

Final PARC Board meeting minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
11/17/2021	Virtual meeting	9 AM	Noon

  

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Warren Hanson	PARC@oda.state.or.us	971.600.7447

PARC Member Agencies Present

- Warren Hanson**- Interim PARC Board Coordinator, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
- Rose Kachadoorian**- PARC Board Administrator, Program Manager (ODA)
- William Lackey**- Statewide Vegetation Management Coordinator, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Michael Babbitt**- Case Reviewer - *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*
- Jamie Kometz**- Special Operations Unit, Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- Chuck McKay**- Compliance Specialist in Hazardous Materials, Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- Toby Primbs**- Program Manager (ODA)
- Stacy Savona**- Forest Practices Field Support Coordinator, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Anne Hayden-Lesmeister**- Water Quality, Quantity Program, *Ore. Dept of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)*
- Garnet Cooke**- Pesticide Coordinator, *Oregon Occupational Safety and Health (OR-OSHA)*
- Kate Jackson**- Western Regional Liaison (DEQ)
- Charisse Pizarro-Osilla**- Oregon Poison Center (OPC)

PARC Consultants Present

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

Other Persons Present

- Colton Bond**- Certification and Training, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
- Andrea Sonnen**- Lead Pesticide Investigator, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
- Peter Colistro**- Pesticide Investigator, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
- Matthew Bucy**- Pesticide Product Registration Specialist, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
- Amy Cross**- Project Coordinator, *National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)*
- Katie Murray**- Executive Director, *Oregonians for Food and Shelter (OFS)*
- Lisa Arkin**- Executive Director, *Beyond Toxics*
- Jennifer Eisele**- Pesticide Program Manager, *Beyond Toxics*

## Introductions and Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. with housekeeping and review of the agenda. August's PARC Board minutes were reviewed and recommended for revision as needed.

## Agency Updates

Kate Jackson

Western Regional Liaison, *DEQ*

- 1) Pesticide General Permit
  - a. Currently out for public comment. It was posted on November 8, 2021. There will be a public hearing by ZOOM on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 1330. The Pesticide General Permit has been expired for several years. We will reissue it for another round of comments for adoption early next year.
- 2) Federal Funding for septic systems
  - a. DEQ received 15 million dollars meant specifically for septic system repair and replacements statewide. This would be a grant program. This 15 million dollar grant is a one-time thing. DEQ is doing some targeted outreach to get ideas to help design the program. We anticipate that this will be a 6–9-month process to get contracts in place.
    - i. This is statewide, not fire related.
  - b. We are reaching out to the tribes, and making sure we are getting to the County Community Action Agencies that do the weatherization and housing rehab work. We really want to build on other existing programs, rather than manage it ourselves.
  - c. This year there were many large contributions by the legislature putting federal funds towards housing, weatherization, and drinking water testing projects. There is a lot of activity aimed towards improving low-income communities and community housing needs. Getting it coordinated between the different agency programs will be an issue. The Department of Energy received funding for fire related issues. They are already doing one-off programs of their own to implement them. Healthy Homes Statewide Council will take a year to get the multiple state agencies to propose an Integrated program delivery.

Stacy Savona (For Nathan Agalzoff)

Forest Practices Field Support Coordinator, *ODF*

- 1) None.

Garnet Cooke

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

- 1) New Agency Administrator
  - a. Agency Administrator Michael Wood has left. Deputy Administrator Julie Love is now serving as interim.
- 2) New Agriculture Educational Facility
  - a. Located at Chemeketa Community College.
  - b. This is a net zero building. It is designed to offer a training venue for the agricultural community. They will offer it to us for free. We will just pay for food. We also provide them time to prepare and distribute information about the facility. I will be sending out the save the date and registration information shortly.
- 3) Presentation for the EPA Director's Meeting on Pesticide Storage and Wildfire
  - a. WSDA is interested in having the presentation. Rhonda who is the PSEP from Idaho Department of Agriculture expressed The University of Idaho's interest in the presentation as well.

There is a strong interest in having a regional approach.

4) Grants

- a. DCBS Building Codes are offering grants to survivors when they rebuild for home hardening for fire. The Department of Energy is offering grants for survivors when they rebuild to be energy efficient. I have been in touch with both groups, then sending that information up to the Elkhorn community for survivors.

5) OSU Programs

- a. Presentations are being given on what they call “Wildfire Wednesdays”. They are all recorded and available online. They are also working on a “Build Back Better” program to help support the Elkhorn area.

Jamie Kometz

Special Operations Unit, OSFM

1) Senate Bill 762

- a. We are currently working on a report to the legislator on our progress with the programs that we have implemented, the Response Ready Oregon, the Fire Adaptive Oregon, and the Oregon Defensible Space Code.

2) Recruitment and Staffing Changes

- a. Our office is recruiting for a fifth Regional Mobilization Coordinator in Eastern Oregon. We have received additional funding for two additional coordinators that would be assigned to the Columbia River Gorge, the Klamath, and Lake counties.
- b. Soon we will be recruiting for an agency Mobile Coordinator who will be responsible for our agency operations center and the mobilization plan. This position is similar to a Regional Agency Coordinator; however it is statewide.
- c. Michael Heffner has accepted the position as Deputy Fire Chief in the State of Washington. He will be leaving OSFM effective December 10, 2021.

3) Implementation of the Prepositioning and Immediate Response with the Oregon Fire Defense Board Chiefs

- a. This is intended to build out the Regional Coordination Coordinator programs statewide. We are focusing on initial attack on trying to prevent conflagrations as much as we can. We will also build an apparatus program where the state is purchasing an apparatus for fire departments to use to help them with initial response.

4) Community Risk Reduction

- a. They are working on evaluations in a phone survey to address the needs of the 50 communities that are exposed to wildfires across Oregon.

Charisse Pizarro-Osilla

Director, Oregon Poison Center

1. Presentations

- a. The Southern Oregon Pesticide Office (Continuing Education) requested a lecture providing pesticide management treatment to the health professionals in Josephine County. Medical Director Rob Hendrickson presented a management lecture for clinics and the hospital staff. We are also working to provide pesticide exposure prevention materials. Many materials are also in Spanish.

2. Ivermectin

- a. From August of 2020 to November of 2020 we have had 23 calls. In 2021, August to November we have had 83 calls. This concerns information and exposure. Over all calls have been decreasing. We have received a few complaint calls concerning misinformation.

Will Lackey

Statewide Vegetation Management Coordinator, ODOT

1. None.

Amy Cross

*ROUGH DRAFT*

Project Coordinator, NPIC

1. None.

Rose Kachadoorian

PARC Board Administrator, Pesticide Program Manager, ODA

1. Vole Issues and Bating Strategies
  - a. We've been working with OSU, their extension, USFW, and the grass seed industry. There is a large interest in this because of the use of Zinc Phosphide and making sure that pesticides are used judiciously.
2. Chlorpyrifos
  - a. We are addressing concerns about potential disposal issues not only in Oregon, and working with other states.
3. Pesticide Stewardship Partnership
  - a. The PSP is focused on monitoring for pesticides in surface waters in specific areas . We have partnered with watershed councils and SWCDs to help share results and provide technical assistance and education. We are placing more of a program emphasis on ensuring that our partners have the information and the support they need to be successful. Pesticides can be one of the stressors for aquatic organisms. This is particularly a concern with climate change and trying to reduce any kind of stressors. We do this in conjunction with DEQ and several other agencies.
4. Collection Event
  - a. This took place on October 30<sup>th</sup> in Polk County. Overall, in 2021, we collected 25,000lbs of unwanted or unusable pesticides. At the Polk County event we collected over 13,000lbs including a 40lb bag of DDT.
5. Staffing
  - a. We have been hiring in our Pesticide and Fertilizer programs, and we are continuing to do so.

### PARC Updates

#### **PARC communication meetings**

Warren Hanson

In the near future, I am looking to set up individual meetings with each agency to talk about how to better communicate between agencies. Related questions may include:

- How to track PARC cases
- Barriers to communication
- How can the PARC coordinator best assist your agency
- What is the best way for PARC to get other agencies' case numbers?
- How to identify trends or patterns

If anyone has any additional questions or ideas, please let me know.

#### **PARC outreach for community members**

Warren Hanson

Starting in January, PARC may begin searching for a community member for the PARC board. If anyone has any ideas about looking for a neutral member to join the board, please let me know. We had a list of criteria for a board member, but any work that was put into the search was pushed back by COVID.

### PARC Board Special Presentations

#### **Vale Airport case discussion**

Warren Hanson

This case (PARC # 22-0033) was presented to PARC by the city manager at Vale, Oregon with concerns about the cleanliness of a leased aerial applicator spot at the airport. He noticed some residue that was not being contained on the mixing and loading pad and that one of the employees was mixing and loading pesticides with improper protective equipment. He had some other concerns about pesticide storage, he noticed that there were a bunch

of partial or empty containers that were littered on the ground and piled up onto a farm truck with an estimated 400 empty containers. The airport had a gate, but it was never locked, so the spot was fully accessible to the public at any time. The same applicator had similar issues raised at the Ontario airport and may have been asked to leave the airport.

The ODA investigator observed the mixer/loader wearing the flip flops, shorts, and sunglasses but also noticed dripping nozzles and a leaking anti-drip tank coupler on the plane itself. There were several issues, including a cracked mixing tank that had duct tape placed to “correct” the issue and some burned pesticide containers or labels.

EPA took the lead on sampling the site. At the Vale Airport, soil samples were collected and the pesticides methomyl, dicamba, and 2,4-D were measured. At the Ontario Airport, soil samples, plus samples of material in some of the remaining containers, were collected and the same three pesticides were measured, as well as triclopyr, MCPA, MCPP, 2,4-DB. DEQ has designated the containers at the Ontario Airport as hazardous waste, and EPA subsequently removed the remaining containers for proper disposal. This matter is still being reviewed by ODA and DEQ.

### **After incident review: Zinc Phosphide**

Andrea Sonnen

This case started from a phone call from Milton Freewater where a helicopter dropped pellets on residents. The pellets were collected by residents in the area. Multiple neighbors in the area also called in to report the situation. The ODA investigator learned that multiple animals died (more than eight chickens and two turkeys) following the application. The owner of the helicopter company said he followed the label and did not know how the pellets were misplaced. He also thought that the media had exacerbated the issue. Samples were collected from three properties in the area. A chicken carcass was collected from one property for analysis. PARC put out communication to neighbors in the area for more information about the situation. Christina Higby did a lot of outreach to people in that neighborhood. All samples came back positive for zinc phosphide. The chicken carcass tested positive for phosphine.

Notices were delivered to the company and applicator following the application. A settlement was reached with the operator and applicator. It was determined that a strap had broken or was connected incorrectly and allowed the pellets to move off-site. We do not know for certain which it was.

Kate Jackson

DEQ got involved due to the media involvement. It was determined that this was a listed substance and should have been reported by the applicator. DEQ in coordination with ODA investigators need to do a better job communicating about reporting requirements. Maps were not shared between agencies, so that is something to improve. Zinc phosphide is commonly used, and can be aerially applied DEQ has not planned for short notice sample collection and analytical methods.

Rose Kachadoorian

Did the ODA investigator know to send maps to DEQ? ODA had issues getting the maps for the situation as well. Also, the maps received were not complete.

Are GPS trackers required for use with aerial applicators and should ODA require them?

Before considering making policy recommendations, it would be ideal to analyze what risk is out there. Zinc phosphide is commonly used, but how much is used aerially and how much actually moves off-target? Before considering a recommendation, is this something feasible for our aerial applicators? Could we try an anonymous survey of aerial applicators to see how feasible it would be to require GPS, and what current systems are being used?

If there was a recommendation for a survey, it would be to assess the situation and see if it is or isn't used. What kinds of applications are being done? What formulations? How extensive is their use?

**The PARC board takes a vote about looking into collecting additional information about aerial applicators and systems used to record or evaluate fly patterns and applications.**

**The vote passes.**

### **Declaring a Pest Emergency: School IPM**

Colton Bond

In collaboration with OSU, we have developed a fact sheet about School IPM and declaring a pest emergency.

This fact sheet was prompted by several incidents, including a school district that hired a pest control operator (PCO) to use aluminum phosphide on a sports field. Several steps were not followed, so we wanted to make the process more straightforward and transparent. We have used NPIC and OSU as great resources during the development of the fact sheet. The fact sheet is now posted on our website as of today. Tim Stock (OSU) helped develop the fact sheet and also sent it out to all the School IPM coordinators and on our School IPM listserv. If someone needs a copy, it is linked [here](#) on our School IPM page as well as on OSU's website.

Andrea Sonnen

We met with OSU and Department of Education to discuss items that ODA enforcement sees regularly in relation to school IPM and pesticides. Trends included schools not getting notifications out to everyone necessary, as well as some record keeping issues (though they were mostly complete). Another issue was with schools hiring a PCO and communicating with them to ensure that all additional requirements are being met.

Most people didn't understand what the requirements were for declaring a pest emergency and what all steps are required before the application itself.

### **Wildfire wise pesticide storage**

Garnet Cooke

Have growers thought about pesticide storage and wildfires? Many hazards relate to the issue. It can spread and cause huge environmental impacts, as well as being very costly. Are environmental cleanups covered under their insurance? Another risk are situations with labor housing. I encourage growers to think about those situations from three standpoints: before, during, and after a fire.

Weather, topography, and fuel are the components of what we call the "fire triangle". All three of these influences the spread and intensity of the fire. Although we may not be able to change the topography, we can change the fuel that are near buildings and pesticide storage areas. Access is also very important. Residents and firefighters need to be able to get in/out in case of fire. One lane access roads may make access difficult.

Embers being spread by wind are a big issue, and soffits are very important to limit the risk and entry into a pesticide storage area. You want at least five feet of clearance from combustible materials. Be sure that leaf litter and other fuel are not on the roof of the building. Also, keep fuel tanks clear of vegetation. If a fire does happen, it is very important to know exactly what was in the storage area. Annually, we recommend that growers clear the area of fuel sources, meet with the fire department, and have an emergency plan in place.

Wildland and structural firefighting are much different. There have been incidents in the past where wildland firefighters have encountered burning pesticides and have had major health incidents.

We have a handout on our [website](#) about general pesticide storage.

### **Right to Know Fact Sheet, OSFM**

Chuck McKay

The fact sheet in process, but we have nothing to present currently. We are down two people right now, so it is a little further back on the burner.

Rose Kachadoorian

It may be worthwhile to potentially work on a multi-agency fact sheet about water quality, worker safety, soil contaminations, and fire issues related to the storage of pesticides. In addition, it is a mystery to a lot of farmers about what is advisory information versus what is required by law. A clear fact sheet could also potentially serve as study material for future pesticide applicators.

Garnet Cooke

On-Farm Agrichemical Handling Facilities booklet would be used as a foundation for Oregon specific fact sheet. Could be built upon by PARC agencies. What is each agency's piece? It is copyrighted, but how can we build upon it? We would obtain permission and then develop agency specific information to go into the booklet.

### PARC Case Discussion

Michael Babbitt, Case Reviewer (ODA)

22-0086

Complaint about the use of disinfectants at a school. A parent was concerned about the use of thymol. Supposedly only happening when school was not in session, but the parent thought applications were happening during school times. A quaternary ammonium compound was also used. There were some application violations due to not following contact time for disinfectants. Not much in the way of documented human exposure. ODA's case is still on-going.

22-0082

The use of mothballs at an RV park to discourage wild animals. Had been done for a long time. By the time the investigator got to the site, they found mothballs on the ground and several layers of mothballs mixed in with leaf litter. Still trying to determine if the mothballs contained naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene. Both active ingredients are similar, but neither are intended to be used in the way they were applied.

22-0069

A person had a lot of accusations about neighbors using rodenticides, but there was not much of a pesticidal component. Those type of disputes may be better suited for the police department to deal with. A lot of police departments are incorporating behavioral health experts within the department. There have been some recent dog fatalities that may/may not be pesticide related, but there have been some confirmed poisonings with dogs.

### Public Comment

Katie Murray, OFS:

I think PARC may have skipped important steps about the potential survey for aerial applicators. PARC needs to be very thoughtful and deliberate about how you are approaching them and why. What is the justification for it? Is there incident information to support it being done? It may be beneficial to connect with stakeholders before developing a survey, otherwise it may bring up red flags.

We would want to be very clear and honest before asking any questions.

### Closing

Warren Hanson

The next PARC board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 0900.