

July PARC Board Meeting Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
7/17/2024	Virtual meeting	9:00AM	10:00AM

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, Program Manager, *Pesticide Exposure, Safety and Tracking Program, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)*
Gilbert Uribe Valdez, PARC Board Administrator, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*
Ted Bunch, Senior Policy Analyst/Legislative Coordinator, *Oregon OSHA (OR-OSHA)*
Rebecca Anthony, Water Quality Specialist, *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)*
Charisse Pizarro-Osilla, Director, *Oregon Poison Center (OPC)*
David Gruen, Columbia River Coordinator, *Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)*

PARC Consultants Present

William Lackey, Statewide Vegetation Management Coordinator, *(ODOT)*

Other Persons Present

Christina Higby, Citizen Advocate Liaison, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*
Meredith Cocks, Project Coordinator, *National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)*
Serhan Mermer, Director, *National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)*
Rebecca Howes, Certification & Licensing Specialist, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*
Vanessa Vassilaros, Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Outreach Specialist, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*
Andrea Sonnen, Lead Pesticide Investigator, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*

Introductions and Meeting Minutes

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

Agency Updates

Jen Seamans, Program Manager, Pesticide Exposure, Safety and Tracking Program, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

- 1) You might notice that Alan Martinez is absent from today's meeting. He's taking a well-deserved vacation with his family and will be back the 1st of August. We did receive a couple PARC cases that we'll cover in the PARC cases section.
 - a. One of those in particular was a complex case that involved multiple exposure events and required an in-person case investigation that involved I believe 17 people. Thankfully, we received some assists from the Public Health Division to utilize bilingual staff to do those case investigations.
- 2) One of the findings from last year was that people are reporting more mental health related effects and so we're engaging in an update of our case interview to reflect some of those questions and trying to document that more systematically in all our investigations.

Ted Bunch: Thank you can you describe just briefly some of the mental health effects that people are reporting associated with pesticide exposure?

Jen Seamans: Some of the effects that have been reported are things like heightened anxiety and in some cases avoidance. In other words, there were workers there have been people who have been exposed in different settings whether it's occupational or like a childcare setting and experiencing extreme anxiety when they're being asked to return to that setting. I would say anxiety and avoidance are some of the highest reported ones.

Gilbert Uribe Valdez, PARC Board Administrator, *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*

- 1) I'm going to start off by introducing Vanessa Vassilaros. We hired her as a Worker Protection Outreach Specialist who just started within the last month. She'll be looking to partner with outreach organizations because we only have the one person, so it's going to be important to form partnerships to be as efficient as possible with reaching out to the community.
- 2) The other thing was that we had to extend the community PARC board member recruitment to get more applicants, so we'll try to get it to close before the next PARC board meeting. We're going to try to do more extensive recruiting and so if you know anybody that you know might be interested, please reach out to them encourage them to apply for the position.
- 3) We're also in the process of updating the document, Coordinating Oregon's Response to Pesticide Incidents.

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

- 1) We're in the process of updating the PARC brochure, which is almost finalized. In addition, we about 95% finished with a contact sheet for pesticide questions, a brochure for calibrating and maintaining pesticide equipment. Hopefully by the next board meeting, we can show them all off in their final form.

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

- 1) We don't really have any updates.

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

- 1) The only update we have is that I am working to respond to a request from Warren for case updates for cases from 2022 and 2023.

William Lackey, Statewide Vegetation Management Coordinator, *(ODOT)*

- 1) No updates from ODOT at this time.

Ted Bunch, Senior Policy Analyst/Legislative Coordinator, *Oregon OSHA*

- 1) The EPA recently announced proposed national heat illness protection standards, and I can't help but think about pesticide applicators and dealing with the heat. As a result of that experience and some mental health issues that may occur due to the experience.

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

- 1) We have finished our annual summary of the annual report. It's short, so we call it a summary, and it is available for 2023. It just talks about who called the poison center. We divided the exposures by age, by exposure, by reason why people call us, as well as the top five common substances.

[International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health meeting](#)

Warren Hanson – I recently attended this meeting, did a tabling event in cooperation with OHSU. I passed out PARC and NPIC materials and had some good conversations with other attendees. There were some interesting talks, including one by OSU's Virginia Balbi, who talked about ODA's Spanish applicator training pop-up program. In addition, there was an interesting talk from a researcher in Florida looking at these interesting wind tunnels for testing pesticide efficacy. He constructed miniature wind tunnels to test the effectiveness of different insecticides and droplet sizes on mosquitoes.

[Environmental Justice Council meeting](#)

Jen Seamans – I attended an environmental justice council meeting. For those who might not be aware, this council has been empowered by House Bill 4077 to create an environmental justice mapping tool for this state. This is to develop something that is specific to Oregon. We know that our values might differ slightly from other areas, so we can prioritize things differently when we're looking just at our state opposed to the whole country.

[Overview of Certification & Training Program](#)

Powerpoint of the presentation is found at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/pesticides/pages/parc.aspx>

[Overview of Worker Protection Standard Program](#)

Powerpoint of the presentation is found at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/pesticides/pages/parc.aspx>

[PARC Case Discussion](#)

Warren Hanson – some of the common themes for the last couple months was, unfortunately, wildlife deaths. There were a number of cases that all came in at about the same time and all from far Northeast Oregon.

PARC Cases #24-0149-153 and 24-0157: Overall, these cases involved six wolves, two eagles, a cougar, eight coyotes and a couple of dogs. These incidents had confirmed or suspected pesticide exposure. One of these appears that somebody had laced a cow carcass with a pesticide and then had it set out so that some wolves would find it and eat it.

PARC Case #24-0172: This case occurred in the Dalles, with potentially 15-17 workers being exposed. One worker was hospitalized. Malathion was confirmed to be used on the fields nearby. Because the product was used on multiple fields in the surrounding farming blocks over multiple days, ODA did not take samples from the treated field. There were other reports of exposure on an additional day beyond the first reported day. This report came into PARC after the fact but has been added to the PARC case.

Public Comment

Closing

The next PARC board meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2024, at 9am. If you have any suggestions for agenda items for that meeting, please let Warren know.

