

May PARC board meeting minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
5/24/2023	Virtual meeting	9:00 AM	9:30 AM

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)*

Jen Seamans, PARC Board Co-chair, *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*

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

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

Rebecca Anthony- Water Quality Specialist, *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)*

Andrea Sonnen, Lead Pesticide Investigator, *ODA*

Other Persons Present

Alan Martinez, Occupational Health, Pesticide Exposure Program Coordinator (*OHA*)

Katie Murray, Executive Director, *Oregonians for Food and Shelter*

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

Christina Higby- Citizen Advocate, Tribal Liaison (*ODA*)

Introductions and Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. with housekeeping and review of the agenda. PARC Board minutes for March were reviewed and approved.

Agency Updates

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

- 1) We are just finishing up a bulletin that has several materials related to applicators spraying at apartment complexes. These materials include a brochure, an advisory, and some study materials. That should be going out within the next couple of days, and I will send it out to the PARC board as well.

Andrea Sonnen, Lead Pesticide Investigator, *ODA*

- 1) We have had an influx of incoming phone calls on a variety of things, some related to PARC. We are trying to utilize our contacts through PARC to get information that we need to figure out how to proceed. Otherwise, business as usual, but definitely picking up.

Rebecca Anthony, Water Quality Specialist, *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)*

- 1) The only update I have is that I worked with Warren to finish the zinc phosphide advisory.

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

- 1) I just sent out an email about case #23-0103 concerning The Quality Inn. We will make contact with the facility and talk about reporting over-quantities. Based on the pictures and type of facility, a hotel, I doubt they're going to have anything at the 500-unit mark. We will report back once we have more information.
- 2) As mentioned in previous meetings, we are becoming our own department on July 1st, 2023, and we are very busy with everything involved with that.
- 3) We're coming into fire season and there have already been some fires on the landscape. We haven't been queued up for anything but are certainly aware of the fire environments changing.

Jen Seamans, PARC Board Co-chair, *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*

- 1) Nothing specifically from me. Alan will cover the OHA updates.

Alan Martinez- Occupational Health, Pesticide Exposure Program coordinator (*OHA*)

- 1) We are busy with pesticide investigations. Most cases deal with people experiencing acute symptoms, but I've been

working on one in particular, case #23-0117, where most of the symptoms were chronic. The exposure occurred about a year ago. It can be challenging gathering that data and making that classification between exposure and toxicity of the product in order to evaluate chronic adverse health effects.

- 2) I've been working on some cases involving chlorine tablets. Most of them happened in an occupational setting. Most common symptoms were dry cough, shortness of breath, and wheezing. Summer is just around the corner and many people will be working in pools, so if anybody has any more information on chlorine tablets such as safety handling procedures, I'd be happy to take that info.

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

- 1) (Update sent to and read by Warren). Due to some major changes in the Forest Practice Act, we're conducting robust training statewide. The most recent round of trainings had a segment on complaint investigation with a section on pesticide related complaints specifically. It's been a good opportunity to discuss the role of PARC and what our SOPs are regarding intake of pesticide complaints. I don't believe this will result in a large increase in PARC cases coming from ODF, but there could be more referrals from newer foresters that may not have been aware of the whole PARC process.

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

- 1) No updates at this time.

PARC Biennial Report

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

The 2019-2021 PARC Biennial Report is nearly finalized. For those that were at the March meeting, it will include many of the figures and tables from that data analysis presentation. It is currently in the hands of our Publications Specialist, who will check the formatting and make sure everything looks good. Once that's done, hopefully in the next week or so, I'll send it out to the PARC board.

PARC Case Discussion

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

PARC Case #23-0099: A person was fishing along the Willamette River, at the Greenway State Park, when he had an asthma attack. While trying to figure out the cause of the attack, he discovered a Japanese Beetle trap. He had a reaction to the trap, but he had an EpiPen and an inhaler with him which helped. This case was referred to OHA.

PARC Case #23-0103: This one came from an anonymous source who stayed at The Quality Inn in Tigard. Initially they mentioned that an employee was overheard talking about spraying Roundup inside a room and on a mattress to treat bed bugs. The person staying there had some congestion and itchiness after their stay. ODA sent an investigator and discovered Roundup was not being used inside the rooms. There were, however, some storage issues of the pesticides being used on site. This case was referred to OSHA, due the risks for the workers, and to OSFM, for the storage issues.

PARC Case #23-0109: This was at Irish Bend Park along the Willamette. While hiking someone noticed an aerial applicator was spraying directly next to the Willamette. They saw the drift come across the river and said they could smell and taste it. They also expressed concerned because there was an Osprey nest on the same side where the spraying occurred. No other specific health risks were reported.

Public Comment

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

I was at a PACT conference last week in Michigan along with Colton Bond and Gilbert Uribe from ODA and I wanted to share a few of the things we learned along with some of my own updates.

- With the passing of PRIA 5, pesticide labels must include certain portions of the labeling in Spanish. This is just for the precautionary labeling, not the directions for use. Over the next 4-8 years we're going to see those labels show up in the marketplace. The most acutely toxic and the RUPs will be updated first and then it will roll out slowly to the other products. Products like antimicrobials and general use in toxicity category 4 might even forgo the Spanish labeling and instead have a QR code to the Spanish version of the SDS. This was controversial at the conference because some educators and regulators

noted that it could be just enough information to get someone in trouble without having the directions for use. EPA stated that it's a step in the right direction.

- We hear from farm worker advocates that workers are consistently sick and living shorter lives as a result of their work in agriculture and being exposed to pesticides more than anyone else. Yet, we don't see many farm worker incidents every year. One of the collaboration teams, that's working at the national level, mentioned that our surveillance efforts for pesticide incidents and illness are insufficient to capture what's going on in the farm worker community. Because of this, they're starting a new surveillance system just for farm workers.
- All our manuals and exams need to be updated by the regulatory deadline at the end of 2024. There are about 12 manuals in Oregon that need to be updated or have addenda written. My program is committed to working with ODA to get all those materials updated. If any of you would like to see new or specific information in these manuals, please let me know.
- I have hired new staff to the PSEP program including a Spanish speaker who is helping to expand our offerings in Spanish, including pre-license education. Our first in-person, in Spanish, pre-license training will be available this December and we hope to make it a regular thing.
- We are currently planning our PSEP calendar. If anyone has topic or presentation that you would like to share with the applicator community, please reach out to me and I'd be happy to find you a spot on one of our agendas.

Closing

The next PARC board meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2023, at 9am. If you have any suggestions for agenda items for that meeting, please let Warren know.