

January PARC board meeting minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
1/18/2022	Virtual meeting	9:05 AM	10:40 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)*

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

Curtis Cude- PARC Board Co-chair, *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*

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

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

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

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

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

Other Persons Present

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

Katie Murray - Oregonians for Food and Shelter

Introductions and Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:05 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, *OR-OSHA*

- 1) The Governor's Occupational Safety and Health conference is March 6th through the 9th.
- 2) The Pesticides Symposium is March 22nd and 23rd and it will be held at the Viticulture Center at Chemeketa Community College.

Stacy Savona, Forest Practices Field Support Coordinator, *ODF*

- 1) No updates at this time.

Curtis Cude, PARC Board Co-Chair, *OHA*

- 1) Alan has been developing a communications and outreach plan for the program. We hope to present a draft soon.
- 2) We're making progress on the case backlog, but we still have a few dozen cases remaining.
- 3) Recruitment for my old position, Public Health Surveillance Program Manager, should be opening up this week as an internal recruitment and then may become an open recruitment after that.

- 4) I also wanted to suggest that we consider having an in-person PARC Board meeting at least periodically.

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

- 1) I have made some updates to our PEST program website including a new section called “Protecting Children from Pesticides”. I have also added some articles from the extension program at Penn State. Most of that information is in Spanish.

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

- 2) No updates at this time.

Rebecca Anthony, Water Quality and Mitigation Specialist, *ODFW*

- 3) I am working with Warren to create a fact sheet about rodenticides and wildlife. We are going to include a piece about zinc phosphide because there was a PARC case in which it was suspected that zinc phosphide poisoning occurred in a herd of geese.

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

- 1) We have started an outreach effort to remind seed treaters and dealers to pay close attention to the text that appears on treated seed labeling which is required by the label of the pesticide that is used to treat the seed.
- 2) The pesticide enforcement team is working on filling a vacant position in Eugene. The pesticide registration team had a recent retirement, and they are looking to fill that position as well.
- 3) The ODA enforcement team is leading an effort to put together outreach videos to support schools and school staff with complying with the school IPM law. The goal is to house these videos on YouTube for easy access and quick reference.
- 4) The ODA certification and licensing team has started the rulemaking process for the new noncommercial pesticide applicator license. This license will cover applicators who are making applications on their own or their employer’s property, but not in the production of an agricultural commodity.
- 5) The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership program is working to seek EPA grant funding to directly fund the educational efforts of our partners.
- 6) We’ve been discussing creating some on-boarding and training presentations for people that are new and to reintroduce people to the work that we do in each of our agencies.

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

- 1) Community Right to Know update, reporting opened on January 1st for the 2022 calendar reporting period and is closing on March 1, 2023. We are busy supporting that effort and helping facilities report. We have continued to do field work and identifying facilities needing to report and getting them into compliance.
- 2) It is a little less than six months before we become our own agency and we are very busy looking for a new headquarters and fleet/response warehouse, preparing to move, hiring business support services positions and other positions, and a very busy legislative session.

[PARC Public Board Member Search](#)

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

We started having conversations before the pandemic about recruiting a public board member. We are currently working on a recruiting plan with our communications team. We are just finalizing some language and then we will send it out for review before it is shared with the broader public.

Legislative Updates Related to PARC

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

Yesterday a legislative concept was brought up, by Oregonians for Food and Shelter and the Oregon Environmental Counsel, proposing to have three additional staff members to support pesticide outreach. The proposal is to house them within PARC to do outreach to farmworkers throughout the state. Further details have not been presented at this point. Senate Bill 326 is related to the unlawful production of marijuana and has more to do with the cleanup of wastes. I think this is worth looking into for more details as it relates to pesticides.

Stacy Savona, Forest Practices Field Support Coordinator, *ODF*

I'm the legislative coordinator for our division at Oregon Department of Forestry. House Bill 2687 relates to authorizing the Oregon Department of Agriculture to issue applicator licenses to federally recognized tribes. We require notifications for operations that are pesticide applications on forest lands, so we may have some intersect there.

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

Senate Bill 426 relates to integrated pest management in schools and school districts. This bill talks about having a list of pesticides that excludes those with carcinogens. The impact on school children, especially those with low-income backgrounds, is something I'm including on the bill analysis I'm working on.

PARC Case Discussion

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

PARC Case #23-0063: ODFW reported to PARC the deaths of 43 cackling Canada geese at the Aumsville, OR wastewater treatment ponds. Necropsies of the carcasses indicated that the birds had good body conditions, healthy lungs, and minimal stomach contents. In addition, live asymptomatic ducks, geese, and shorebirds were also found nearby. Gastrointestinal samples were sent for analysis, with results indicating the presence of phosphine gas. The presence of phosphine gas indicated zinc phosphide exposure and toxicity with the geese. ODA is investigating the incident and searching for information about possible sources of the zinc phosphide that lead to the deaths of the geese.

PARC Case #23-0068: PARC heard about a possible human zinc phosphide poisoning. An Oregon hospital reported a patient that believed they had been exposed to the active ingredient at their home. They also reported that their spouse had been exposed in the past to the same chemical and had passed away due to the exposure.

Both OHA and ODA have reached out to the hospital for additional information but have yet gotten more details about the situation.

Public Comment

No public comments.

Closing

The next PARC board meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2023, at 9am. If you have any suggestions for agenda items for that meeting, please let Curtis and/or Warren know.