

Water Quality Management Team Meeting
June 18, 2020
9:00 am – 12:00 noon

This meeting was held via Go-To-Meeting due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis

Attendees:

Aaron Borisenko	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)
Kirk Cook	Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Colin Donald	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)
Rose Kachadoorian	Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Todd Hudson	Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
Kevin Masterson	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)
Paul Measeles	Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Brenda Sanchez	Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Thomas Wittington	Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)

Absent:

Ted Bunch	Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Audrey Hatch	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

Agency Updates:

OWEB: Due to significant budget cuts resulting in staff reductions, OWEB will be unable to participate in WQPMT meeting for the foreseeable future. The WQPMT should not expect OWEB participation for the remainder of the biennium.

ODA: The agency is moving forward with the development of rules for the continued use of the insecticide chlorpyrifos. The proposed rule will limit the current use by imposing tighter restrictions including implementing buffers for all remaining uses. Currently, ODA would like some input from the WQPMT regarding how buffer widths should be measured next to perennial waterways for various application methods. The members agreed to provide Rose Kachadoorian with feedback on this issue.

Following the Governors order, offices will remain closed to the public (with the exception of meetings by appointment) until August 31st. Additional extensions maybe imposed depending on the status of the virus in Oregon.

The Region 10 annual meeting originally scheduled for the final week in September in Medford has been moved. At this time, moving the meeting to Bend or holding it remotely via the internet are the options. ODA is hosting this meeting and will likely move for a remote meeting. Final decision on this will be made by the end of July.

Pesticide label renewals are backlogged. Additional staff are being shifted to this effort in order to meeting the deadline of September 1st to have all labels reviewed and approved. There have been a record number of new pesticide registrants and registrations due to an increase in disinfectant registrations.

SIAs are continuing, although we have had to seek alternatives to some of the process due to COVID-19 restrictions such as sending letters to landowners instead of an Open House public meeting to inform and engage them.

DEQ: Spring 2020 monitoring has generally been conducted as originally planned, despite the pandemic disruptions. The Middle Rogue delayed their initial monitoring activity by 3 weeks or so, but otherwise the scheduled drafted in February has been followed. There have been a few sample shipment delays, but most samples have met quality criteria when they've arrived. Stream bed sediment sampling are planned for late July and August, with two monitoring locations per watershed. The Laboratory is working toward adding diazinon, malathion and DCPA (dacthal) to the existing PSP sediment analytical suite, based on Kirk's evaluation of KOCs of current use pesticides in the water analytical suite.

OHA: Oregon Health Authority is continuing to provide input to the Chlorpyrifos Work Group. OHA is also participating in a project led by the City of Portland to sample for pesticides near former agricultural areas within the city. These areas are planned for restoration of native plants.

ODF: Oregon Special Session will consider Senate Bill 1602 which adds aerial pesticide spraying restrictions in Oregon's commercial forests. If passed this will extend buffers for drinking water sources and other special areas. It represents compromise between the forest industry and environmentalists. ODF staff continue to work from home due to COVID-19. The agency is dealing with managing budget reduction due to the COVID-19 impact. *(Thomas please add to this if I have missed anything).*

PSP Budget Status:

In early May the PSP program became aware of the potential for the PSP Program to be cut by 34% as a result of a decline in state revenues due to the effects of the COVID-19 shutdown. This cut would translate into a \$344,770.00 reduction in available funds for the remainder of the biennium. The proposed cuts are distributed as follows:

\$ 166,075.00 from waste pesticide collections
\$ 75,000.00 from PSP partner grants
\$ 103,695.00 from DEQ special payments

The program developed a list of how these cuts would impact each PSP grantee. These cuts were presented to the WQPMT. Since that presentation we have learned that the Governor had accepted only those cuts associated with the Waste Pesticide Collection Program. This recommendation could be either accepted or modified by the Legislature in special session sometime in late July. A final decision regarding how any potential cuts to grant programs and DEQ will be made after that date.

Water Quality Monitoring (Potential Modifications)

As noted previously potential cuts to the program may result in reductions and modifications to PSP water sampling activities. In anticipation of this, a modified proposal was presented to members of the WQPMT. The modifications proposed are:

- *Reduce sampling in the upcoming fall period*
- *Focus on storm events and sediment sample collection*
- *Suspend flow monitoring at some sites (Clackamas)*
- *May need to provide assistance for some sampling (Middle Deschutes, sediment)*

These proposals would be reviewed for the Spring sampling. If the current budget cuts are modified by the Legislature Kevin Masterson will work with partners to make any necessary changes to the proposal above.

Biennial Report

A final review draft was sent to members of the WQPMT on June 9th. All members have provided comments and those have been incorporated in previous drafts resulting in the one send out on June 9th. The report follows the same format as the 2015-17 report, with the exception that no individual watershed reports were developed (*this was due to partner workloads associated with COVID-19*). Several new sections were added that include Strategic Planning, Sediment Analysis, and pesticides of high concern. Members felt that it was critical to get the report out as soon as possible due to budget issues and keeping the legislature informed. The members did recommend that a one page summary be developed that would coincide with the release of the document. The summary would also be one of the first pages of the report.

Members felt that several steps should be completed prior to the release which was recommended to be on or before August 15th. These steps include having a third-party editor review the document for spelling grammar and readability, schedule a briefing for agency management, and posting the document and the one-page summary on the Pesticide Stewardship Webpage at ODA. Rose Kachadoorian indicated that one of her staff is an excellent editor and volunteered his services.

South Umpqua Final Report

A final version of the South Umpqua Report was developed and sent to WQPMT members in Mid-May with a request for final comments by May 22nd. Additional comments were received by ODF on June 16th that raised some issues regarding wording and requesting clarification on the mention of the use of POCIS as a potential sampling method to assess pesticide occurrence in the future within the watershed. Thomas Whittington (ODF) presented these comments /concerns to the WQPMT membership. As a result, the WQPMT requested clarification of ODF comments which would then be considered in modifications to the report. The Chairman strongly emphasized that the report should be completed prior to the upcoming SAG meeting on

July 30th. Upon final approval by WQPMT members the report will be forwarded to a proof reader for grammar, spelling, and readability. Upon completion the report will be finalized.

Since the meeting ODF has submitted additional comments which were incorporated in to the report. Use of POCIS as a measure of effectiveness of education and outreach has been removed.

OSU Education and Outreach Project

As a result of proposed budget cuts, the OSU water quality and pesticide education project has been put on hold as of May 2020. The WQPMT ha agreed that this project is of significant importance to the PSP program and would like to see it continue. As result the Chairman proposed that work continue on the project with Kirk Cook assuming the technical lead.

In order to continue moving the project forward, Kirk Cook will assume the lead in the development of project deliverables. The WQPMT will provide input throughout the project with ODA certification staff will assist providing input to the project. ODA publications and IT staff will assist in development of both presentation portion and on-line program. Due date will remain June 30, 2021.

The project will consist of four modules. Module One will focus on pesticide mobility and the characteristics of a pesticide combined with the environmental conditions into which it is applied. This will provide the user with a better understanding of why label language is what it is, and how pesticide scan migrate to nearby water bodies. Module Two will focus on the pesticide label and the various elements that pertain to water quality protection. This module will build on the knowledge gained in Module One. Development of this module will borrow heavily from previous presentation on label education. Module Three will focus on the presentation of proven best management practices (BMP's) that protect water quality from the use of pesticides. In the development of this module, we will draw extensively from previous academic and agency publications. Module Four will focus on the use and importance of water quality data and how these data impacts decisions regarding use of pesticides. In this module we will present information that should provide applicators with a basic understanding of how to use water quality data and how it can inform the pesticide applicator and reduce the potential for pesticide impacts to the environment or in some cases contribute to an existing water quality issue.

PSP Data Viewer

Colin Donald presented an update to the PSP data viewer. There had be some discussion that because of the COVID-19 situation and budget reduction that the “roll out” of the viewer would be delayed possibility until the next biennium. Colin reported that this was not the case and that the viewer should be ready sometime towards the end of summer...good news.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon

