

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

PPDC Pollinator Protection Plan Metrics WG - Meeting Minutes

12/01/2016

Attendees:

(in person) Mike Goodis, Lead; Marietta Echeverria, Co-Lead; Meredith Laws; Dee Colby; Mary Clock-Rust; Tom Steeger

(phone) Stephanie Binns (for Aaron Hobbs), Ray Brinkmeyer, Michele Colopy; Steven Coy; Richard Crespin; Mark Dykes; David Epstein; Jayme Mestes; Jim Fredericks; Nichelle Harriot; Tim Hatten; Dudley Hoskins; Rose Kachadoorian; Jeanette Klopchin; Don Parker; Peg Perreault; Caydee Savinelli; Julie Shapiro; Al Summers

Agenda (attached)

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, Agenda Review – Mike and Marietta

Workgroup members introduced themselves.

Review of Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2016 - Dee

Meeting minutes were finalized from the November meeting and will be posted on the PPDC website.

Report on the Work Plan Subgroup – Caydee Savinelli

(Draft Work Plan attached)

Caydee presented the work plan flow chart that the Subgroup developed to help guide the Workgroup through a succession of Project Stages toward development of a plan for evaluating pollinator protection plans' effectiveness at a national level. Comments were positive in that the plan seemed realistic, the flow captures major stages, and that it would be a work in progress as we proceed through the Project Stages. There was some discussion about: needing to keep the scope narrow and to areas with verifiable data, managed bees being the 'umbrella' for pollinator protection, and formulation of metrics. The Work Plan addresses formulation of metrics in future months after we assess metrics that are currently being used and then decide which are pertinent to our objective going forward.

Discuss characterizing the states' plans and their scopes – Jeanette Klopchin

Refer to <https://aapco.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/master-mp3-inventory-june-2016-master-update-may-2016.pdf> for the AAPCO lists of all MP3 plans that are in place.

Jeanette went through a list of states' pollinator protection plans mentioning points of interest to the group; a key point being that of the states with pollinator plans in place, very few include metrics.

Report on progress of tribes – Mary Clock-Rust

Mary is the tribal plans coordinator for the Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC) Workgroup. TPPC felt it was a priority to have a workgroup for pollinator protection. There are currently 15 tribes participating and others are encouraged to join. Tribes are mostly interested in protection of native bees. They are looking at using the pollinator protection plan template that was developed for tribes in EPA Region 9. Email Mary if you have questions about tribal plan development at clock-rust.mary@epa.gov.

Finalize a framework for a Work Plan - Mike

Mike thought it would be helpful going forward if the Work Plan Subgroup would continue to update the work plan as information is added and/or time frames are adjusted. Discussion was generated around surveys being the most commonly used metric in state plans and the degree of variability among plans. This discussion provided segue into formation of a second subgroup which would look at plans collectively and highlight commonalities.

Form subgroup for Project Stage 4 – Marietta

Project Stage 4 is to evaluate processes/products associated with each plan for areas of commonality. Subgroup II would look for commonality among plans, identify common themes and list metrics associated with these themes. Jeanette Klopchin, Caydee Savinelli, Stephanie Binns, and Peg Perreault volunteered to form Subgroup II. We would like to have a report from the subgroup to discuss at the January Workgroup Meeting.

Meeting Recap – Mike

The next teleconference date will be in January 2017. There had been an exchange of emails prior to the December meeting where members shared publications, etc. to help inform the group of issues of potential interest to the Workgroup. It was asked if group members sending informative emails out to the group in between meetings is acceptable. There were no objections.

FOLLOW UP:

1. **Subgroup II:** Investigate commonality among state plans and associated metrics
2. **Agency:** Choose a meeting time and agenda for next month corresponding to Stages 5-6 in the work plan

Pollinator Protection Plans Metrics PPDC Workgroup

Call-In Meeting 12/1/2016 2:00 – 3:30 pm

1-866-299-3188; 703-305-8578

Adobe connect:

<http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/r3xfqzxbnbc/>

The objective of this meeting is to finalize a framework for a work plan to guide our activities for the coming year.

Agenda:

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, Agenda Review – Mike and Marietta (5 mins)

Workgroup members will introduce themselves.

Review of Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2016 - Dee (5 min)

Finalize meeting minutes from the November meeting.

Report on the Work Plan Subgroup – TBD (20 min)

Someone from the Subgroup will report on the progress of the Subgroup's efforts to establish a framework for the Workgroup's Work Plan.

Discuss characterizing the states' plans and their scopes – Jeanette Klopchin (30 min)

Refer to <https://aapco.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/master-mp3-inventory-june-2016-master-update-may-2016.pdf> for the AAPCO lists of all MP3 plans that are in place.

Report on progress of tribes – Mary Clock-Rust (5 min)

Mary will report on the progress of tribes to develop MP3s.

Finalize a framework for a Work Plan - Mike (10 min)

The group will finalize a framework to guide our activities over the next year.

Form subgroup for Project Stage 4 – Marietta (10 min)

Project Stage 4 is to evaluate processes/products associated with each plan for areas of commonality. We would like to have a report from the subgroup to discuss at the January Workgroup Meeting.

Meeting Recap – Mike (5 mins)

Review any action items. The next teleconference date will be in January 2017.

Objective:

The workgroup is charged with developing: 1) recommendations for how to evaluate/measure the effectiveness of state- and tribal-recognized pollinator protection plans at the national level; and, 2) a strategy to communicate that effectiveness to the public (defined broadly). The workgroup's goal is to make final recommendations to the full PPDC by fall of 2017.

Background:

President Obama's 2014 Presidential Memorandum creating a federal task force to develop a national strategy to promote the health of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and other pollinators directs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to engage states and tribes in the development of pollinator protection plans. In the National Strategy document written in response to the President's directive, EPA identified managed pollinator protection plans (MP3) as an effective means of increasing communication between stakeholders and mitigating acute exposures of bees to pesticides. Since that time, multiple efforts have been underway to assist in the development and evaluation of these plans including:

- MP3 Symposium Evaluation Session Summary: <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/MP3-Evaluation-Summary.pdf>
- SFIREG Guidance for Development and Implementation of MP3s: <https://aapco.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/sfireg-mp3-guidance-final.pdf>
- SFIREG Performance Measures Guidance: <https://aapco.files.wordpress.com/2016/02/sfireg-joint-working-committee-performance-measures-for-mp3-meeting-revision-clean-up.pdf>

EPA is continuing to identify measures to reduce acute and chronic exposure of both *Apis* and non-*Apis* bees to pesticides through federal and state labels; however, there is general recognition that additional efforts, which extend beyond advisory and/or compulsory label language, can be implemented on the state/tribal level to increase communication and collaboration between stakeholders to promote pollinator health. With respect to pesticides, efforts to enhance communication between growers/applicators and beekeepers is considered an important component of evolving plans.

As identified in the *National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and other Pollinators* (National Strategy), EPA committed to working with states/tribes on the development of MP3s, and the majority of these plans have thus far focused on managed honey bees. However, in the 2012 White Paper presented to the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel and in subsequent harmonized guidance documents from EPA and Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency, the honey bee is considered a surrogate for non-*Apis* (e.g., native bees); therefore, measures intended to be protective for honey bees are considered likely to be protective for non-*Apis* bees and other insect pollinators even though the biology of these species may differ. Although honey bees continue to be the focus of managed pollination, some non-*Apis* species of bees are also managed (e.g., bumble bees, mason bees, leaf-cutter bees) to provide pollination services. However, the 2007 NRC publication on the *Status of Pollinators in North America* as well as in the 2015 *Pollinator Research Action Plan* reiterate that there is insufficient baseline information to evaluate status and trends in non-*Apis* species.

With respect to declines in some pollinator species and particularly honey bees, while there are multiple factors (e.g., pests, pathogens, pesticides, poor nutrition, weather) associated with declines, no single factor has been identified as a cause. Given EPA's role in regulating pesticides though and the use of these

products in agriculture, it is reasonable that a focus on MP3 would center on reducing exposure to these products; however, state and tribal efforts are not restricted to focusing on pesticides alone but can include efforts to address other factors as discussed in the National Strategy and the 2016 Public-Private Partnerships Action Plan. Similarly, whereas the focus is largely on honey bees, efforts to enhance other specific pollinators can be highlighted.

EPA recognizes that national-level metrics to evaluate a wide diversity of state/tribal plans is challenging given that the plans are likely to vary in scope (**Figure 1**). Consideration should be given to identifying process-based metric and product-based metrics.

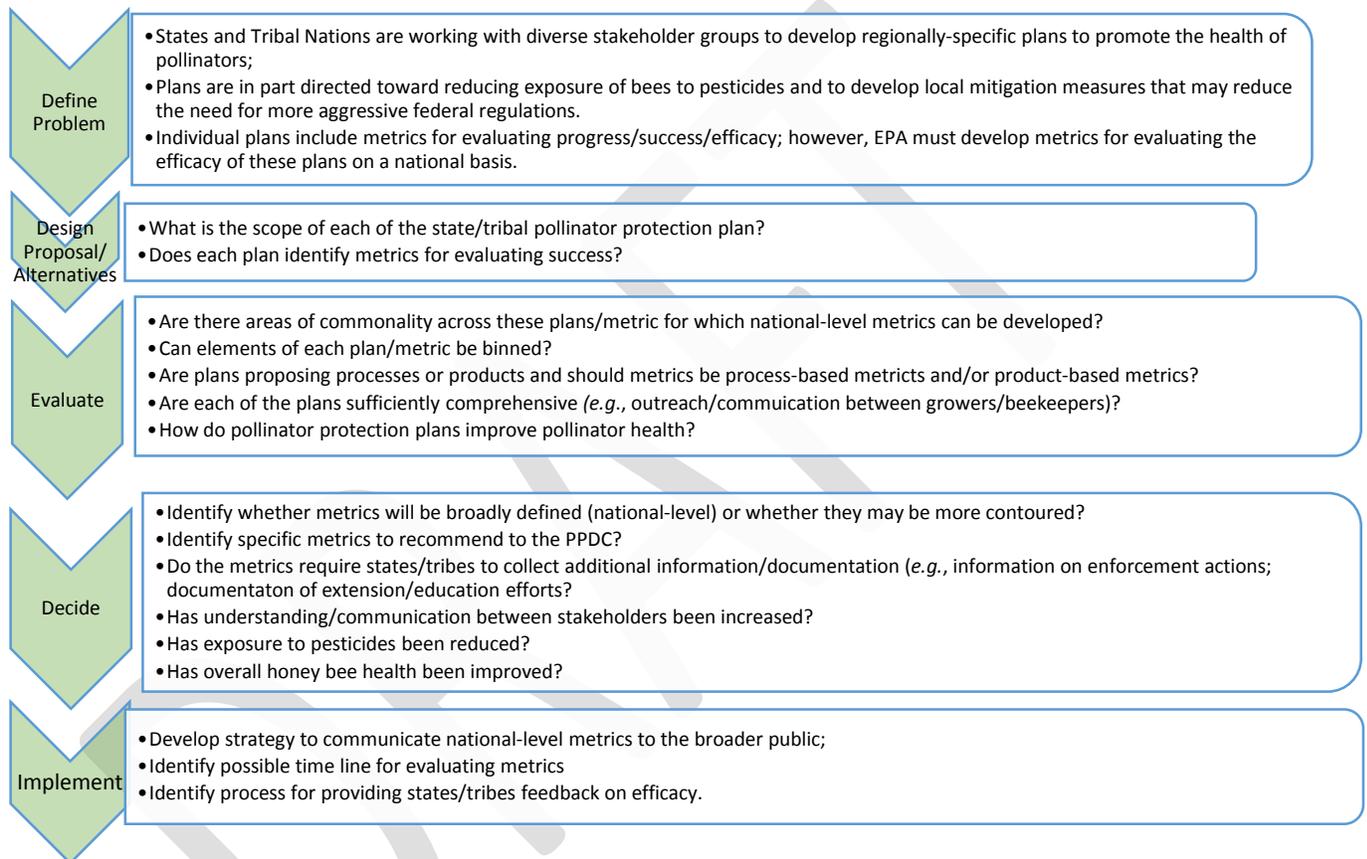


Figure 1. Evaluating the efficacy of state/tribal pollinator protection plans.

Workplan

Project Stage	Description of Project Stage	Deliverable	
1	Identify number of completed plans and whether they have been implemented	Update the Excel spreadsheet (Association of American Pesticide Control Officials [AAPCO])	20 Nov 2016
2	Identify scope of each state/tribal plan and whether plans have associated metrics?	<p>List of processes/products identified in each state/tribal plan and their associated metrics.</p> <p>Determine whether plans identified extent to which stakeholders were engaged.</p> <p>Are plans responsive to SFIREG/AAPCO guidance? Tribal template?</p> <p>Do the plans focus on managed bees alone or include other pollinator species? If other pollinator species are included, identify.</p>	28 Nov 2016
3	PPDC Workgroup Update	Status Check (PPDC workgroup conference call). Provide overview of existing plans.	1 Dec 2016
4	Evaluate processes/products associated with each plan for areas of commonality. Can binning occur?	<p>Subgroup to identify areas of commonality? If binning is possible, identify common themes (bins).</p> <p>Are there common metrics which can be associated with these themes?</p>	Jan 2017
5	Identify process- and product-based metrics?	<p>List of process- (e.g., educational programs) and product-based (e.g., number of colonies registered) metrics.</p> <p>Develop list of possible existing resources for measuring change at a regional and/or national level.</p> <p>Are sufficient measures in place across states/tribes to document change, e.g., bee kill incident investigation/reporting; numbers of managed colonies (National Agricultural Statistics Service [NASS] survey data; beekeeper association databases); pollinator health estimates (Bee Informed Partnership [BIP] survey; USDA Animal and Plant Health</p>	Feb 2017

		<p>Inspection Service [APHIS] survey; state apiary inspector reports)</p> <p>Identify means of measuring outcomes?</p> <p>Are there financial constraints to collecting information/data?</p>	
6	Outreach	<p>Conference call with NASS to discuss current/additional measurement tools (<i>e.g.</i>, survey questions).</p> <p>Conference call with BIP (Dennis vanEngelsdorp/Karen Rennick) to discuss current/additional measurement tools (survey questions).</p>	Jan 2017
7	Identify tools to quantify how MP3s reduce acute inadvertent exposure of managed pollinators to pesticides.	<p>Form subgroup to identify pollinator health metrics. Develop list of general measures (<i>e.g.</i>, overwintering success; incidence of disease; incidence of CCD).</p> <p>Conference calls with USDA APHIS/ARS and BIP to determine possible metrics.</p> <p>Evaluate NASS, Bee Informed Partnership, APHIS databases to determine extent to which pollinator losses are affected.</p> <p>SFIREG Survey on enforcement actions; similar state survey.</p> <p>American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) survey tools.</p> <p>Evaluate California Pesticide Use Report or similar use/market report data to determine changes in use.</p> <p>Discussion with State Apiary Inspector where appropriate.</p>	Feb 2017
8	Are other factors beyond pesticide exposure addressed in plans?	<p>What are realistic metrics for evaluating efficacy of additional mitigation measures that extend beyond pesticides (<i>e.g.</i>, increased number of acres devoted to pollinator habitat; increase in CRP; decreased incidence of pests/disease).</p>	

	PPDC Workgroup Update	Status Check (PPDC workgroup conference call). Provide overview of potential metrics and options for collecting data.	Feb
9	Do plans have short-comings that may dictate further development?	Identify particular limitations/data gaps of state/tribal plans.	Feb

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