

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## PPDC Pollinator Protection Plan Metrics WG - Meeting Minutes

3/15/2017

### Attendees:

(in person) Mike Goodis, Lead; Meredith Laws; Tom Steeger; Dee Colby; Mary Clock-Rust; Cathryn Britton (phone) Stephanie Binns (for Aaron Hobbs), Michele Colopy; Jim Fredericks; Tim Hatten; Dudley Hoskins; Rose Kachadoorian; Jeanette Klopchin; Jim Lyons; Jayme Mestes; Don Parker; Peg Perreault; Caydee Savinelli; Al Summers; Tim Tucker; Andy Whittington; Tim Joseph

### Agenda (attached)

#### Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, Agenda Review – Mike

Workgroup members and guest speakers introduced themselves.

#### Review of Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2017 - Dee

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

#### Report on progress of tribes – Mary Clock-Rust

The Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC) Pollinator Protection Workgroup meets for conference calls monthly; check the website [tppcwebsite.org/pollinators](http://tppcwebsite.org/pollinators) for information. During their March-meeting the Region 9 draft template for a pollinator protection plan was discussed, as well as, possible adaptations of the plan for other tribes. The template is a useful tool for any tribe developing a pollinator plan. It is comprehensive and can be adapted as needed for tribes that want to focus on protecting managed or non-managed bees, or more generalized pollinator protection goals (such as youth education). Development and adherence to the plan will be voluntary. The tribes in the TPPC Workgroup are primarily interested in protection of medicinal plants and native pollinators over managed bees (such as honey bees). An outstanding opportunity for training was offered by Dr. Diana Cox-Foster, Research Leader at the USDA ARS Pollinating Insects Research Center in Logan, Utah. The lab has developed a training program around native bees, their habitat and identification that tribes are welcome and encouraged to attend for no cost. Possible funding for travel and lodging is available for some tribes with cooperative agreements with some EPA Regions. For additional information, contact Mary at [clock-rust.mary@epa.gov](mailto:clock-rust.mary@epa.gov)

#### Report from the Metrics Subgroup – Caydee Savinelli

Caydee started with a reminder of the top two common themes in MP3 Plans:

- 1) Improve communication; generates qualitative data
- 2) Outreach; potential for quantitative data

The Subgroup is considering two metric options. The first is a survey as a metric. They would like to have Extension Services' input in the development of questions and measures. Possible options for surveys include:

- 1) National survey, possibly via NASS
- 2) EPA guidance to states and tribes on survey topics and questions
- 3) States and tribes initiate surveys

The second metric option would be to assess state plans using a National Metrics Point System. The Subgroup asked for feedback on the following: who would collect and store the data, the cost and who would pay, developing survey details, and developing points for a National Metric

Discussion was generated on the question of pollinator health and how to measure it. We were reminded that the primary goal shared across plans was about changing behavior and as such, our measure should

consider outcomes of behavior first...to get to pollinator health. Ultimately, if those who are participating in plans are satisfied with the outcome it is because the plans improved pollinator health.

The charge for this Workgroup is not an easy task; it is complicated and nuanced. This may be where Extension Services could help with behavioral specialists and evaluation of ideas. Paul Mitchell, an Extension specialist at the University of Wisconsin has been working with the Subgroup this past month. He has a survey mechanism in place that the group would like to adapt based upon the Workgroup's needs. Proponents of the point system like the idea of evaluating all plans with one set of measures. Other agencies, such as APHIS, are generating a better indication of overall pollinator health with their metrics. Therefore, we shouldn't have to duplicate efforts. The Workgroup's focus should be metrics to evaluate pollinator plans.

During the next month, the Metrics Subgroup will develop an outline of a survey and a point system. They will try to get additional input from Extension Services. Tim Hatten would like to participate in the Subgroup this month.

#### **Report from the Work Plan Subgroup – Members**

A revised Work Plan was presented. Members wanted input about the direction forward in order to provide a more detailed plan prior to the full PPDC in May. It was suggested that the Workgroup has reviewed and considered enough of the existing resources on pollinator protection metrics to begin to develop a recommendation to the EPA. While there was agreement on that thought, the Workgroup would also like to hear from someone in Extension Services and possibly Claudio Gratin from WI about their Pollinator Protection Plan.

#### **Discussion of metrics from multiple resources and Work Plan - Mike**

Dialogue continued from the Subgroup reports and it was brought to the Workgroup's attention that approximately 15 of 596 tribes participate in TPPC in part due to variability in the size of land holdings, and as such, those tribes may not represent all tribes. Only the North Dakota Spirit Lake Tribe has a plan. Tribes do not have mechanisms in place to have MP3s. Tribes typically will not get involved with these plans and measures because the generation of data is not as important to tribes. This brought up a very relevant point in reference to plans and metrics which is, it is important for States to reach out to their stakeholders and be as inclusive as possible. It was suggested that a point system would encourage states to include as many stakeholders as possible if it increased their score.

The Subgroups were asked to continue their work and report again in April.

#### **Meeting Recap – Dee**

Metrics Subgroup (Subgroup II), going forward:

- 1) continue to work on the survey and point system approaches to measuring success of all States' plans,
- 2) contact Claudio Gratin from WI,
- 3) obtain and share copy of the Spirit Lake Tribe's plan, and
- 4) obtain additional input from Extension Services.

Work Plan Subgroup (Subgroup I) will continue to add detail to the existing framework, and possibly look at more specific deliverables.

Next teleconference date will be in April 2017...tentative date 04/13/2017

In-Person Meeting...May 2, 2017 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (full PPDC Meeting May 3-4, 2017)

## DRAFT Pollinator Protection Plans Metrics PPDC Workgroup

Call-In Meeting 3/15/2017 1:30 – 3:00 pm

1-866-299-3188; 703-347-8657

Adobe connect:

<http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/r4qi5flvwdj/>

The objective of this meeting is to discuss potential metrics to recommend to the EPA and options for collecting data. We will also review and comment on the revised work plan.

### Agenda:

**Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, Agenda Review** – Mike and Meredith (5 min)

*Workgroup members and participants will introduce themselves.*

**Review of Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2017** - Dee (5 min)

*Finalize meeting minutes from the February meeting. February Meeting Minutes are attached.*

**Report on progress of tribes** – Mary Clock-Rust (10 min)

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

**Report from the Metrics Subgroup** – Caydee Savinelli (25 min)

*Caydee will present the continued progress of the Subgroup's efforts to categorize metrics from multiple resources, identifying common themes where possible.*

**Report from the Work Plan Subgroup** – TBD (15 min)

*Members who worked on the work plan will report on the revised Work Plan from April – November 2017. Refer to the Work Plan (below).*

**Discussion of metrics from multiple resources and Work Plan** - Mike (25 min)

*The group will discuss where we are in identifying process and product based metrics from existing resources and if we've included enough resources to move forward or if others should be included (See Project Stages 10-11 in the Work Plan below). Are sufficient measures in place to design a metric for EPA to document change at a national level?*

*Work Plan discussion...does the revised Work Plan include the necessary steps toward accomplishing the objectives of the Metrics Workgroup (see Objective) by the November 2017 deadline? Should anything else be included/revised/omitted?*

**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 November 2017.*

**Meeting Recap** – Dee (5 min)

*Review any action items*

*Next teleconference date will be in April 2017...tentative date 04/13/2017*

*In-Person Meeting...May 2, 2017 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (full PPDC Meeting May 3-4, 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>

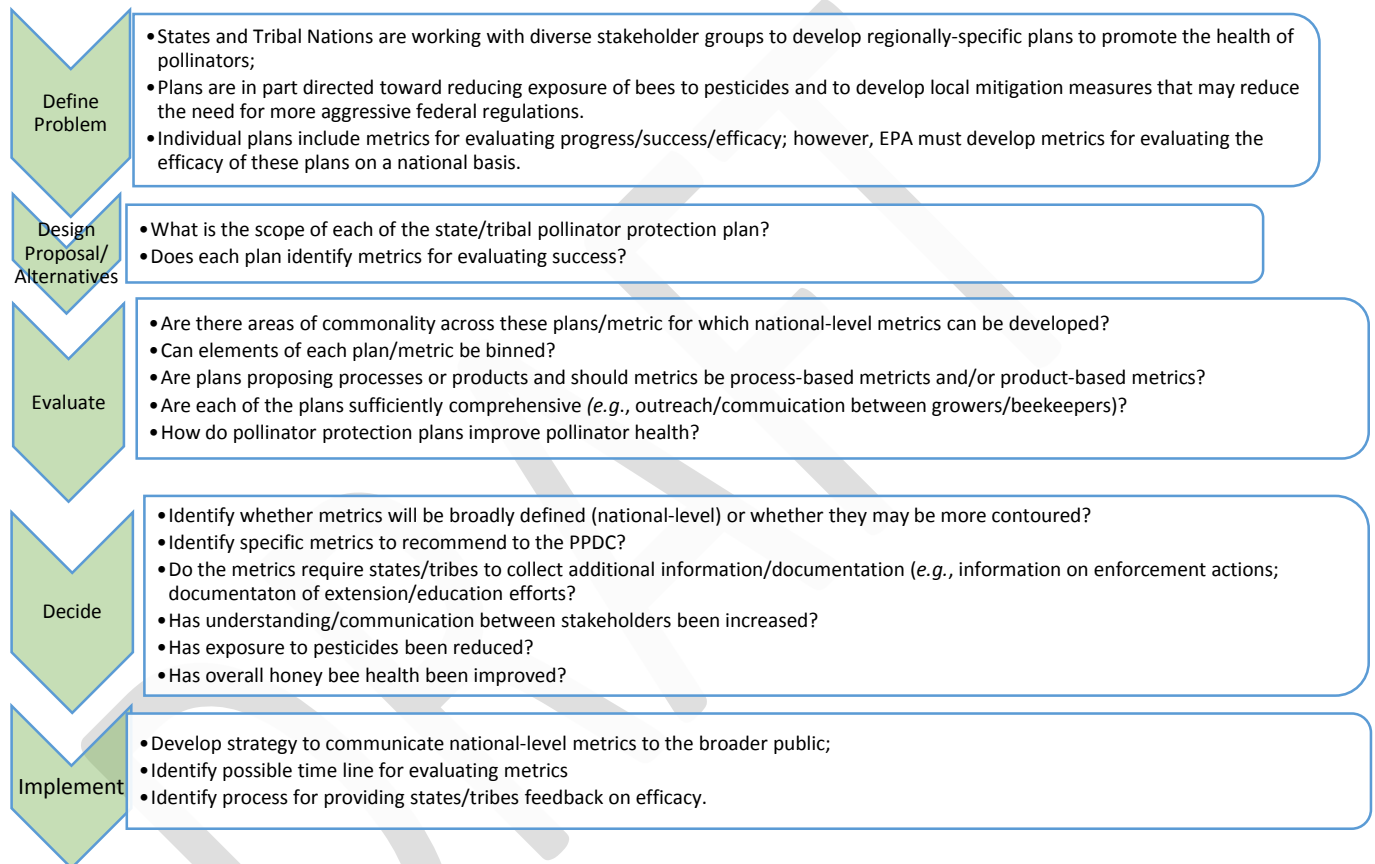
EPA is continuing to identify measures to reduce acute and chronic exposure of both *Apis* and non-*Apis* bees to pesticides through federal and state labels; however, there is general recognition that additional efforts, which extend beyond advisory and/or compulsory label language, can be implemented 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- (<i>e.g.</i>, educational programs) and product-based (<i>e.g.</i>, 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, <i>e.g.</i>, 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
10	Are additional Stakeholder Inputs Needed to the WG?	Examples of other stakeholders that could provide input: CA DPR Pesticide Use Reporting System Fieldwatch (formerly Driftwatch) EPA, Tribe, or State Bee Incident Data Grower Groups on their BMPs (e.g. almonds and soy)	March
11	What feedback should the PPDC WG ask for from the full PPDC?	Obtain input from Metrics Team Have we collected enough input on possible measures? Have we thoroughly vetted state and tribe plans for measures and common themes? Has the WG made use of all state and tribe information?	March
12	Develop proposal to PPDC on a path forward for a national measure	Prepare presentation for PPDC Prepare questions for PPDC Prepare backup supporting information	April
13	Interim Face to Face meeting of WG	Prepare for PPDC presentation Develop process to move forward to present to PPDC	May 2
14	Interim Report to Full PPDC	PPDC Committee Meeting	May 3,4
15	Review Results of Full PPDC	Develop Workplan for May to Oct WG Meetings	May

		Move Forward on metric recommendations of full PPDC Define the metric	
16	<b>Define metric to be moved forward</b>	Build framework on design of metric Validate metric against criteria	June
17	<b>Build Workplan</b>	Define workplan to finish by November	July to September
18	<b>Final Face to Face Meeting of WG</b>	Finalize Presentation to full PPDC in Nov	Oct
19	<b>Final Work Product Presented to PPDC</b>	PPDC Full Committee Meeting	Nov 8,9