

**PESTICIDE INCIDENT REPORTING AND TRACKING (PIRT)
REVIEW PANEL
JUNE 18, 2009 MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TUMWATER, WASHINGTON**

PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Cynthia Lopez (CL), Chair	Department of Health	(360) 236-3340
Pam Edwards (PE)	Labor and Industries	(360) 902-6457
Vince Hebert (VH) (phone)	Washington State University	(509) 372-7393
Rich Fenske (RF) (phone)	University of Washington	(206) 543-0916
Karen Ripley (KR)	Department of Natural Resources	(360) 902-1691
William Robertson (WR) (phone)	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2356
Debby Sargeant (DS)	Department of Ecology	(360) 407-6139
Ann Wick (AW)	Department of Agriculture	(360) 902-2051
Liesl Zappler (LZ)	Public Member	(425) 739-8100 x481

PANEL MEMBERS ABSENT

Bridget Moran (BM)	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Vacant	Toxicologist

COORDINATOR

Fran McBride (FM), Coordinator	Department of Health	(360) 236-3367
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IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Arrington (RA) (phone)	Department of Agriculture
Steve Cant (SC)	Labor and Industries
Steven Gilbert (SG)	Independent Toxicologist
Dr. Andy Gray (AG) (phone)	United States Department of Agriculture
Gregg Grunenfelder (GG)	Department of Health
Pam Madson (PM) (phone)	House of Representatives Environmental Health Committee
Sherrise Martin (SM)	Department of Health
Barbara Morrissey (BFM)	Department of Health
Nancy Napolilli (NN)	Department of Health
Lisa Niehaus (LN) (phone)	King County
Kammeron Todd (KT)	Washington Friends of Farms and Forests
Zachary Hudgins (ZH)	Washington State House of Representatives

The meeting started at 9:30 a.m. CL referred to a summary of Roberts Rules on the back of the agenda as the ground rules for meeting participation. She announced that the meeting is being recorded; only the PIRT-approved meeting minutes are the official meeting record.

The panel introduced themselves. DS, CL, LZ, AW, PE and KR were present, and VH was on the phone. The requirement of six members for the quorum was met. The panel reviewed the proposed agenda. KR moved to accept the agenda, LZ seconded, and all were in favor.

May minutes: Referring to Ecology's legislative update, DS would like it to be noted that Ecology's pesticide program lost their toxicologist and had cuts to the oversight of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. AW remarked that Allan Felsot's comment on page six needed to be changed to "if we had *not* taken pesticide risk seriously." (RF, RA, and LN joined the meeting by phone.) AW moved to accept the amended minutes, DS seconded, and all were in favor.

Land Use Change in Washington State

KR introduced this presentation. Throughout the United States, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service is responsible for making forest measurements to assess wood supply, tree growth and other parameters. AG has been mapping changes to forest cover and urban expansion over time, including the proximity of homes to agricultural areas. KR invited him to inform the pesticide community about this data set and how it might be used to answer questions about the proximity of people to agricultural areas and the potential for pesticide exposure.

AG told the panel that he works for the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station and is responsible for forest inventory data for Washington State. Part of their mandate in monitoring forests over time is looking at land use change. He presented on a study that focused on forest land and codified all lands. This data and protocol can help answer questions of how the number of houses adjacent to agricultural lands has changed over time. AG presented data from southwest Washington and Clark County. This type of data will be available for the entire state. Researchers classified Washington land into five land use zones for three time periods, using aerial photography from the 1970's, 1990's, and 2006, and identified houses in 80 acre circles around points. AG showed aerial photos and maps of land use changes that illustrated the expansion of urban area around Vancouver over this time period. Bar graphs showed the percent decline of forest and agricultural areas and the increase of residential and urban areas in Clark County. AG elaborated on the methodology of obtaining structure counts, and showed how this data was used to enumerate housing density by land use zone, the number of structures located within a thousand feet of intensive agriculture, and the distance from houses to intensive agricultural zones. This data could be used to further delineate farm fields in mixed use areas and to incorporate information on crops grown in these areas over time, with estimates of pesticides likely to be used for them and the potential for exposure.

Discussion: AW informed AG about WSDA's work in mapping croplands and pesticide use. CL asked whether he had looked at Oregon's pesticide use reporting data in combination with his data. From a public health perspective, PIRT would be concerned about the increase of subdivisions intersecting with intensively cropped agricultural land. BFM informed AG that WSU researchers had done something similar in the air monitoring study in the south Franklin County area, and asked about cross checking their information with his. AG replied that they have 2006 imagery, but there shouldn't be much change over the last two years. VH asked if there could be better coordination

between USFS and WSDA with geomapping. It is important to get as much information as possible to assess the expansion of urban community in agriculture and forest areas. AG said that the Natural Resource Conservation Service has an inventory of agricultural land and other data. SG asked if AG had looked at expanding this data to show how many people may be exposed, with estimates for children and households. AG replied that in Oregon, they relied on information estimating the number of people per household. There may be an ability to overlay this with more detailed census block information. Another potential collaboration is with Luke Rogers from UW, who compiled a parcel data base for the entire state from 2007, with information on county classification and the number of structures. There may be a way to overlay this as well. LZ asked whether it was possible to identify schools; AG thought it was. SG commented that this argues for the importance of pesticide use data, particularly with increased urbanization of agricultural land. He encouraged AG to look at schools, day care centers and places that serve more vulnerable populations.

Implications of 2009-2011 Budget Cuts for PIRT

GG informed the panel of the hundred million dollar cut in general funds to DOH and the elimination of fifteen positions, ten of these staffed, from the Environmental Health Division. On July 16th, Pesticide Program staffing will be reduced by half to four people. With reduced capacity, the program will need to focus on illness investigation reports and data collection and analysis for future recommendations. The program will be left with two investigators, one in eastern and one in western Washington, a toxicologist, and an epidemiologist. GG is reorganizing the Division of Environmental Health from five offices to four to allow for managerial efficiency and to reduce cuts to frontline staff. The majority of the Office of Environmental Health Assessments (OEHA) will be consolidated with the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS). NN, director of the OEHS, is leading this task. The Pesticide and Zoonotic Disease Programs will be combined and managed by Wayne Clifford (WC), who will report to NN. Within the Pesticide Program, the positions of manager (CL), PIRT coordinator (FM), administrative support (SM), and eastside investigator (Mario) will be eliminated. Mary Selecky will appoint GG as PIRT chair next month. GG feels that DOH can accommodate the 2009 PIRT meeting schedule. The November meeting is still up in the air. The big change will be the level of support provided by DOH. The agency will not have the capacity to produce the type of detailed minutes that the panel is getting now. The 2008 PIRT report is coming out of the Office of the Secretary now. GG will forward this to the panel soon. He recommends that the 2008 report in its final form, with corresponding PIRT action, be a July agenda item. The economic revenue forecast due out today is anticipated to be grimmer than was thought. CL asked if Mary Selecky appointed an alternate; GG replied that she did not.

Discussion: LZ expressed her disappointment that the Pesticide Program, an internationally recognized model program, is being cut, and wondered how the remaining staff would be able to handle investigations and data analysis. BFM said that program staff are still working this out, and would like to share their proposals on how to maintain the value of the program and decrease investigation time at a future meeting. They are trying to identify routine cases where expedited treatment would be sufficient so that investigator time could be spent on less routine cases and areas where they are trying to do intervention. The program will try to keep agricultural and occupational cases as high priority because of their participation with NIOSH. LZ asked about WC's background and qualifications for running the program. GG replied that he was the OEHA director, and prior to that, managed the site hazard assessment section. He has been with DOH for a long time, but has not worked in the pesticide program and does not have the type of background that CL has. AW asked if the panel is to proceed with next year's report in the same fashion. GG said there he fully expects to put together a report, but there needs to be discussion about whether it will stay the same

or become more concise. DS asked about the inability to maintain WAPC's reporting system to DOH once it breaks down, which will affect a lot of incident reporting. CL said that if it breaks down, DOH will receive no more reports from WAPC, most of which are urban cases. LZ suggested the agencies be proactive about this and look into federal funding or a different way of assessing fees that are already captured in Washington. She asked who would be supporting the PIRT panel. GG said they are sorting this out. He did not know what level of support DOH would be able to provide at PIRT meetings. DOH wants to have the website and communications continue and determining who will do that. VH said that the work of those leaving the pesticide program will be missed. He commended CL on her work and for her professionalism in leading the PIRT panel, especially with contentious issues with diverse groups. VH thinks that PIRT has been a splendid group with many positive outcomes. LZ stressed the importance of continuing the PIRT report and completing it in a timely manner. Last year at this time, agencies started to submit their data. It is important to have agency commitment. PE said that her agency was on board. AW said the WSDA data should be available in August. FM will send the PIRT report production schedule to the panel. BFM asked about the quorum status with three or four vacancies on the panel. CL said the toxicologist position is vacant, Fish and Wildlife has not been participating, DNR will have to bow out, and WAPC will not have a medical director. She contacted Mark Calkins about these issues, but has not yet heard back. GG thought it would be up to the panel to set the meeting rules of engagement, given the times we are in. RF restated VH's appreciation for CL's steady leadership in dealing with contentious issues, and asked that when GG leads PIRT, the first order of business be to work with the Governor's Office to get a toxicologist appointed. This issue was fraught with politics. The panel has made recommendations to the Governor's Office, who has rejected them with no clear reason and left the position vacant for an extended period of time in violation of legislative intent. WSU and UW can provide technical expertise, but having someone from outside state institutions who can comment on the scientific aspect of PIRT issues is very important. RF commented that as he will become the acting chair of his department, Matt Keifer will be the primary representative, and RF will be the alternate. Mike Yost will also be an alternate. UW will send a letter of appointment. FM expressed a hope that there will be time to orient a new person on coordination of the panel.

SG reiterated congratulations to CL and commented that cuts to WAPC will hurt public health. He asked why, given the amount of money spent on pesticides in Washington, the importance of pesticides in agriculture, and the urbanization of agricultural areas, was the Pesticide Program cut so much? GG responded that the value of pesticides used in this state has nothing to do with how the program is funded. Cuts to Environmental Health were proposed in all four versions of the budget. GG was not involved in discussions of the rationale of why the Pesticide Program was being cut. SG had difficulty understanding how an agency can bow out of PIRT, given that agencies are required by RCW to participate. CL asked why the Pesticide Program was cut by 3.8 FTE's rather than 3.4 FTE's, as initially proposed in the budget. GG explained that decisions were based on the dollar value of available funding, not the FTE's.

AL, who had served for eight years on the panel, commented on how phenomenal it has been to see how the panel has changed and grown, and how agencies learned to work together. It is very sad that PIRT may disappear. CL was beginning to look at what the data means and how to cross it with other factors. CL has also reached out to the Hispanic community in Washington. CL's loss is not just to PIRT, but is also a huge loss to DOH. When PIRT started out, business was conducted before it reached the maximum membership, so somehow the quorum issue was satisfied. With the decimation of WAPC, which took thousands of pesticide-related calls, the next fall back seems to be the Pesticide Program, which also maintains a call in number. AL expects that many of those

calls, once they are not able to get through to WAPC, will go to the Pesticide Program. How will they handle that? GG said he did not know. AL asked whether DOH would be sending the message to the Governor and the legislature that the elimination of WAPC would require more resources than its cost. GG replied that DOH identifies holes like this and brings it to the legislature. WR said that WAPC has not clarified how it will function with the budget reductions. KR asked about physicians being required to report pesticide exposure to DOH. WR said that physicians would call DOH if they had the number handy. CL said that it is easier for physicians to call WAPC because they call the poison center for other exposures as well. LZ asked how the Pesticide Program would feel supported by WC when he does not have a background in toxicology or zoonotics, a concern when the program will be short staffed. GG distinguished between the technical expertise that CL brought to the program and the managerial structure that needs to be set up to manage the program and move it forward. The level of expertise CL brought to the program helped to strengthen it, but one could manage without technical expertise. We are faced with a situation where we can't afford that anymore. BFM reminded him that the pesticide program has had people with direct pesticide experience as its manager. SG urged the panel to think about how Washington can hold pesticide manufacturers responsible for health effects of their products and prevention. Budget shrinkages are opportunities to initiate new procedures to fund programs that are critical for public health. AW said a large percentage of the WSDA pesticide program is funded by registration and licensing fees that pesticide manufacturers and users pay. GG asked AW why a surcharge in pesticide fees that partially funded PIRT in the past was repealed. AW believed that this funding may have been replaced by NIOSH funds.

CL asked for public comment. SG again thanked CL for her work she on the panel and for upgrading the report. AL thanked FM and SM for their support of the panel. KR pointed out that much of that support has brought PIRT into compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, and that it needs to continue to maintain compliance. CL added that part of the reason for having a quorum is to be in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

KR moved to break, LZ seconded, and all were in favor. The panel broke at 11:18 and reconvened at 11:35.

Expedited Investigations and Scanning Technology at DOH Pesticide Program

CL presented on this topic. To improve efficiency, the Pesticide Program acquired Cardiff Teleform® scanning software, which allows the user to scan data into the database rather than hand enter it. Currently, the investigator gathers information and writes it on a fourteen page form. Another person reviews and manually enters the case into the database. With Cardiff Teleform®, numerous small changes to the investigation form, easier to read forms, and elimination of data entry time will add up to substantial time savings.

With the current system, EPA numbers and product name are hand entered. Cardiff Teleform® has an updated database for pesticides available in Washington, with three times as many options for lookup of EPA numbers. An EPA number may have multiple products. When computer sees the EPA number, it will automatically check the product name and prompt the investigator to confirm that it is the correct product. SM has been extremely helpful in designing the forms. Forms can be pre-populated with event numbers on each page. The Cardiff Teleform® form allows investigators to identify a secondary cause of exposure. The user can set parameters, such as what percentage of a block must be marked to be recognized, and set defaults for the most likely responses to questions. An automatic feature will calculate age in the format requested by NIOSH.

With expedited investigations for routine cases, there will be no interview and forms will be shorter. The investigator would try to assess whether a determination of definite, probable, or possible can be made based on the medical records and the WAPC report.

In the past, investigators had to generate a PISR letter which informs the physician of the final disposition of the case. Cardiff Teleform® will automatically do this. It will also populate the dates the case was entered and the PISR was generated. Another feature of this software is that data can be exported into any platform desired. With the current Access system, there has always been difficulty in transferring data to NIOSH. Variable names are now exactly the same as NIOSH, and data transfer should be simpler. With the scanner, you can have double data entry to reduce errors. Investigation files can be kept electronically. The system can be trained to recognize individuals' handwriting, and will prompt the investigator to fix characters it cannot recognize. The level of certainty for character recognition can be set for different fields. Cardiff Teleform® should make life easier and streamline things quite a bit for those remaining in the program.

Discussion: LZ asked when this will be fully established. CL replied that the program is testing this with real data now. 2009 cases will be scanned and staff will do a test data transfer to NIOSH. KR asked whether there are other error checks for missing data. CL replied that there are a couple fields where if there is missing data, the system will not allow you to go forward.

KR moved to amend the agenda to review the July agenda. PE seconded, and all were in favor.

July Agenda

LZ started looking at Washington penalties for pesticide violations compared to other states, but would like to spend more time on this. DS offered to help as part of a subcommittee to look at penalties pesticide violations for L&I type claims, agriculture, and environmental discharges.

KR said the meeting should include a discussion of what the next PIRT report should look like and a schedule for producing it. DS brought up expectations for streamlining it. KR said an update from WAPC would also be appropriate.

LZ made a motion to establish a subcommittee to look at how Washington state pesticide violations in agriculture, ecology, and L&I compare to other states. DS seconded, PE abstained, and all else were in favor. Subcommittee members are LZ and DS.

KR suggested adding a discussion of the 2008 PIRT report. AW asked GG about the report coming back to the panel. GG said the statute says that DOH produces a report that is approved by the PIRT panel. GG is now looking at the executive summary, and will get the report with significant changes highlighted to the panel before the next meeting.

PE moved to approve the draft July agenda, DS seconded, and all were in favor.

Agency Updates

WSDA – no update

Ecology – DS reported that the aquatic plant management permit cycle for applying herbicides to lakes for control of aquatic plants has started. Ecology received the annual treatment plan for the oyster growers Carbaryl permit. They reduced Carbaryl treatment as per the settlement agreement with the Toxics Coalition and are experimenting with imidacloprid through the WSDA

experimental use permit. The mosquito control permit is only in effect when an application occurs to water. The permit currently includes larvicides. They are working with mosquito control districts to include adulticides. Ecology does pesticide monitoring statewide in streams where salmonids are present. DS is in charge of that program, which is in its seventh year, and has received funding to continue with WSDA for another few years.

LZ asked if there any studies on sediments. DS was working with someone from California to look into getting a grant to do work with pyrethroids.

L&I – no update

DOH – already reported in previous agenda items

DNR – KR noted the previous comments about DNR becoming less active in PIRT.

WAPC – WR reported that WAPC is exploring the possibility of charging callers about calls to WAPC regarding animals. Reduced staffing means they may have to put people on hold. With no official medical director, WAPC will not qualify for certification by the American Association of Poison Control Centers. California is anticipating closing their poison centers on July 1.

UW – RF restated UW's changes to PIRT representation.

WSU – VH reported that he and Allan Felsot will continue in PIRT.

The UW air monitoring report will be submitted by June 30 and will eventually be posted on the DOH website.

Public Comment

CL called for public comment. KT asked how Washington will contribute to NPDES programs after the sixth circuit court decision. DS said that they need to update the permit to include adulticides. There is still discussion about this.

AL added kudos for KR's participation on the panel. KR's absence will be a loss to PIRT.

LZ asked about the status of the materials for the forestry subcommittee. KR was going to check on materials that were sent from AW and transfer relevant documents to the subcommittee members. DS and Allan Felsot are on the subcommittee.

AL mentioned that in the past, PIRT has had action items that it developed for what would be accomplished the next year and looked at those each meeting. Having a list with who was responsible for what and reporting on progress helped PIRT function and made members feel like they were accomplishing something. AW said that this might be a good time for DOH or PIRT to look at the RCW and the charges to the PIRT panel, and ask what the legislature wants PIRT to accomplish. LZ disagreed, saying that PIRT's role of giving feedback to the legislature is already clear in the RCW. AL said the legislature worked hard to save PIRT, and now we have questions as to whether PIRT can accomplish its mandate with cuts to the DOH pesticide unit.

WR suggested taking it back so that the legislature could find that WAPC, who is mandated to be a regular member, no longer exists. Are they going to submit a new member to the PIRT panel?

ZH said that today's economic forecast showed a \$185 million shortfall in the current biennium and a \$297 million shortfall in the next. The slide seems to have flattened a bit. They did leave money in the reserve fund. ZH is on the legislative committee that oversees PIRT; he and its chair want the panel's work to continue.

ACTION: KR will prepare an update on the forestry subcommittee. DS, AF, and LZ will be on this subcommittee.

DS moved to adjourn, WR seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 12:32.

Future PIRT Meetings

July 16	Department of Health, Tumwater
August	No meeting
September 17	Labor and Industries, Tukwila
October 15	Department of Health, Tumwater

See <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/Pirt/pirt-meetings.htm> for agendas directions, and meeting materials.