

# Water Quality Pesticide Management Team Meeting Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
4/20/2021	Virtual meeting	9 AM	Noon

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Kathryn Rifenburg	<a href="mailto:kathryn.rifenburg@oda.oregon.gov">kathryn.rifenburg@oda.oregon.gov</a>	971.600.5073

## WQPMT Members and Guests Present

**Kathryn Rifenburg**- Pesticide Stewardship Specialist, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

**Rose Kachadoorian**- PARC Board Administrator, Program Manager (ODA)

**Warren Hanson**- Interim PARC Board Coordinator, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

**Thomas Whittington**- Water Quality Specialist, *Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)*

**Kaci Buhl**- Associate Professor PSEP, Oregon State University (OSU)

**Todd Hudson**- Public Health Toxicologist, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

**Colin Donald**- Water Quality Analyst, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Gene Foster** – Manager, Water Shed Management, DEQ

**David Gruen** – Columbia River Coordinator, DEQ

**Aaron Borisenko**- Water Quality Monitoring Manager, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Becky Anthony** – Water Quality Specialist, ODFW

**Kris Schaedel**- Hood River SWCD

## Introduction

Meeting is called to order by Kathryn Rifenburg. Kathryn introduces Kris Schaedel who is giving a presentation on sampling time frame and analytes.

### **Kris Schaedel- Hood River SWCD**

I've always had some lingering questions about using grab sample methodologies and what are the chances that my one time grabbing a sample is capturing a representative result of what is happening in the water column over time. I've also had questions about our timing of sampling and about what growers are currently using in common practice and what that looks like relative to analytes list. I had an opportunity to get some momentum behind this project and start looking into it. I want to make a case that this is such an important program for this region and for our working lands and for commercial fruit growers. I started by taking the pest management guide for fruit trees put out by OSU and overlapped it with DEQ analytes list to find if tests are being done for products used. To find out what growers are actually using I looked at the spray records of three different farms to capture an inclusive view of the two primary crops (pears and cherries) and to think critically about common use products as well as the timing. This is an ongoing process and we are building data sets to figure out which common use products have the greatest toxicity and when are those being sprayed. As I have capacity to open up or we move into a strategic planning process we'll be able to dig in have deeper conversations and make a more robust data set and program moving forward.

## Update on PSP Data Viewer

### **David Gruen- Columbia River Coordinator, DEQ**

In March of this year, we went back to the stakeholder advisory group to keep them informed and to show off current version of PSP data viewer. DEQ and ODA received feedback and there were some concerns expressed. Overall concerns were over the accuracy and usefulness of the crop land data layer. Based on feedback, they didn't see a lot of value in that aspect. DEQ elected to not launch the data viewer with the cropland data layer at this time. In the future it may be revisited. In addition, we heard feedback and concern about the accessibility of the data and the ability of the users to pull up data from specific sampling stations. Or the potential for the data viewer to be misconstrued or misrepresented by external users. As a result, we are soliciting additional feedback to get a handle on how our PSP partners use the data viewer, and what concerns they might have with it being publicly available. Next steps are to aggregate the results and have another meeting to present those results and discuss next steps ahead of the launch of the viewer. May make changes on viewer depending on feedback.

## Summary of the Bi-annual Report

### **Kathryn Rifenburg, PSP, ODA**

I started drafting sections on the FY 201-2021 biennial report a couple weeks ago. Education materials regarding waste pesticide collection events are being written by me, and the data analysis portion are being drafted by DEQ. I sent some of those sections back to DEQ to work on data analysis. It's going to be a short biennial report due to lack of collection events and outreach due to COVID restrictions. Hoping to have a draft back to water quality pesticide management team sometime this summer for review.

### **David Gruen – Columbia River Coordinator, DEQ**

We're still in the very early stages. We are going to take a look at the methodology used in the data analysis section. We're going to consider making some updates. The biannual report has traditionally been done on a fiscal year basis, but Kathryn and I have talked about looking at a calendar year approach. We're thinking about ways we can do a

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more powerful analysis and a linear trend tests don't account for seasonality. There might be seasonality impacts based on spray schedules, hydrology, drought, etc. We are evaluating how we incorporate seasonal test or analysis.

## PSP Partner Updates

### PUDDING SWCD

**Kathryn Rifenburg**, PSP, ODA

The Pudding watershed council stepped down as the local lead late last year. We have been talking with Marion SWCD to see if they would be willing to pick up this project. Brenda Sanchez, formerly from ODA's Ag Water Quality Program, stepped up to executive director for Marion SWCD. The PSP program made it in front of board of directors last month (April). It was mostly positively received, but there was a concern for capacity of staff. Brenda created a work plan for the board on how staff will continue current duties while also meeting objectives of PSP. That workplan will go back in front of board of directors in May. Hopefully sometime in May we will find out if they will be the staff lead for the Pudding area. Until then, Kathryn is still sampling Mill Creek and Pudding.

### Pesticide Collection Events

**Kathryn Rifenburg**, PSP, ODA

Our first one in Pendleton collected about 7k pounds of pesticides. The Roseburg event scheduled on 16<sup>th</sup> only received 4 applications. Therefore, it was tentatively rescheduled for October in hopes that they will receive more applications. We want to make sure were putting our money and resources in the best available areas. We're doing more events this year and are expecting more to be collected. We have an Ontario event coming up on April 30<sup>th</sup>. We have reached out to all the growers commissions, licensed applicators, retailers, dealers etc., within about five counties. Will be sending out a list of all the places we've advertised and advertising materials. The Clackamas event is going well with several applications already received.

### ODA's Thoughts on the new PSP approach

**Kathryn Rifenburg**, PSP, ODA

With the retirement of Kirk and Kevin, ODA used this as an opportunity to reevaluate the goals and priorities of the PSP program. In the past it's been mostly a technical program, but at its core it's meant to be a feedback loop project with education, outreach and local relationships leading the change so we see the lower concentrations of pesticides in waterways. We've been talking about how we can be more supportive to our PSP partners, what we want to fund, how we could best use their time and how we can help facilitate those outreach components in each of the PSP watersheds moving forward.

**Rose Kachadoorian**- PARC Board Administrator, Program Manager (ODA)

We are attempting to determine what people need to be successful. Do we simply provide data, or do partners and pesticides users need more basic education, such as how to keep pesticides out of water, and why it is important? This is why it is important to have Kaci Buhl, OSU PSEP, involved, to provide a base educational platform.

In order to improve communication, we are evaluating the utility of developing a list of common chemical names with the corresponding trade names for the common pesticides used in specific PSPs. This would be to make sure that everyone is on the same page with what pesticides are being discussed. Instead of asking our partners to create this, it is actually easier for ODA Pesticides staff to do a lot of this work. We would like to determine what pieces of information are important for making their job easier. This is so they can focus on relationship building and doing outreach. We want to ensure that there is an accessible place for important and relevant information.

Our goal is to provide some common tools to help our partners to be more successful. We measure that success by whether the frequencies and levels of pesticides go down. The Data Viewer would be an evaluation tool for our Partners and Pesticide Applicators. Also, if they do have questions about those data, we like to have relevant informative information easily available. We can also show them how to most effectively use the data by showing them pesticides of low, medium, and high concern in their area.