

PESTICIDE INCIDENT REPORTING AND TRACKING (PIRT)

REVIEW PANEL

MARCH 20, 2008 MINUTES

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

SHORELINE, WA

(APPROVED BY PIRT 4/24/2008)

PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cynthia Lopez (CL), Chair	Department of Health	(360) 236-3340
Pamela Edwards (PE) (phone)	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-6547
Allan Felsot (AF) (phone)	Washington State University	(509) 372-7365
Richard Fenske (RF)	University of Washington	(206) 543-0916
Steve Gilbert (SG)	Toxicologist	(206) 527-0926
William Hurley (phone)	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2356
Alice Larson (AL)	Public Member	(206) 463-9000
Kelly McLain (KM)	Department of Ecology	(360) 407-6938
Karen Ripley (KR)	Department of Natural Resources	(360) 902-1691
Ann Wick (AW)	Department of Agriculture.	(360) 902-2051

PANEL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bridget Moran (BM)	Department of Fish and Wildlife	(360) 902-2589
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OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Wayne Clifford (WC)	Department of Health	(360) 236-3181
John Furman (JF) (alternate)	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-5666
Heather Hanson (HH)	Washington Friends of Farms and Forests	
Joe Johnson (JJ)	Washington Poison Center	
Sherrise Martin (SM)	Department of Health	(360) 236-3360
Fran McBride (FM), Coordinator	Department of Health	(360) 236-3367
William Robertson (WR)	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2356
Don Wallace (DW)	Hampton Tree Farms	
Liesl Zappler (LZ)	Public Member Candidate	

The meeting started at 9:30. CL established that a quorum was present: SG, AL, CL, KM, KR, WR, and AW. Members of the public introduced themselves. CL announced that FM is recording the meeting to assist with writing the minutes. Only the PIRT-approved minutes are the official meeting record.

The panel reviewed the draft **March agenda**. SG requested a legislative update. It was agreed that update would be provided with agency updates. (RF joined the meeting here.) SG motioned to approve the agenda, WR seconded, all were in favor. (PE joined by phone at this point.)

The panel made the following amendments to the **January minutes**:

- 1) Page five, paragraph before Pesticide Use Reporting, add “*AL expressed concern about the Governor’s delay in appointing a public member replacement to the panel.*”
- 2) Page two, second to last paragraph, cross out “*and state parks.*”
- 3) In Ecology update, change “*herbicides*” to “*areas.*”

(AF and WH joined here by phone.) KM moved to approve the amended minutes, SG seconded, all were in favor.

The panel made the following amendments to the **February minutes**:

- 1) Page two, third paragraph, second sentence, add “*and operate adjacent to county and state roads.*”
- 2) Page two, fourth paragraph, delete entire second sentence “*WSDA and L&I...*”
- 3) Page two, second paragraph, first sentence, change last word from “*only*” to “*predominantly.*”
- 4) To end of Paul Figueroa’s section, add “*See March minutes for panel discussion.*”
- 5) After the break, add “*KR was not able to rejoin the meeting by phone at this point.*”
- 6) From L&I agency update, delete entire sentence, “*L&I and WSDA held respiratory protection training sessions.*”

WR moved to approve the February minutes, KM seconded; all were in favor.

2007 PIRT Report

L&I: PE presented highlights from the draft L&I section, which includes cholinesterase monitoring, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) inspections and violations, and pesticide-related workplace claims. The section on cholinesterase monitoring presents the same data and wording as the 2006 section. In 2006, there were 1889 cholinesterase baselines, 471 handlers with one test, and 57 handlers with at least one depression (*refer to April 24 meeting minutes for clarification*). L&I did 17 agricultural inspections, nine of these in orchards, three in other agricultural areas, and three non-agricultural. Violations in respiratory protection were cited the most. The panel pointed out areas that needed clarification, and made suggestions for revisions. CL requested that additional comments be sent to PE by March 24. The panel concurred that the work of PIRT is to integrate the report sections and present findings and recommendations for improved practices.

Next year, L&I will present 2007 cholinesterase monitoring data and concerns about data quality affecting data interpretation. CL suggested also including steps taken to ensure data quality.

ACTION: The panel will send edits on the L&I section to PE by Monday, March 24.

ACTION/AGENDA: SG will take the lead on writing recommendations for all sections for the executive summary. This will be an agenda item for April or May.

WPC: The panel reviewed the WPC section, and discussed adding a sentence describing the other categories of calls that WPC receives, commenting on the decline in organophosphate use and related calls, and commenting on the increase in calls about pyrethrins and borates. There was a suggestion to evaluate the effectiveness of the automated system that refers WPC pesticide exposure calls to DOH, and to highlight collaboration between the two agencies. The faster DOH receives a pesticide incident report, the more likely it is to obtain better information on the case,

which increases the likelihood of a definitive classification. PIRT could include a discussion in the executive summary of how regulations on products registered for different markets have changed over time. AF pointed out discrepancies in the last two tables; FM will clarify this. AF would like more information on the source of arsenic in the 19 arsenic (arsenic-based insecticides) calls. There was speculation that some WPC calls may be about old stored pesticide products. This can be highlighted in the executive summary, along with disposal programs for such products.

ACTION: FM will clarify discrepancies of numbers in pesticide tables. WPC authors will make the above mentioned changes. AF will contribute conclusions and best management practices for the executive summary, such as education for prevention of children's exposures and disposal of banned pesticides. (FM will send him a reminder and timeline.) Also, for the executive summary, CL and AL will write a paragraph on the increase in cases related to borates and pyrethrins, and AW will comment on banned pesticides.

ACTION: The panel will send edits on the WPC section to FM by Monday, March 24.

Public Comment

LZ commented that in 2007, there were no WSDA pesticide disposal events on the west side of the mountains. She suggested that PIRT recommend in the report summary that WSDA conduct these collections on both sides of the state. AW clarified that you may not receive notification if a collection was not scheduled in your local area. WSDA puts out requests for collection to determine where the need is. Because of limited funding, WSDA collects pesticides if there is enough demand to justify the cost in that area. Numerous west side collections are scheduled for 2008.

ACTION: AW will send CL the link for the 2008 pesticide collection schedule.

The Ecology household hazardous waste program is intended for the general public. WSDA collection events are intended for agricultural, commercial, and licensed applicators. Notices are sent to licensed individuals, and press releases are distributed. The panel could include useful web links in the PIRT report to benefit the general public.

The meeting adjourned for a short break.

Annual Schedule and Deadlines for PIRT Report

FM distributed a draft schedule with PIRT report elements and meetings. Panel discussed realistic timeframes for availability of agency data and submission of draft sections. L&I data can be available in June, WPC and Ecology data in July. WSDA and DOH data are not available until the previous year's investigations are completed, typically by September or October. PIRT members who do not have sections to write can collaborate on writing executive summary and conclusions. These will be completed by the November meeting. RF and SG motioned to establish a subcommittee to do this. AL abstained, as she has no idea whether she will be still be on the panel. All else approved. KR will be the lead; SG, AF, RF and the public member will assist. The goal is to have conclusions and recommendations by the November meeting. DOH and WSDA were encouraged to try to make the October deadline for their sections.

ACTION: A subcommittee of RF SG, AL (or the current public member) and KR will collaborate on writing the executive summary, recommendations and conclusions. KR will be the lead for the 2008 report.

ACTION: WH and FM will collaborate on training WPC staff to produce WPC section and tables for 2008 PIRT report.

AF left the meeting at this point.

Discussion – Forestry, Right of Way, and Roadside Spraying

In regards to pesticide health and safety issues, AL commented that the forestry industry needs to have more worker safety inspections. There does not seem to be as much emphasis on this industry as regular agriculture for worker safety. PIRT can make recommendations on looking at how to improve the number of inspections and obtaining resources to increase work in this area. KM commented that the forestry industry is not as visible as agriculture. AW commented that WSDA focuses on problem areas and targets their resources based on need. There is no longer a forestry category for pesticide applicator licensure as these areas are covered in other license categories. WSDA does participate in providing courses of interest to foresters.

Although forestry pesticide uses are less visible than many urban or agricultural uses, Paul Figueroa's February presentation on Forestry and Right of Way pesticide application investigations indicates that there are likely opportunities for increased training regarding forestry pesticide safety procedures, L&I standards, and reporting issues. Reaching forest pesticide users may not be easy because there is no longer a forestry category for pesticide applicator licensure, but training programs of interest to foresters are desirable in order to prevent misuse and protect human and environmental health.

AL made a motion to form a subcommittee on forestry and rights of way, to look at violations and target resources toward these problems. SG seconded, all were in favor. KR, as the chair, will formulate the purpose and goals of subcommittee. AL volunteered to be a member as long as she is on the panel. KM will be a member. AW will be advisory, with Paul Figueroa's input. PE will also be advisory. AF has some expertise in this area and may want to serve.

ACTION: CL will ask Barb Morrissey if Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health has anything to contribute.

ACTION: FM will ask AF to be on this subcommittee.

Responding to Representative (Rep.) Campbell's letter to PIRT is first goal. The Pesticide Use Reporting subcommittee will write a short letter to Campbell with rationale for pesticide use reporting and pesticide use issues relevant to different areas. The railroad right of way system is an area where getting use information might be precluded. The subcommittee will use Kirk Cook's presentation, and contact other states about pros and cons of their use reporting systems. Thurston County's integrated pest management (IPM) policy can be used as a resource for other counties. In May, an employee of Pierce County will present on their use reporting. The goal is to produce a draft letter for Rep. Campbell by the May or June PIRT meeting. The forestry and roadside subcommittees maintain communication. House Bill 2429 died this year, but will possibly return.

April Yakima Meeting Agenda

FM asked speakers to submit meeting materials as early as possible, so that they can be translated into Spanish, and will be reminded to stick to the scheduled time on the agenda. The meeting will be well publicized in the Yakima area. The public will be advised that simultaneous interpretation will be provided. The panel should be prepared to stay until 2:30 to hear public comment, if required.

At the 2007 Yakima meeting, many members of the public asked about long-term effects of pesticide exposure. Matt Keifer recommended Anneclaire DeRoos, who was involved in the largest study of its kind on pesticide use and disease in farmers, to speak at the April meeting. If she is unavailable, Matt Keifer might be willing to present, or PIRT could make this a science corner discussion. There were suggestions to narrow down the topic, and to develop a lay summary of current knowledge of long-term effects for the public.

Ideas for public comment: Present parameters, including a five minute limit, for public comment ahead of time on the PIRT webpage. Add link to PIRT webpage to FM's mailbox to request comment time. Request that members of the public come to the meeting prepared with comments, if possible. Request that the public sign up to give comment. Extend public comment periods. Adjourn meeting at 2:30. Request that members of the public sign specify a preference for commenting before lunch or at meeting end. Provide comment cards for those who do not want to speak in front of a group.

Other comments for the April meeting were to send changes to FM ahead of the meeting, survey the audience as to who reads the PIRT report, shorten Vince Hebert's presentation by five minutes, specify panel discussion on agenda after each presentation.

KR and AW made a motion to accept the agenda with modifications (further work on long term effects topic, time changes for public comment, panel discussion, adjournment, sign in and time limit for public comment, and shortening MITC presentation by five minutes). All were in favor.

AGENDA: FM will schedule time on the May agenda for April meeting discussion.

Agency Updates

Agriculture: The fee bill passed, as well as the healthy farms, healthy children bill. The other agricultural bills did not go through. The Association of American Pesticide Control Officials annual conference was in March; AW picked up brochures in Spanish and English with pesticide information from the National Poison Information Center in Oregon. They have a toll free number, and present straightforward, factual information. The draft of the Worker Protection Standards (WPS) revisions is delayed until 2009, pending assessment of the effect of regulations on small business. AW will keep tracking this and providing comment. AW modified the Action Recommendation (AR) on the WPS for this year.

Health: HB 1806, fourth substitution, which promotes IPM in Washington schools, did not pass, as the legislature ran out of time to vote on it. It is still in the budget to give WSU extension funding for technical assistance for developing school IPM programs. DOH and WSDA will be advisory.

The preliminary DOH report is at the Office of Financial Management.

RF has started sampling for organophosphates for the air monitoring study. Spraying has not yet started in northern Washington.

(SG left during the DOH update.)

Labor and Industries: About 1600 cholinesterase baselines were done: only one follow up was received so far. Quality control looks good. There were 25 - 30 rejected baseline samples, mostly because of temperature exceedences due to packaging issues. These employees came back in for repeat baseline collections. Issues of data extraction for PAML from a larger database are being resolved. L&I and DOH are working on a data sharing contract to have cholinesterase results available for pesticide investigations.

Other Business

Action Recommendations: FM cleaned up and highlighted the unfinished AR's highlighted. She asked that the panel check names of leads and subcommittee members.

ACTION: Panel members will review the AR list and check names.

West Nile Virus: The panel will discuss forming a subcommittee at a later meeting in preparation for the upcoming mosquito season. The April meeting will have a speaker from Benton county mosquito control district.

Governor Appointees to PIRT: AL commented that when FM contacted the Governor's Office in January to ask about the Governor's appointees to PIRT, she was informed that if Alice could not continue to serve, she does not have to. The implication was that the Governor would be willing to have no public member, rather than go with PIRT's recommendation, which was forwarded to the Governor's Office in October. With the April Yakima meeting coming up, there is still no designated public member. Because LZ, who PIRT has interviewed and selected, has not been officially designated, her expenses for Yakima would not be paid. PIRT will need a public member at the April meeting. LZ continues to show her interest by attending PIRT meetings. AL expressed dismay at the Governor not filling this position. This applies to the toxicology position as well.

CL informed the panel that the DOH Assistant Secretary has been in contact with Keith Phillips from the Governor's Office. CL will be report AL's comments to the Assistant Secretary.

Public Comment

HH believes that the structuring of the PIRT letter to Rep. Jamie Pedersen on IPM in schools is misleading. House Bill (HB) 1806, Rep. Pedersen's legislation promoting IPM in schools, is specific to public schools, grades kindergarten through 12 (K - 12). The PIRT letter includes pesticide incidents that occurred on school buses and in higher education facilities, as well as incidents resulting from off site application drift, along with K - 12 incidents. Few of the K - 12 incidents actually resulted from pesticide application at schools or involved children. In her opinion, grouping different types of incidents together presents a distorted picture, and will be less useful to legislative staff. She felt it would be better to specify the information relevant to the topic at hand, and present the other information separately. Higher education facilities and community colleges are already required to use IPM.

Her opinion was that HB 1806 did not pass because it was a short session, and all the amendments to the bill slowed down the process. There was intent to pass it.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:49 pm.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be April 24, from 10 am to 2 pm, at the WSDA building in Yakima. The address is 21 North First Avenue, Yakima, Washington. This meeting will have simultaneous interpretation for Spanish speakers. The draft agenda will be posted at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/Pirt/pirt-meetings.htm>. Meeting materials will be posted, if available prior to the posting deadline.