

Region 10 Pre-SFIREG Meeting Report

Teleconference Held May 1, 2017, 3:00 – 4:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time

Prepared by: Cory Cooley, (OR) – Region 10 SFIREG Representative

In Attendance:

- Oregon: Cory Cooley, Dale Mitchell, Rose Kachadoorian, Garnet Cooke
- Alaska: Bob Blankenburg
- Idaho: Bob Spencer
- Washington: Erik Johansen, Robin Schoen-Nessa, Christina Zimmerman, Gary Bahr
- EPA Region 10: Kelly McFadden, Linda Liu, Derrick Terada, Chad Schulze, Gianpaolo Boccato, Nick Hurwit, Dirk Helder

A. State- Current Issues:

Oregon:

- Oregon continues to review concerns regarding drones making pesticide applications, specifically on the issues of proper licensing of applicators, wearing proper PPE, and understanding and following Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) regulations during applications using drones. Also discussed liability issues in complaint situations while using drones. ODA sent email to the AAPCO and SFIREG chairperson addressing drones and possibly forming a workgroup to discuss issues surrounding drones with EPA. Oregon is interested in participating.
- Oregon still heavily engaged with pesticide use practices with production of Cannabis and Industrial Hemp
- Oregon also continues to conduct area wide pest control operations for quarantine pests involving Japanese beetle and Brown Apple moth. These applications are typically covered under a general NPDES permit. However, certain product labels have been unclear on unintentional deposition into water, so Oregon granted SLN's to permit the applications to be conducted.
- To address the escaped genetically engineered (GE) Bentgrass in Eastern Oregon; Pesticides Program issued SLN's with the ingredient, glufosinate. These SLN's were granted in irrigation canals and dry ditches not holding water, and to ditches holding water. Discussed issue with EPA headquarters prior to issuing.
- Oregon is dealing with the use of unregistered substances, such as elemental sulfur, which is being burned in greenhouses for the control of pests. Oregon is working with

EPA region 9, and Cornell University to assess whether a fact sheet could be developed discussing safety guidance.

Washington:

- Legislative session still occurring, State dealing with repetitive pesticide drift bill.
- Busy working through compliance cases.
- Dealing with outdoor Cannabis operations and co-existence.
- Assistant director, Brent Barnes, left WSDA. Robin Schoen-Nessa acting as interim assistant director. Compliance program manager, Alberto Isiordia left WSDA.
- In early April WSDA issued 4 SLN's for the marijuana industry for use on marijuana. WSDA has other registrants expressing interest in doing an SLN. States that have SLN's submitted include: Nevada, Vermont and Washington. California will follow suit soon.

Idaho:

- Finishing up WPS Train The Trainer trainings across the State. 12 total were conducted and were presented in both, English and Spanish.
- Have upcoming disposal events in the Napa, Weiser and Lewiston areas. Also have an area wide Japanese beetle eradication planned in the Boise area. A granular insecticide will be used for the application. Preliminary trapping results show beetle numbers are falling from previous years.
- Idaho and Oregon have been dealing with pesticide use on culled onion piles. Piles were mandated to be destroyed by April 15, or treated with insecticides. Idaho Ag rules say the University of Idaho must come up with a list of pesticide products allowed to be use on the cull piles. George Robinson retired at end of March 2017.

Alaska:

- Efforts in permitting applications to water for control of Elodea. Elodea considered invasive in Alaska and has been seen in lakes. Likely spread by floatplanes and personal recreational equipment. Applications will proceed in near future. Will use fluridone and diquat dibromide to treat Elodea.
- Updating State C&T regulations to align with the federal regulations. Alaska expects a public notice announcement within the next couple of months on updating the C&T regulations. Alaska also Updating Department fees.

B. Full SFIREG Agenda Topics

1) C & T Rule Implementation

- a. WPS postponed by new administration. New administration needs to review rule. Federal register notice to come out soon.

2) WPS Rule Implementation

- a. Educational and outreach materials continue to be produced by EPA and OSU/UC Davis through PERC grant. PERC has many resources in progress for helping implement the WPS rule. EPA continues to approve Train The Trainer programs. OSU in cooperation with ODA and Oregon OSHA conducted 10 Train The Trainer courses in English in 2017. New Oregon WPS rules to go into effect in 2018. Meetings still planned to discuss the AEZ before final rule is published.

3) Pollinator Update

- a. OSU and ODA in process of making a pesticide use safety plan. ODA is providing money to help fund this process. OSU has mobile application for helping reduce pesticide poisonings to bees. ODA collecting residual toxicity info from registrants to update tables in pollinator plan document. Idaho finished pollinator plan in December 2016, and have had meetings with multiple associations and conducted an interview on the radio. More meetings planned at the county level. Alaska not creating a pollinator plan. Bill in legislature to reduce use of neonicotinoid insecticides. WSDA director office is soliciting input from stakeholders to help shape pollinator protection plan.

4) Cannabis

- a. Medical marijuana products will likely be tracked similar to recreational marijuana for inhibiting production sales in the black market. Oregon Marijuana Compliance Assistance Program is planned to expire at end of June 2017. Intent was to increase industries understanding of Pesticide laws and regulations. In Washington State, the liquor and cannabis board soon to adopt permanent rules, public hearing occurring soon. Board is proposing to adopt action levels based on the Oregon Health Authority documents. WSDA recommended to not adopt OHA's action levels; feel action levels are unsafe for consumers. Alaska has issued a number of cultivator licenses and retail licenses. No rules in statute on specified action levels.

5) SFIREG, POM, EQI, Terms & Positions

- a. Oregon will finish as SFIREG representative in December 2017. Idaho will be SFIREG rep in 2018-2019. Potential candidates for Oregon regarding POM and EQI workgroups will be Isaak Stapleton and Ted Bunch respectively. Robin

Shoen-Nessa applying for second term as POM representative for Washington State. Gary Bahr in middle of term as EQI rep for Washington.

- 6) **Other issues-** Status of EPA funding for regions. States submitting applications for funding for 2018. Likely reduction in funds provided to States for 2018.