



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Environmental
Services Division

Pesticide Advisory Board May 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The fourth meeting of the Pesticide Advisory Board established under ESHB 1019 was held on May 13, 2025 at 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Tom Craven Conference Room, Cle Elum Forest Service 803 ½, W 2nd St Cle Elum, WA 98922 and was streamed virtually.

Present:

Voting Members: Kelly McLain, Griselda Arias, Craig Blackwood, Matthew Harris, Steve Bennet, Joe Ben Herrera, Jeff Leonardini, Israel Delamora

Non-voting Members: Bradley Farrar, Greg Caron, Allan Felsot, Edward Kasner, Katherin Buckley, Marie Hallinen, Wendy Sue Wheeler, Elinor Fanning, Calvin Ohlson-Kiehn, Bertha Clayton, David Heimer, Louis Nottingham

Not Present:

Voting Members: April Clayton, Ronald A. Cline, Patrick Williams, Kelly McDonald, Junior Islas Sanchez

Non-Voting Members: Matthew Murphy, Kaci Buhl, Bud Lynn Wilhelm, Ray Willard, Mary K. Tallman Fee, Ryan Pessah

Agenda speakers in order through the meeting duration:

ESA Update – Abbey Nickelson Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences (NRAS) Natural Resource Scientist:

Abbey gave an overview of NRAS's Endangered Species Bulletins (Bulletins Live Two!) and mitigation measure workshop series. She highlighted the feedback from these workshops. Abbey also updated the PAB of the potential for EPA to approve for Washington to adopt the Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources (STAR) program as a way for growers to meet mitigation requirements.

ESA Update – Marie Hallinen EPA Region 10:

Marie reviewed the Endangered Species Act and EPA mitigation menu and point system. She outlined the ESA process for applicators and timelines for EPA strategies.

Neonicotinoids Update – Kelly McLain Agricultural Environmental Services (AES)**Division Assistant Director:**

Kelly reviewed the timeline for the implementation of SB 5972 and what this means for neonicotinoids in Washington State. AS of January 1, 2026, neonicotinoids will no longer be available for home and garden use only licensed applicators will be permitted to use neonicotinoids.

Occupational Acute Pesticide-Related Illnesses (API) WA State Department of Health – Daniel Farber, PhD:

Daniel presented an overview of the first report from the Washington State Pesticide Illness Surveillance and Prevention Program (PISPP). This report focused on occupation acute pesticide-related illnesses (API).

WSDA Pesticide Safety Training Programs – Flor Servin Technical Services and Education Program (TSEP) Education and Outreach Supervisor:

Flor provided an overview of all of TSEP's training programs and training achievements for the fiscal year 2025. She described TSEP's business model and the importance of stakeholders and partnerships.

Pesticide Licensing Changes – Tina Zimmerman Licensing and Recertification Program, Program Manager:

Tina described the implementation timeline for certification and training rule change and the changes in competency standards. These changes will result in licensees passing updated tests and/or attending a C&T-specific course.

Lunch 12:30**1:00 Reconvened****Open Discussion – Kelly McLain AES Assistant Director:**

Kelly led a discussion focused on suggestions and feedback for AES programs.

Urban IPM Outreach - Wendy Sue Wheeler WSU Pesticide Resources and Education Program:

Wendy Sue highlighted a new position for WSU, the Westside Urban IPM Coordinator. She described the position duties and the importance of the position to the organization. Wendy Sue asked for feedback from the PAB regarding urban IPM outreach.

Public Comment

Jill Silver – Requesting a restoration pesticide applicators license

David Heimer – Recommends WSDA use caution in the neonicotinoids public notification in case there is a run on neonicotinoids in stores.

Alan Felsot – The importance of pesticide education particularly chemicals such as bleach are considered pesticides and the hazards associate with them.

2:00 Adjourn