

Workshop SUMMARY:

Collaborative Approaches to Pesticide Stewardship in the Columbia River Basin

Wednesday, July 2, 2014; 9 am to 4 pm

William A. Grant Water & Environmental Center, Walla Walla Community College

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I. WORKSHOP BACKGROUND

This one-day workshop brought together 46 participants including growers, Tribal government, state and federal agencies, industry and nonprofit partners, and other stakeholders from Washington, Idaho, and Oregon to share and discuss innovative pesticide stewardship efforts taking place around the Columbia River Basin.

The Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Working Group hosted with leadership from EPA Region 10, NRCS, and workshop partners including Salmon Safe and Vinea Sustainable Trust. This event was designed to share stories and encourage dialog to inspire future collaborative work to reduce the occurrence of pesticides in water in the Columbia River Basin. The emphasis for the day was on presenting the current range of effective, non-regulatory partnerships, and then considering next steps and possibilities together.

II. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Workshop objectives were met. At the end of this one-day workshop participants had:

- ✓ Learned more about how voluntary, collaborative pesticide stewardship efforts, combined with monitoring, produce results;
- ✓ Learned more about NRCS and Extension tools and incentives;
- ✓ Shared knowledge and stories to spread success.

III. AGENDA

9:00	Welcome! Self intros and Why this? Why now? Why here?	<i>Kat Brigham, Board of Trustees, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Ron Brown, Grower; Kevin Scriber, Salmon Safe; Mary Lou Soscia, EPA</i>
9:20	Overview/what to expect today	<i>Nedra Chandler, Triangle Associates facilitator</i>
9:30	Background on pesticide stewardship via voluntary partnerships in Oregon	<i>Kevin Masterson, OR Department of Environmental Quality</i>
10:00	Why pesticide use? And how/where to find Certified Crop Advisors	<i>Jim Fitzgerald, Executive Director Far West Agribusiness Association</i>
10:15	How NRCS works with farmers on pesticide use	<i>Giulio Ferruzzi, NRCS</i>
10:45	State University Extension Perspectives	<i>Clive Kaiser, Oregon State U, Mike Denny on CREP Riparian Buffer initiative, Ronda Hirnyck, U of Idaho</i>
11:00	Washington Perspectives	<i>Kirk Cook, WA Department of Agriculture</i>
11:15	Idaho Perspectives	<i>Gary Bahr, Idaho Department of Agriculture</i>
Noon	<i>LUNCH</i>	Rotunda
1:00 pm	First Foods of the Umatilla Tribe	<i>Cynthia Lopez, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation</i>
1:45	Moving into the Future	<i>Kevin Scribner, Salmon Safe</i>
2-3:00	Expanding partnerships; how and what are we building?	<i>Small groups: What are expected results? Who can help? What are anticipated obstacles? What is doable?</i>
3:30	Objectives met? Adjourn	<i>Nedra Chandler, Facilitator</i>

IV. LIST OF WORKSHOP SLIDE PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE

See <http://www2.epa.gov/columbiariver/toxics-reduction-working-group>

If you have a time sensitive need for one or more of these presentations in the near term, email nchandler@triangleassociates.com for pdf copies. There are five total, in the order they were presented:

-  KMasterson_OR PSP.pdf (2 MB)
-  JFitzgerald_Why pesticide use & CCAs (1).pdf (2 MB)
-  GFerruzzi_NRCS and Pesticide Risk Mitigation.pdf (5 MB)
-  GBahr_Idaho.pdf (3 MB)
-  CLopez_drafting first foods policy_photos removed.pdf (2 MB)

V. ADDITIONAL ISSUES/TOPICS COVERED BY SPEAKERS/PARTICIPANTS

In addition to lively verbal updates and reports from participants, please find these handouts in the attached, compiled PDF document numbered as follows:

1. EPA Region 10 Letter of Support for PSPs to OR Dept of Ag and Dept of Environmental Quality -- 2 pages
2. OR DEQ, OR Dept of Ag and OR Dept of Forestry Letter of Support and Commitment to PSP Stakeholders -- 2 pages
3. Becoming a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) – 2 pages
4. Edge-of-Field Monitoring – 2 pages
5. Waste pesticide collection event (OSU and Blue Mountain Horticulture Society event is July 22 in Milton-Freewater – must pre-register, see flyer enclosed) – 2 pages
6. Strengthening Conservation with Regional Partnerships. RCCP \$400 million of funding through Farm Bill – see [nrcs.usda.gov/Farm Bill](http://nrcs.usda.gov/Farm%20Bill) and send (up to) 6-page pre-proposal in by July 14, 2014 – 4 pages
7. Columbia River Restoration Act – 4 pages
8. Effective Salmon-Safe IPM through PRiME – 1 page

VI. SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Your ideas for expanding pesticide stewardship partnerships in the Basin. Seed questions include:

1. What three things can we do now to support and improve pesticide stewardship?
2. What three things can we do in the future--five-to-ten years--to support and improve pesticide stewardship?
3. What conditions (funding, policy, governance, markets) will support and enhance #1 and #2?

VII. WORKSHOP EVALUATION AND SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

The three workshop objectives were met. These additional perspectives were offered by participants at the end of the day. What were the highlight of today's session for you? Why? What will be most useful to your work moving forward? Do you have suggestions for improvements in the workshop content, setting, design, or facilitation?

<i>+ What went well/'one thing I'll remember from today's workshop is...'</i>	<i>▲ What could be improved in future workshops. Questions...</i>
▪ There are benefits of being an early adapter – (of practices that may be required in the future yet we are carrying them out voluntarily) ▪ Benefits of working with agencies and others here over time: the more we work together, the more we understand their real needs and they understand ours.	▪ Would like to have a commercial applicator here – ground and air. ▪ At future workshop could be nice to have innovators applying pesticides from air to motivate technical innovations. ▪ How can states keep learning from one

▪ Average age of farmers in the region is 58 now. New generation is coming in that is quick to adapt new technologies and practices. ▪ Bottom line: monitoring is where rubber meets the road. If we create a safe environment for monitoring, folks are eager and willing to participate. ▪ Running good monitoring program takes committed staff, funding and quick turnaround on data. ▪ Carrying out effective education and outreach to populations so they feel connected. ▪ In OR, chemists now enter the data right away – can get the data within the season. ▪ Regular agency work group is great, yet it is so important to bring in a broad spectrum of interests like we have here today. ▪ Thrills me that people are not pointing fingers at each other anymore. No blame game. We are in this together. Great collaboration. ▪ Liking to see different interests talking together candidly about what's really going on. This is not the norm in other parts of the country, yet it is here. This leads to solutions down the road. ▪ Really enjoyed being here – lots of ideas to take back re: partnering. ▪ Idea: ask growers to help each other, train the trainers, and mentor each other. ▪ Growers teaching growers (cohort programs) is very effective. ▪ Excited about having a forum like this to bring these partnership ideas and	another and leverage one another's successes? (a participant noted states and EPA meet once a year and get time in the field to hear directly from farmers/growers. Usually late summer/early September). ▪ RE RCCP funding opportunity: is there a mechanism to have a 3-state initiative? Is it a fit? (answer in room was 'yes'). Needed: a lead from the states willing to coordinate. Spell out in short (no more than 6 pages) pre-proposal due July 14 naming technical objectives and resources being brought to the table (match/in-kind match). ▪ How about a more comprehensive look at pesticide impacts – e.g., pesticides in groundwater. Expanding scope may increase the caring. (One participant had a recollection of a USGS study in Yakima Valley regarding well water). ▪ Fostering strong grower associations help a lot. Hood River/WASCO similar enough to have these strong associations. Some places (e.g., Willamette) has many more crops and is more complex – therefore it's harder to be as helpful as an expert. ▪ Huge challenge: how to bring pesticide stewardship partnerships to urban environments. (Note: WA completed an urban pesticide use survey in May 2014. See http://agr.wa.gov/News/2014/14-12.aspx). ▪ Another participant noted surface water management utilities are natural partners in urban pesticide stewardship partnerships. ▪ PCBs are still showing up in new products such as inks, dyes and
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plans. ▪ Such a great group here – incredibly positive experience highlighting programs on the ground today. This is working and worthy of expanding. ▪ It’s important to be totally transparent and sincere and inclusive in this work. There are many important perspectives to bring to the table together. ▪ Communication is key. Take it back out and spread the information, share the energy to work in this way. ▪ Always encouraged to see all the collaboration. The best thing today is to see and meet all these people involved. ▪ Really appreciated this workshop – very valuable. Controlled management of pesticides is so important. ▪ Thanks! We want to connect people together to solve these problems. We hope to continue this kind of work group and we invite you to work with us in any way you can. ▪ Thanks, this meant a lot to me. I feel very appreciative. ▪ As Kat Brigham said, “time is on our side” – very poignant. We aren’t going anywhere (leaving this area). And so we work together. ▪ Good process produces the best possible outcomes. Keep up the great work.	pigments. Then those products go to recycling facilities and end up in water. Confederate Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation asking EPA to change their EPA regulation to avoid contributing more to this problem. ▪ It’s a struggle to figure out how to reach upriver partners and work with them more.
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VIII. TESTIMONIALS OFFERED BY GROWER PARTICIPANTS

“Close to a decade ago, growers in the Walla Walla Valley realized that being pro-active on water quality was in our best interest. And that by partnering up with the watershed council, OSU extension, the State, and

Salmon-Safe, we could demonstrate to the regulators, the market, our friends, and to ourselves that we are good stewards, especially with our pesticide management.” -- Ron Brown, Umatilla County Tree Fruit Grower

“Almost fifteen years ago we got involved with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in a Pesticide Stewardship Partnership in Wasco County as a non-regulatory approach to doing good things for the environment and we achieved success in a very short period of time, shorter than if we had taken a regulatory approach through a TMDL process which is not yet in place. As growers we believe in more monitoring to help us figure out what we are doing right and how we can improve our practices. DEQ does not tell us what to do, they share the monitoring information with us and as growers we make decisions on adjusting our practices to meet the desired conditions.” -- Ken Bailey, Hood River and WASCO County Fruit Grower

Our Pesticide Stewardship Partnership shows that dramatic improvements are possible in short periods of time when we work together voluntarily. We farmers love the monitoring that goes with the pesticide stewardship partnerships because it tells us what we are doing and if we need do better. As well, the monitoring clearly shows the public and regulators--especially those who may assume otherwise--that we are not harming streams.” -- Mike Omeg, Hood River & Wasco County Tree Fruit Grower

IX. FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Mary Lou Soscia, EPA Region 10 at Soscia.Marylou@epa.gov or Nedra Chandler at nchandler@triangleassociates.com with questions or requests related to this summary.

X. PARTICIPANT LIST

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Neutral Facilitation and this summary provided by Nedra Chandler, of Triangle Associates. *Note from Nedra to participants: thanks again for the engaging day last week in Walla Walla. As promised, I've kept this short and have not attempted to summarize discussion, yet have listed the key elements and attached a compilation of handouts. The five sets of presentation slides have been listed below in section V of this document and sent to Mary Lou Soscia for inclusion on the EPA website <http://www2.epa.gov/columbiariver/toxics-reduction-working-group> in the file sharing section.*

If you find any significant errors or inadvertent inaccuracies in this summary, please do let me know: nchandler@triangleassociates.com. I will compile and forward any I receive to Mary Lou Soscia at EPA Region 10.

If you have a time-sensitive need for one or more of the slide presentations before you can find them on the EPA website, please let me know and I can send them along to you. Thank you for agreeing to share your email addresses – this in itself is a great step toward an increasingly meaningful network of pesticide stewardship partners in the Columbia River Basin.

--END of summary--