have been delivered to Oregon , the first of them has been deployed to Coos Bay to begin to prepare to place the vehicle in service. We will finish out the biennium receiving four initial response rigs sometime in June. Those vehicles will be deployed to teams in Roseburg, Klamath Falls, Linn/Benton, and Coos Bay.

Kate Jackson

Western Region Liaison, Department of Environmental Quality, *DEQ*

- 1) Personnel

- a. DEQ is having some turnover in staff. Kevin Masterson's retirement is more or less officially announced. And the position is being filled in a different manner. The agency toxics coordinator will report to the director. It is not known yet just how we are going to handle the Pesticide Stewardship projects. It may depend on who is recruited for that position.
- b. The DEQ staff this spring is working on the flurry of pesticide complaints. We have really appreciated the continued support provided by Michael Babbitt. Better more than less.

## 2) Non-Fire Related Issues

- a. There's been a huge increase in cannabis grow operations in Jackson and Josephine counties. Representative Marsh says that so far this information has reached some of the legislators. The county code enforcement group that includes everybody, OSP, ODA, Water master's office, they also have been overwhelmed with over 300 complaints concerning all of these pop-up installations of greenhouses everywhere on really small acreage. I'm looking into how to ensure that staff is heard. It is clear that the legislature is already engaged in the conversation.

## 3) Fire Related Issues

- a. In addition to fire season already being declared, there are 13 counties that have declared drought for the year. Eight of which have been sustained with approval from the governor.
- b. SRF-7 (Natural Resource Sub Committee in the Emergency Response FEMA Action)
  - i. They are anticipating the possibility that an agreement between the EPA and FEMA, with a blanket purchase authority, would bring funding to geotechnical work in forest watersheds that are also drinking water sheds. They are looking at drinking water protection needs and after-action reports. In those kind of inter-federal agency contracts you can hear that they are being worked on, but you do not know when they will come down the pipeline actually signed and how much money might actually be there. It could be a substantial source.
- c. Hazards Tree Removal
  - i. ODOT has hired an additional auditor to look at whether or not the hazard tree removal work has been going according to the requirements. One of the distinctions DEQ sees there is that the power companies are also doing a lot of clearing. That is separate from the ODOT sponsored hazardous tree removal along roadways and private properties that are doing their own tree removal. There is a lot of media attention and confusion around that. It does look like with the utilities, because of their increasing liability for starting fires from aging equipment, you will see a lot more aggressive vegetation management in powerline corridors.
- d. Impact Management
  - i. A group was pulled together including ODF, ODA, and DEQ to look at whether or not we should be concerned about increased herbicide use related to reforestation activities from all of the fire damage. Many of those watersheds are drinking watersheds. We want to try to get ahead of the curve in how we want to manage that activity.
- e. Wildfire bill SB-762
  - i. This incorporates most of the recommendations from the Governor's 2019 Wild Fires Council. This predated the much more severe fires we've had in the years since then, but those 37 recommendations were worked on the last session. This year the bill has seen a lot more work, and is going to Ways and Means Sub Committee on Natural Resources within the week. That legislation would actually fund multiple state agencies, from the state fire marshal to ODF and whoever works on the local level on defensible space.
  - ii. The bill not only looks not only at the needs for firefighting, but the needs for community preparation including defensible space, fire space building codes, and also forest restoration to reduce the severity of fires in the future. It's really omnibus. It could potentially fund multiple state agencies.

Amy Cross

Project Coordinator, *National Pesticide Information Center*

### 1) Personnel

- a. We are happy to report that last month we had three new pesticide specialists trained. In addition to the specialists we had, we are feeling comfortable and really good about being able to keep up with the summer rush of pesticide inquiries that all agencies experience.

2) Partners

- a. We have been working with the Washington Department of Health to create a series of disinfectant fliers with infographics that are focusing more on the duality between when a disinfectant is necessary and when there could be other disinfectant options. These will be in line with the CDC recommendations for using soap and water and ventilation. One of those is focused for early childcare centers, and some of the others are meant to reach a wider audience. These range from hospitality industry to just general public. We are looking forward to this coming out in the next month or two.

[Oregon Poison Control Center Presentation](#)

Presentation by Charisse Pizarro-Osilla- Certified Specialist in Poison Information (CSPI)

[PARC Board Refinements](#)

Michael Babbitt

PARC Board Co-Chair- *Oregon Department of Agriculture*

1) Database Expansion and Improvement

- a. I had to search under a variety of terms to come up with the information about cases with allegations of exposure to children. I had to expand my search to include a myriad of terms other than “child”. Examples include niña, school, nephew, grand, etc. I came up with some good information, certainly, but we want to be able to find that information more quickly. I think that some of the tools we have in the database now could help us to do that. We just need to refine how we use them to narrow their scope a little bit.
- b. We do have check-off boxes for type of incident such as “human”, “animal”, “environmental”, and “other”. There may be some additional things that could be worth adding like “child” or other boxes under “human”. Each one of the boxes currently there could be supplemented with sub-categories.
- c. **Crystal Weston**- Coordinator, Pesticide and Occupational Health Program, *OHA*
  - i. Recommendations
    - 1. I think as far as finding the cases associated with human health impacts, we expressed at some point OHA is happy to provide that information. OHA is currently using sub categories in our database that enable us to find cases fairly quickly.
- d. **Rose Kachadoorian**- PARC Board Administrator, Pesticide Program Manager, *ODA*
  - i. The problem is that we are asked specific questions, for example how many cases come in to PARC that involve children. However, there is inconsistency in terms used to populate the database, which complicates electronic searches. For example, one case may say "child" and the other may indicate "5-year old sister". Also 211 might use different terms. OHA gets so much more that maybe it doesn't come into PARC. We may only get a subset of what OHA has. Maybe that is a reason for us to keep track of that data also.
- e. **Garnet Cooke**- Pesticide Coordinator, *Oregon Occupational Safety and Health*
  - i. Maybe it would be helpful if say we had 16 calls since the last meeting. Only three we could refer to PARC, but we had these other subsets that ranged in age from x-z. This way you know (PARC Coordinator) OHA has that certain number of subsets, but they cannot necessarily share the information with us, that there would be a placeholder for the information.
- f. **Crystal Weston**- Coordinator, Pesticide and Occupational Health Program, *OHA*
  - i. We can currently cross reference data. Another note on how the data is structured, if you have an event, the data isn't captured in a relational sense. We do not track animal incidents for instance. This shows that the way the data is structured could make this a lot easier.
- g. **Michael Babbitt**, PARC Board Co-Chair- *Oregon Department of Agriculture*
  - i. There's a tab in the database called “impacts” where we keep a list of environmental, animal, and

human impacts. Ideally you identify the person affected, gender, age, whether medical care was sought, whether records were received, whether poisoning, and most often we just don't get this information. They will all be attached to a single incident. There is no option for cross reference through a separate listing for the same criteria in a separate database. Although it will do that for the referral to other agencies. I would encourage people that if you have an investigation going on and your agency has a case number for it, that would be something that we would really like to know. As it is set up now, we wouldn't have a way to connect to that or reference to it.

*h. Kate Jackson- Western Region Liaison, Department of Environmental Quality*

*i. What I am hearing is that it is important that the results of these cases get into the PARC database so that you know where to go look when a question comes up.*

*i. Michael Babbitt, PARC Board Co-Chair- Oregon Department of Agriculture*

*i. That is something I am always looking for from agencies. When PARC refers something to an agency we document the reference to them. It would also be good to know what happened. That involves what was learned about any kind of exposure, environmental impacts, or what violations were cited. Also, it would be good to know what kind of mitigation took place. The problem with that of course is that often times it takes a long time to get a conclusion, particularly if there is a case of enforcement.*

*j. Kate Jackson- Western Region Liaison, Department of Environmental Quality*

*i. DEQ has a review process by which a pesticide complaint goes one of two directions: to water quality or to solid/hazardous waste staff. PARC receives a copy of the complaint, and DEQ assigns a staff person in the right program. ODA would get an email from the staff, so each agency knows by name the staff working on the case. ODA staff work together with DEQ when ODA confirms pesticide use. This coordination takes place at the staff level. So the question is, how much of that interaction, and when, should be captured in the PARC database?*

*k. Michael Babbitt, PARC Board Co-Chair- Oregon Department of Agriculture*

*i. I think what we need is a reference to a case number from both agencies, and when final a summary statement. We really don't have to have a lot of detail on the case within PARC. We don't want to overload PARC with a lot of information that is already present in other databases.*

## 2) PARC Recommendations

*a. Rose Kachadoorian- PARC Board Administrator, Pesticide Program Manager, ODA*

*i. When will we make a recommendation? When will we write up an actual PARC summary of an incident? We were thinking of having the PARC Coordinator write a brief summary of a significant incident. So that when we are writing our biennial reports or we get a question about an incident, we will have everything vetted and in black and white. This would enable you to contact the coordinator a year later after the event with a breakdown of the subsequent outcomes and agencies involved. Also, to enable easier follow-up, we need to ensure that names of all PARC agency investigators are indicated in the database, and any agency tracking/case numbers.*

*b. Christina Higby- Citizen Advocate Liaison, Oregon Department of Agriculture*

*i. If there are three or more agencies involved, it becomes the role of the PARC Coordinator to begin reaching out to those representatives in the various agencies and bring them together to conduct a meeting to talk about how the roles of everyone involved are being carried out to determine an action plan going forward. The coordinator then establishes the time for the next meeting for follow up.*

*c. Rose Kachadoorian- PARC Board Administrator, Pesticide Program Manager, ODA*

*i. It would be good to write up a summary due to the fact that we don't want to be in a situation where we have a database, but the person writing the biennial report has to find a bunch of meeting notes or emails to sift through. It seems that it would also be nice to have an already vetted summary (one that all the agencies agree with), so if there is a recommendation, there is a foundational summary base.*

- ii. Also, with PARC, because we are supposed to be identifying trends, how do we report the frequency of different types of cases other than just sending out a report documenting individual cases. Cases are often presented individually and not in context of other cases. When we do it, it would be ideal to document why we considered something a trend or identified a pattern. We will have to have criteria to put in a report or to tell people what we are hearing and seeing. It sounds like poison control does something like that from the presentation. Maybe those of you who do that a lot could advise PARC as a whole as how to classify something as a trend.
- d. **Garnet Cooke**- Pesticide Coordinator, *Oregon Occupational Safety and Health*
  - i. This is something we were attempting to accomplish with CF sheets (contributing factors). This enables us to extract specific information. We tagged some of the information as “notable”, as in the type of case, drift for example, and the effects to capture those things that would correlate to create a trend. We use our enforcement data to target things we are going to speak about in the upcoming speaking circuit so to speak.
- e. **Christina Higby**- Citizen Advocate Liaison, *Oregon Department of Agriculture*
  - i. The trends that I think some agencies may see may not rise to the level of a “PARC incident” so we may not know that. So I think that this is a good place where agencies bring that forward and that could be captured. We are seeing suicide rates with a certain product. That is something that we defiantly need to try to capture and have a group discussion, even if it may not be a PARC case per say.
- f. **Crystal Weston**- Coordinator, Pesticide and Occupational Health Program, *OHA*
  - i. For any human health effect, I believe it is advisable for OHA to take the lead on that. We include DOB and we are happy to provide that information. Although, trying to put human health effect into the PARC database is feasible or advisable. If there are multiple individuals involved, the information could become redundant. Also, there needs to be confirmation that the human health effect is even associated with the event itself. We also get some cases from OSHA where the person did not want that information shared with ODA but they were comfortable assigning it just to OSHA and OHA because our data is confidential. There is also data that does not leave OHA that is tied to medical records.
- g. **Curtis Cude**- PARC Board Co-Chair, *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*
  - i. What we could do is say there are 50 cases and it represents x number of people. Then we could say how we determined those cases concerning the individuals involved and how it breaks down. In addition we have these other cases from that same time period and we could add that all together.
- h. **Crystal Weston**- Coordinator, Pesticide and Occupational Health Program, *OHA*
  - i. I think it really goes to the strength of PARC’s coordination to focus on a coordination role for these 50 reports. More specifically if it’s an environmental issue, perhaps DEQ could provide specific numbers on that larger issue. OHA could provide specific data, and that coordination of the 50 cases shows the value of PARC coordination across multiple agencies. If we only report the things that overlap with multiple agencies, we don’t end up providing superfluous information.
- i. **Rose Kachadoorian**- PARC Board Administrator, Pesticide Program Manager, *ODA*
  - i. It would be helpful if you had any agency reports that we could link to when developing the PARC report, agency reports may include more comprehensive information. For example, OSHA came out with a report not that long ago. In the ODA Pesticides Program we don’t usually do a report like that, but it makes me think that when we have the time, we should do that very thing to have something to link to.
- j. **Curtis Cude**- PARC Board Co-Chair, *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*
  - i. What I would offer is that we could inform that report. I’m not sure that our program would necessarily do a separate report every two years. It may be less frequent than that for our purposes, but we certainly could contribute to a legislative report.
- k. **Rose Kachadoorian**- PARC Board Administrator, Pesticide Program Manager, *ODA*
  - i. In conclusion, it seems like we are going to have an after-incident review after significant cases,



develop a few summary paragraphs, and in some cases form subsequent recommendations. The PARC coordinator will lead these efforts. The summary and recommendations will then be vetted by all of the agencies that were involved.

Public Comments:

None.