

Pesticide Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2024

The second meeting of the Pesticide Advisory Board established under ESHB 1019 was held on March 27, 2024, at 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Present:

- **Voting members:** Griselda Arias, Craig Blackwood, Ronald Cline, Israel Delamora, Matthew Harris, Joe Ben Herrera, Jefferey Leonardini, Kelly McDonald, Patrick Williams, Kelly McLain, and April Clayton.
- **Non-voting members:** Katharine Buckley, Greg Caron, Bertha Clayton, Elinor Fanning, Bradley Farrar, Allan Felsot, Marie Hallinen, Louis Nottingham, Ryan Pessah, Wendy Sue Wheeler, Bud Lynn Wilhelm, Mathew Murphy, Mary Fee, Kaci Buhl, Pablo Palmández (stand-in for Edward Kasner), David Heimer, and Ray Willard.
- **WSDA Staff:** Kelly McLain, Daleena Blair, Savannah Richard, Kevin Huynh, Scott Nielsen, Christina Zimmerman, Brent Perry, Ofelio Borges, Perry Beale, and Maryann Connell.
- **Other attendees:** stakeholders and members of the public.

Board members not present:

- Steve Bennett and Junior Islas Sanchez

Washington State Department of Agriculture, Assistant Director for the Agricultural Environmental Services Division (Formerly the Pesticide Management Division), Kelly McLain opened the meeting and welcomed attendees in person and virtually. She gave a brief overview of her background on the Pesticide Advisory Board and then invited the Pesticide Advisory Board Chair Wendy Sue Wheeler to speak. Wendy outlined the agenda topics for the day, discussed the process of the PAB member management, and then opened the floor for the first speaker.

It was mentioned that any questions or comments not covered within the meeting can be sent to pab@agr.wa.gov

Agenda Speakers in Order through the Meeting Duration:

Tom Dent - Washington State Representative

Tom spoke about his passion for agriculture and how he advances pesticide-related topics in the legislature. Tom mentioned that he was concerned about the mental health and suicide rate in the agriculture sector in America. He put together a work group to study the suicide rates in Agriculture and advised listeners to check on their friends/family, connecting with the audience from personal experience. He is looking forward to the future of this board and doing great things.

Derek Sandison – WSDA Director

Derek talked about pest pressures threatening the AG industry. Expressed interest in ensuring tools exist to prepare for those pressures. He is Looking forward to the work of this new division.

The meeting then proceeded with a training video about the [Open Public Meetings Act](#).

WSDA Program Introductions:

Scott Nielsen – Compliance Program Manager

Scott gave an overview introduction about the Pesticide Compliance program, the regional work involved, and the compliance activities. Compliance activities include routine inspections and complaint response with investigations.

Brent Perry – Registration Program Manager

The program work involves registering fertilizers and pesticides. He mentioned that there are currently new products, fertilizers, and nutrients in the marketplace and new industry changes need us to update our databases and upgrade systems. Brent mentioned the release of the new Databases: WALT&R and WAPRS with an online payment option that was not available previously.

Ofelio Borges – Technical Services and Education Program Manager

Ofelio has been with the program for (24) years and was previously a migrant farmer in WA. He showed his concern as well in managing stress and suicide prevention awareness for farmers, he connected this to his own experience as a farm supervisor and manager. He gave an overview introduction about the Technical Services and Education program work and available educational resources. He highlighted The Agricultural Leadership Program, a partnership between the Washington State Tree Fruit Association and WSDA which includes topics such as Proactiveness, Conflict Resolution, Emotional Intelligence, Communication, Delegation, and Stress Management.

Christina Zimmerman – Licensing and Recertification Program Manager

Christina has been with the agency for (7) years and comes from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. She discussed an overview of her program's work and briefed us on current projects. These projects are updating to the WAPLR database, Computer Based Testing, and Certification & Training (C&T) Rule Making updates. Christina highlighted the requirement for Community Engagement and Environmental Justice (EJ) Assessments in the rulemaking process.

Perry Beale – Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences Program

Perry is also a co-owner of a cattle ranch in SE Washington as well as a licensed applicator. He was the first to be hired by NRAS. He gave an overview of the key components and contacts within NRAS. These include Soil Health, Groundwater Monitoring, Surface Water Monitoring, Pesticide Usage, Crop Mapping/GIS, Pesticide Stewardship and Endangered Species (ESA).

12:00-12:30 Break for lunch

12:30 reconvened:

Elinor Fanning and Griselda Arias – Department of Health

Griselda talked about the Acute Pesticide Illness Surveillance & Prevention Program details and the work of the organization for pesticide illness cases, authority, and passive surveillance. She explained the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between WSDA, L&I, and DOH regarding investigations of pesticide exposures. Elinor spoke about the Toxicology Pesticide consultation roles and how DOH responds to requests from WSDA and other agencies.

Bradley Farrar – Labor and Industries

Bradley is thrilled about the conversations on Pesticides. He then outlined the various divisions' roles in L&I's mission to keep Washington Employees healthy and working safely. Bradley also discussed the coordination and regulatory responsibilities between WSDA and L&I regarding pesticide laws.

Wendy Sue Wheeler – Washington State University

Wendy spoke about their role as a Land Grant University and support of certification and training efforts of EPA's Mandate by FIFRA. She discussed their program accomplishments to reach large audiences over the years with goals to increase the outreach volume of people in the future. She then elaborated on the benefits and impact of the Pesticide Safety Education program providing certification/training for licensed applicators.

Marie Hallinen – Environmental Protection Agency

Marie is an Enforcement Program Specialist and Project Officer for Washington State. She then spoke about the details and work of the EPA Region 10. The work included Oversight of the FIFRA Cooperative Agreement with Region 10 States (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho), Technical Assistance, Federal Pesticide Applicator Licensing, Enforcement of pesticide law on Tribal Reservations, Inspections of Pesticide Producers, and Section Seven Production Reporting.

The meeting then concluded with a vote on the frequency of future Pesticide Advisory Board meetings.

A vote was conducted to determine if the next in-person/hybrid meeting would be for Spring 2025, with location preference given to Skagit County.

No one signed up to provide public comment either virtually or in person.

There being no more discussion, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.