

# January PARC Board Meeting Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
1/17/2024	Virtual meeting	9:00AM	10:30AM

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Warren Hanson	warren.hanson@ODA.oregon.gov	971-600-7447

## PARC Member Agencies Present

**Warren Hanson**, PARC Board Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*  
**Gilbert Uribe**, PARC Board Administrator, Pesticides Program Manager, *ODA*  
**Ted Bunch**, Technical Specialist, Standards and Technical Division, *Oregon OSHA*  
**Rebecca Anthony**, Water Quality Specialist, *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)*  
**Stacy Savona**, Forest Practices Field Support Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)*  
**Charisse Pizarro-Osilla**, Director, *Oregon Poison Center (OPC)*  
**Mark Johnston**, Special Operations Unit, *Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM)*  
**David Gruen**, Columbia River Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)*  
**Andrea Sonnen**, Lead Pesticide Investigator, *ODA*

## PARC Consultants Present

**William Lackey**, Statewide Vegetation Management Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)*

## Other Persons Present

**Toby Primbs**, Pesticides Compliance Program Manager, *ODA*  
**Christina Higby**, Citizen Advocate and Tribal Liaison, *ODA*  
**Colton Bond**, Pesticide Registration & Certification Specialist, *ODA*  
**Rebecca Howes**, Pesticide Registration & Certification Specialist, *ODA*  
**Michael Yost**, Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health (PNASH) Center Director, *PNASH*  
**Pablo Palmandez**, Agricultural Research and Safety Extensionist, *PNASH*  
**Serhan Mermer**, Assistant Director, *National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)*

## Introductions and Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. with housekeeping and review of the agenda. PARC Board minutes for November were reviewed and approved.

## Agency Updates

**Ted Bunch**, Technical Specialist, Standards and Technical Division, *Oregon OSHA*

- 1) Oregon OSHA is hosting the Oregon Pesticide Symposium which takes place March 20-21 at Eola Hills Viticulture Center. I've reached out to some of you about speaking at the symposium.
  - a. Mark Johnston commented: would it be helpful for us to speak about Community Right to Know?
  - b. Ted: Yes! I sent you an email about that very topic.
- 2) We are finalizing our annual report to be sent to EPA, which includes PARC cases over the last year.
- 3) I have some speaking engagements coming up, including the annual meetings for the Oregon Vegetation Management Association and the Oregon Association of Loggers.

**Mark Johnston**, Special Operations Unit, *Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM)*

- 1) Fire season is over. End of report. Actually, the only real update we have is that we are settling into our new space and getting ready for short session.

**William Lackey**, Statewide Vegetation Management Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)*

- 1) No updates at this time, as the winter storm has taken up a lot of our crew time.

**Charisse Pizarro-Osilla**, Director, *Oregon Poison Center (OPC)*

- 1) The third week of March, starting the 17<sup>th</sup>, we are celebrating our National Poison Prevention Week
  - a. The purpose is to raise awareness and avoid poisonings as well as promote poison prevention.
  - b. There are also children's artwork contests to raise awareness
  - c. We are also active on social media during that week

**Gilbert Uribe**, PARC Board Administrator, Pesticides Program Manager (*ODA*)

- 1) In 2020, Oregon adopted rules to limit the use of chlorpyrifos, the last of these steps went into effect December 31, 2023. It just so happens that EPA is making changes to tolerances for chlorpyrifos, and it's causing a bit of confusion about what is going on with chlorpyrifos. They are separate things, but we are getting a lot of questions about the topic. Oregon's rules had been established as of 2020, before any of the federal tolerances were challenged in court. We are getting questions over the last couple of weeks, and so it has been taking a lot of our focus on answering them. At the state level, starting this year, the only approved uses of chlorpyrifos are in commercial seed treatments, granular products, and cattle ear tags. There are still changes that we are waiting for EPA to make, so we are in a holding pattern until that is decided. It makes it difficult to provide answers to those asking questions.
- 2) Endangered Species Act: we are monitoring the dockets and are looking to comment on as many of those as possible.
- 3) We are in the process of more onboarding and recruitment. We are looking to recruit for a Worker Protection Standard (WPS) position, which has been vacant for quite a while. That will hopefully be announced very soon.
- 4) The certification and training team is working on a pilot project with WSDA and OSU about potentially setting up a pop-up testing center
  - a. This is for pre-license testing and training for Spanish speakers. We are working through the logistics about setting up this training and testing, as our current infrastructure cannot meet the demand.
- 5) Renewal season is also going on for licenses and product registration. We are still getting applications, and we will need to wait a few weeks before we know how many registrants are wanting to re-register chlorpyrifos products in Oregon.

**Andrea Sonnen**, Lead Pesticide Investigator, *ODA*

- 1) We are occasionally getting a complaint or two, but I have been answering a lot of questions about licensing, label interpretation, plus presentations.
- 2) We met recently to work on planning the symposium.

**David Gruen**- Columbia River Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)*

- 1) I wanted to express appreciation to Warren, Gilbert, and Toby Primbs, who participated in an internal DEQ meeting with the other basin coordinators. We spoke about PARC, coordination, and other efforts.

**Stacy Savona**, Forest Practices Field Support Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)*

- 1) We have a lot going on, but very few related to pesticides. There are some concerns about future applications, but we now know there are concerned citizens in some of these areas. We've gone through a lot of changes over the last couple of years, as we have about 50% all-new field staff. They are learning how they do their jobs, interact with field staff, and adapt to new rule changes. With that, there are a lot of questions about pesticide laws and how they related to current forestry laws. Particularly in relation to riparian areas and where you can apply pesticides. These rules don't have to do with the label, but the Oregon Forest Practices Act. We have been working to wade through that and figure that stuff out. We do have one case that ODA is involved with, it's in southern Coos County and involves ag/cattle grazing land, but we have no proof there was drift of pesticides.
- 2) At the next meeting, we will have a list of 2023 citations involving pesticides. They are primarily going to involve helicopter pesticide application rules.

### [PestiSafe/PestiSeguro Bilingual Pesticide Label Project](#)

**Pablo Palmandez** discussed the work of the Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health (PNASH) Center. PNASH is based out of the University of Washington but have partners in Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. One of the main projects over the last 4-5 years is for bilingual pesticide safety. Pesticide applicators, handlers have been directly told us that they have a need for bilingual pesticide labels. We spoke with EPA, and they had had this in mind for a while, but it was going very slow. Changes in personnel and administrations made it so that our contacts we had been working with were no longer with the agency.

Our first bilingual app, Pesticide Labels Now, has translated labels for different crops. It also has the health and environmental sections of the label in English and Spanish. It works with PICOL and has copies of pesticides approved in Washington and Oregon. Working with WSDA, who provided more funding, we were able to develop another app that has more crops and more

labels. PestiSafe/PestiSeguro is the only bilingual pesticide label apps that are available. It even has specialty crops listed. WE spoke with growers to find the products that they use most for their pest control problems. Using that feedback, we translated the labels that were most used by growers. Last year, we spoke with Oregon forestry organizations about the most common herbicides used in forestry in Oregon/Washington. We added all of those to PestiSeguro, but they have not yet been updated yet. The developer is working on that right now. The free version of the app only has 40 labels right now, but people can pay \$20 per year for a larger selection of labels. From feedback we received from growers, we discovered that they were not happy about paying that much for the app.

Starting in 2024, we are sending out free keys to anyone to download the app. This app is also connected to PICOL. EPA is also working on bilingual pesticide labels. Starting in 2030, all pesticide labels must be bilingual. The process has been slow, but they have been working on it.

### [PARC Community Board Member Search](#)

**Warren Hanson:** PARC is another step closer to completing a search for a community board member. Due to some administrative delays, the search has been pushed back. The announcement will be released soon, and hopefully we can successfully recruit for the board member.

### [Recent/Upcoming Meetings](#)

**Mark Johnston:** Under federal law, states are required to establish a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). OSFM is the state SERC. The responsibility of the SERC is to set up emergency planning districts and committees across the state to create pre-planning for hazardous materials events in the communities. We have been working on this program for 25+ years. We are working to establish or strengthen Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) that may have taken a hit during COVID. We are holding a LEPC 101 workshop/training in March in Douglas County to help them get started. What do they need to do/know/get started. It's also for struggling LEPC's to learn more about it.

### [Pesticide Decontamination](#)

**Warren Hanson:** We have been noticing that there have been cases involving workers and a lack of decontamination following a pesticide exposure. There have been several cases involving workers not washing their hands or continuing to wear the clothes they were exposed in. We are seeing a bit of a knowledge gap there and ODA is currently working with OHA to address the issue.

### [ODA Certification/Training Program: Noncommercial License Type](#)

**Colton Bond:** First, I want to introduce Rebecca Howes, our new Pesticide Certification and Licensing Specialist. The two of us are tag-teaming all licensing and related issues for the department.

The noncommercial license type is actually what I'll be speaking about today, as the weather/low attendance. We'll present the overview of the program at a different time. EPA changed regulations, which means we had to adjust almost every portion of our program, including study material/exams, proctoring exams, recordkeeping applicators must maintain, dealer records. There are a lot of changes coming. Those are coming later, but our noncommercial applicator license has been adopted. It is a complement that fills in a gap. We have several license types, such as:

- Private applicator license, for those applying Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP's) on their own property or property that they lease for the purposes on producing an agricultural commodity.
- Commercial applicator license. These are the applicators that apply pesticides to other peoples' property.

What about the people that don't really fall into either of those categories? Example include people applying pesticides to golf courses, wood treatment facilities, fumigation of agricultural products for export. We've been licensing them as commercial applicators for decades, but they don't really fit the description. Often, they must get a commercial applicator license and their employer must get a pesticide commercial operator license. This is all tethered to an insurance requirement.

In 2022, Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 4062, which created this license type. The bill outlines who is covered by the law, what the licensing fee is, but left a lot of the other parameters (such as continuing education credits, recordkeeping requirements) up to ODA. We pursued rulemaking to fill in those gaps. The noncommercial license is treated very similarly in our rules and in the bill to other license types. The key benefit is that the employer does not need to pursue a pesticide operator license with the extra fees and insurance. This is very helpful for private schools, which previously had to have the applicator and operator license. Many of these schools simply did not have the funding to do so. Public schools now only need their employees to get the public applicator licenses, the school does not need the operator license. The exam and educational requirements remain identical.

**Stacy Savona** commented: I think this is a great idea. We are underwater trying to get the new rules rolled out, as it was an enormous lift for our agency. Especially as we now must get our field staff trained. A lot of our old fact sheets/info are out of date, especially with how they relate to the Oregon Forest Practices Act. It's on our list, and I'm looking forward to maybe collaborating with ODA on the issue.

**Ted Bunch:** OR-OSHA has a fact sheet that we need to update in regard to the new license type and fumigation in wine barrels.

**Colton Bond:** That license type also applies to the use of sulfur dioxide, which is a RUP, to fumigate wine barrels on their own property.

### PARC Case Discussion

**Warren Hanson** shared the information from the following PARC cases:

**PARC Case #24-0080:** This case was related to a complaint from someone in Beaverton. He saw an applicator using a sulfur product in the ground to control rodents. He sent a video of the applicator shallowly placing the product in the ground and stepping on it to bury the product. The video showed the gas streaming all around the area. There were no adverse health effects, but the complainant had concerns about his health risks.

**PARC Case #24-0082:** An employee at a dialysis center mixed citric acid and sodium bicarbonate and bleach which caused a building evacuation. There were three people exposed with one transported to the hospital.

**PARC Case #24-0086:** This case was about a possible death related to pesticides. It was an intentional ingestion of Roundup Concentrate Plus (EPA Reg. 71995-29) mixed with ethanol. This occurred right at the New Year, and we are still awaiting details including medical records.

### Public Comment

No comments were made.

### Closing

The next PARC board meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024, at 9am. If you have any suggestions for agenda items for that meeting, please let Warren know.