

Meeting Minutes - WQPMT Meeting February 21, 2019
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street, Salem, OR 97301
Conference Room C

Attendees:

Kirk Cook	Oregon Department of Agriculture
Rose Kachadoorian	Oregon Department of Agriculture
Paul Measeles	Oregon Department of Agriculture
Colton Bond*	Oregon Department of Agriculture
Stephanie Page*	Oregon Department of Agriculture
Ted Bunch	Oregon Department of Agriculture - PARC
Kevin Masterson	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Aaron Borisenko	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Colin Donald *	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Todd Hudson	Oregon Health Authority
Audrey Hatch	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Kyle Abraham	Oregon Department of Forestry
Thomas Whittington	Oregon Department of Forestry
Weston Miller*	Oregon State University

*Guest Attendees **Attended by phone

Introduction and Announcements

Meeting attendees were introduced and each agency presented an update on activities related to pesticides and water quality.

WQPMT: A waste collection event has been planned for Madras on March 16th. The scheduling of this event has been complicated due to the fact that negotiations between Clean Harbors and the state has not yet concluded. In order to move forward with this event, a special contract was let and the winning bid received was from ACTenviro. Kirk Cook will work with ACTenviro to ensure that the collection runs smoothly.

An accounting of the PSP budget following the January budget status indicates that ~100K remains, allowing for administrative cost and factoring out commitments made for grants and equipment purchases.

Clackamas PSP has indicated that they are prepared to move forward with strategic planning for the 2019-2021 biennium. ODA is proposing that an advance payment of 15K be made to begin necessary pre-planning data collection from pesticide users.

ODA: Rose Kachadooria reported on the results of the public hearing held in Bend, OR on March 15th regarding rule for the use of ACP. ODA plans on a second hearing

will be held on February 22nd in Salem. Results of these hearings will be factored into a permanent rule regulating the use of ACP which has been found to impact certain species of evergreen trees in right of way areas.

Stephanie Page presented a brief status report on the 2019-2021 budget as it relates to the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership. Initial proposals offered a 10% reduction in the PSP budget. The Governor's budget did not include that reduction. Discussions continue.

Paul Measeles is working with the Wasco SWCD to identify the source of E. Coli in Miller Creek. Currently investigating the possibility of A.B. microbial source tracking.

Colton Bond requested further information on the DEQ data application for the purposes of evaluating whether some of those elements could be incorporated in to EPA POINTS data base. This request is coming from SFIREG's Environment Quality Issues workgroup.

ODF: Kyle Abraham indicated that there will be a joint meeting of the Board of Forestry and Environmental Quality Commission in November. It is likely that the PSP program will be a topic hence the team should begin some preparation in the next few months.

ODF is responding to several Bills banning or severely restricting aerial application of herbicides on forest lands. A fact sheet/talking points is being developed by ODF and will be shared with the WQPMT when completed. Because of the water quality data collected in several PSP areas focusing on commercial forest lands, there is likely to be interest if/when the legislature holds hearing of these Bills.

Ted Bunch informed WQPMT that he will be making a presentation to the NW Oregon Association of Forestry on April 30th related to the finding of the South Yamhill water quality study. WQPMT will provide Mr. Bunch with materials needed.

DEQ: Kevin Masterson reported that all of the 2018 water quality data is now available. Indications are that overall that data looks good with generally lower concentration detected and a reduction in detection frequency.

Aaron Borisenko reported that filed audits of PSP partners will begin in March and in addition to a review of water quality sampling procedures, the proper collection of stream velocity data will be covered. Kirk Cook will assist DEQ for that portion of the audits. The Klamath Falls groundwater study will begin later this year. At this time sampling locations and land owner permissions are being finalized.

OWEB: reminded the group about 2019 Tribal Day currently at the Capitol. OWEB's newly adopted Strategic Plan is guiding the agency's work; relevant priorities for WQPMT include Priority 6, "Coordinated Monitoring and Shared Learning to

advance watershed restoration effectiveness”, as well as Priority 2, “Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians”. Also, in 2019, OWEB celebrates 20 years of being a state agency with events around the state coinciding with Board meetings. Oregon Lottery is helping promote the outcomes of lottery investments; for example, check out [these videos](#).

OHA: Todd Hudson reported that OHA had reviewed the priority pesticides for analysis by DEQ. In that review they considered length of exposure, toxicity, quality of data, and persistence in the environment. There still is work left to be done and may not be able to complete before DEQ suggested deadline.

DEQ Toxics Strategy and PSP Related Activities

DEQ developed first Toxics Reduction Strategy in 2012; support all media (air/water/land quality)

Intended to work across programs within DEQ and also with external partners

January Environmental Quality Commission meeting, provided informational item; agency goal is to try to get ahead of emerging contaminants of concern; enhance programs that are already in place and to develop new ones as needed; work with existing capacity (no new capacity).

2012 TRS recommended PSP become a stable and well-funded program (previously had relied on grants such as 319 grants and tribal support).

From this 2019 update, there was a suggestion to enhance PSP by applying an Environmental Justice (EJ) lens. EJ is getting integrated throughout DEQ (e.g., air toxics). And, Diversity/Equity/Inclusion are emerging priorities within Oregon state agencies (OHA, OWEB). Kirk and Kevin have both been asked to present to EJ Task Force.

Goal is to infuse EJ into all aspects of PSP (Monitoring, waste reduction, etc). One example action would be to hold pesticide collection events in areas that have EJ concerns. Monitoring: some sites will be shifting anyway; could EJ be one of the criteria for selecting new monitoring locations?

WQPMT had a short heads-up from Kevin about this topic at our October 2018 meeting; now considering the strawman proposal (emailed and provided by Kevin). If WQPMT goes forward with any part of this proposal (for example TA, Monitoring; focus on particular applicator groups, communities....), then find ways we can involve all the agencies (OSHA, etc). First, decide what concepts to pursue; then develop implementation plan (for each of the ~13 tasks in TRS; first develop priorities then go out to partners).

Discussion:

Stephanie: Concerns expressed by stakeholder groups who wanted more background about the EJ goal so they could understand the intentions of the group; they did not understand the EJ work was a proposal (assumed it was a “decision already made” and lost some context)

Kevin: Needed to provide update to EQC, and therefore had to put proposal into writing. Although PSP is non-regulatory, some WQPMT agencies have regulatory nexus, and this can also result in confusion about intent

Aaron: Important to do EJ screen. DEQ has done some for groundwater work but difficult to reach the nontraditional audiences; difficult to identify the best avenues and times for outreach events; need to provide outreach in multiple languages (i.e., Russian and Spanish, with translators necessary to understand questions/answers).

Todd: In addition to language barriers, there are barriers with trust; reaching out to nontraditional groups, there can be mistrust for a variety of reasons

Rose: Also needed to provide the context to the stakeholders that EJ is just one component (not a complete re-focus of the program).

Kevin and Stephanie: Advisory group with stakeholders that meet regularly could help.

Kyle: How much of the EJ work can be accomplished through the EJ task force (ODA has a representative on that group)? Could this be a place to help get the messages out to the member agencies? Also recognize this might not be a sufficient venue for the discussion that is needed.

Stephanie: There have been a few times stakeholders have been caught off guard by WQPMT/PSP objectives; probably do need a more specific venue.

Kevin: Has been caught off guard by comments ODA passed on from industry reps; for example, concern about chlorpyrifos increases in one stream in the Clackamas being translated into the “program is not working”; even though we are seeing clear overall improvements through the data, the message is not getting through; need more time to build understanding about PSP outcomes

Rose: Look at Oregon Bee Project model; and how advisory groups were handled.

Kevin: Now we can build out the objective; description provided is a strawman that could be narrowed down or amended. We do need an Implementation Plan; could be part of group’s Strategic Plan; make connections to watershed strategic plan.

Stephanie, suggested next step: Identify a few stakeholders to reach out to; run the ideas by them; what is the vision? Help clear the air; offer an early opportunity to

gather ideas. What are some easy wins, For example, “hold waste collection events in EJ areas”.

Paul M.: Concerned about giving too many opportunities to get feedback from stakeholders; they don’t know the program as well as agency staff.

Stephanie: We can frame the questions so they help us (for example “We would like to get feedback”.

Kevin: We still need further group discussion about which elements of EJ we want to see in the PSPs.

Between now and the next meeting, would like WQPMT members to review the EJ memo.

Kirk: will provide structured form to get email feedback; will hold a conference call to talk through this

Draft Suggestions for Modifications to Current WQPMT Operations

A series of proposals were made to the WQPMT regarding modifications to operational elements. These changes were:

- 1) Utilization of a Facilitator for WQPMT meetings
- 2) Distribution of meeting minutes thru posting on ODA website
- 3) Implementation of Stakeholder Advisory Group
- 4) Posting of proposed action by WQPMT prior to adoption
- 5) Agency proposals

The members of the WQPMT did not see the need to engage a facilitator for WQPMT. The feeling was that as a group issues are discussed respectively and that each member is afforded ample time to express the opinions of the agency they represent.

To better assist the Chairman in conducting the WQPMT meetings, it was agreed upon that future meeting either a meeting “note taker” would be provide by the agency hosting the meeting or a member of the team would be selected to record the meeting proceedings.

The issue of establishing a stakeholder advisory group (AG) received significant discussion among team members. Questions poised were:

- 1) What would be the level of input desired from the AG
- 2) When would they meet
- 3) Which stakeholders would comprise the AG

- 4) What would the link between the AG and member WQPMT agencies look like (concern) regarding individual stakeholders short circuiting the AD process and going directly to individual agencies

As a whole the WQPMT agreed that the establishment of a stakeholder AG was a good thing that should move ahead. There remain many questions surrounding this proposal. In order to move forward, Kirk will develop a strawman proposal that will be distributed to members for comment. This will occur between now and the next scheduled WQPMT meeting. There will likely be several iterations of the “strawman” between now and the next meeting. Members are encouraged to respond to the drafts as soon as possible. The intent is to have a hashed-out proposal to take to respective management’s following the next WQPMT meeting.

There was agreement that the establishment of a stakeholder AG would provide a valuable conduit for communication between the WQPMT and stakeholders. This would likely reduce the number of “misunderstandings” that periodically arise regarding WQPMT actions or considerations.

There was no significant concern regarding the posting of WQPMT minutes after they have been thoroughly reviewed by WQPMT members.

Feedback from Stakeholder Meeting

On January 30th, at the request of Oregonians for Food and Shelter, and the Oregon Farm Bureau representatives of ODA and Kirk Cook met to discuss concerns the groups had primarily regarding EJ issues contained in DEQ’s Toxics Strategy. During th meeting several other issues were presented that related to the WQPMT. These were:

- 1) Coordination (or lack of) between PSP areas and SIA’s though the Department of Agriculture’s AG Water Quality Program and how that could be improved.
- 2) How effectiveness of the PSP program was measured, are we seeing results.
- 3) A desire to have more information on the strategic planning process and how that could result in a more structured program.
- 4) The level of effort that is spent on forestry monitoring (some disagreement between OFS/FB and OFIC on this issue).
- 5) The need for better communication between the WQPMT and stakeholders

These issues were noted and have been brought before the WQPMT at this meeting. A significant number of these issue presented have the potential to be addressed through the establishment of a stakeholder advisory group.

Education and Outreach Issues

The status of education and outreach efforts was discussed in regards to increasing the WQPMTs effort and how those efforts success is measured. Several proposals were made to assess what are the current needs from PSP partners and stakeholders. A survey was proposed to go out to PSP partners form the WQPMT regarding their needs, similar to that which is being done in the Middle Rogue as part of the strategic planning effort. The concept of partnering with OSU to develop an online pesticide education module focused on water quality was discuss and members agreed that there should be follow-up with OSU on the subject. Members agreed that this may be an effective way to get the biggest bang for the buck (i.e. authorizing some of the PSP funds to OSU to produce such a product). It was generally felt that education and outreach is a vital part of the PSP program and additional efforts need to be directed to this subject once needs have been established and products clearly defined. The Chairman will follow-up with OSU on the possibility of developing an education module. Also, a survey will be designed and presented to the WQPMT once approved it will be sent out and the information collected will be use to help guide the development of products that will provide the greatest potential for success in reducing WQ impact form pesticides.

Input on Pesticide Lab Analytical Method Development Priorities

DEQ is still seeking input from the WQPMT regarding the prioritization of which pesticides to add to the analytical list for future monitoring. At this time DEQ is looking for no more than 5 high priority chemicals, one of which will be ACP. The DEQ lab would like to have that list to them by March 1st. In developing that list considerations should be, how much of a chemical is being used, or new chemicals on the horizon or chemicals increasing in use due to changing agricultural practices (i.e. the increase of hazel nuts and use of Alion, active ingredient indaziflam)

Pesticide of Concern Methodology

As a result of the Region 10 water quality meeting held in Pasco, WA last September, Kirk Cook and Kevin Masterson developed a new matrix to be used for the determination of when a pesticide has reached a level of high concern or moderate concern. A conference call was to have been held on Feb. 12th to discuss the matrix and potential for adoption by all three northwest states. The call was cancelled due to weather conditions that prevented participation by Washington. As a result, the discussion by the WQPMT was limited. *Update: A conference call was held by Region 10 states on March 1st to discuss the Oregon matrix. WA and ID were pleased with the matrix and generally felt that it had great potential to be used by their states. Initial assessment using their state specific data indicated that the matrix was simple to use and produced favorable results. It was agreed that further evaluation on a watershed level by Washington would be done in the next few weeks and that there was a potential for regional approval of the matrix at the next conference call to be held mid to late April.*

Solve Pest Project

Weston Miller, OSU presented a status report on the Solve Pest project, which the WQPMT has contributed 50K through a technical assistance grant. Mr. Miller walked through the various modules that will be available on line and via cell phone. The project will have a total cost of approximately \$2.5M and will allow pesticide users to make informed decisions regarding pesticide application primarily in urban areas where pesticide knowledge is generally less than in areas where commercial agricultural occurs. The application, when completed will be hosted by OSU and made available for free to anyone able to access it via computer or cell phone.

Follow-up on Amendments of DEQ Application

Suggestions made last year during a presentation to agency management regarding the DEQ PSP data presentation application were presented to the WQPMT. The application now presents trade names for pesticides in addition to active ingredient. This should make the application more usable to the public once it is made available (now predicted for late spring). Additional language pertaining to the source of the data and the concept of the nonpoint source nature of the data was discussed and worked on by members. It was decided that the current version of that language would go out to members again for final modification. The current language reads:

The water quality data collected as part of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership is generally the result of pesticide applications over a variety of land uses. Because these pesticides originate from multiple land use types (urban, rural, commercial and industrial) or a single land use type over a wide area (i.e. agricultural areas raising multiple crops) they are termed nonpoint pollution sources. Nonpoint source pollution differs from point source pollution in that point source pollution originates from a specific identifiable source. Nonpoint source pesticide pollution may result from the runoff of pesticides from land to water after a rain or irrigation event, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, or seepage.

Strategic Plan Update

An update on the development of the Middle Rogue strategic plan was presented. Healthy progress is being made using the template outline provided by the WQPMT. Materials regarding education and outreach proposals was distributed to members. Clackamas PSP has indicated that they would like to commence development of their strategic plan in the 1029-2021 biennium. The concept of providing ~ 15K to the Clackamas in the next couple of month so they could begin preliminary work on stakeholder data collection was discussed. Members agreed that these funds should be provide to jump start that effort.

Fact Sheet for Biennial Report/End of Year Progress Report

Comments from members were incorporated into the drafts provide at the meeting. It was agreed that one last review by members would be conducted and any

remaining comments provided back to the Chairman by mid-March so these documents could be finalized and distributed.