MD PSP (Pesticide Stewardship Partnership): Mtg 4

February 19, 2025; Wednesday, 9-11am

COAREC ("Experiment Station"): 850 NW Dogwood Ln, Madras

***Group Mission**: 1) Increase knowledge of barriers to implementing BMPs, 2) develop communication material to increase understanding of MD PSP goal objectives and IPM, 3) develop and implement a unifying campaign to reduce pesticides in MD waterways.*

PSP Objectives, set by the PSP in 2023: By December 2028,

1. All 2024 Pesticides of Concern (POC) are below aquatic life benchmarks (ALBs)
    a. Below in spring 2024: Oxyfluorfen, Sulfometuron methyl
    b. Barely above in spring 2024: Dimethoate, Diuron
    c. Above in spring 2024: Linuron & Prometryn (no detections yet of Imidacloprid, which exceeded the ALB in 2023)
2. Reduce detection frequency by 25% of the four highest detected pesticides of 2023.
    a. AMPA and Glyphosate are the highest (73 and 58%, respectively). However, they are not High POCs, which is not what the PSP is focusing on.
    b. The MDPSP will focus on the High POCs with the highest detection frequencies: Diuron (55%→41%), Linuron (48%→36%), Prometryn (40%→30)
3. Reduce the # of High POCs to <3.

In 2025, the PSP agreed to not focus on diuron because it is being phased out. The PSP also agreed to focus first on Linuron and Premetryn due to their use on carrot fields.

The PSP also agreed to focus monitoring efforts on Rattlesnake and Campbell Creeks.

Imidacloprid is only of concern in the Culver Drain; landowners growing veggies will be individually contacted by Ryan Brunner.

***Role of Group**: develop and implement an outreach plan to meet PSP objectives*

Participants: ~~Albert Sikkens (Pratum~~), Brad Klann (producer), David Gruen (DEQ), ~~Drake Gilbert/Shilah Olson/~~Abbie Forrest (Wasco SWCDs), Floyid Nelson~~/Jeremiah Dung~~/Steve Colman (COAREC), John Spring (COSI), Gordon Jones (OSU Ext),~~ Kathryn Rifenburg (ODA), Lane Springer (NUID), Lloyd Forman (producer),~~ Mandy Ondrick (DEQ), ~~Mark Wunsch (producer/County Commission),~~ Rob Galyen (producer),~~ Scott Simmons (Helena),~~ Scotty Samsel (producer), Ellen Hammond/Ryan Brunner/Amber Herman (JCSWCD), Warren Hanson (ODA-PARC)

A. 2024 Data and discussion (David Gruen)

David presented the attached PPT. The lab is backed up and wasn't able to process the fall samples yet.

Compared to 2023 results

- Linuron concentrations increased significantly compared to previous years at Campbell Creek at Hwy. 26, including multiple detections above the acute ALB and the highest detected concentration in the Middle Deschutes PSP since the PSP Program began in 2014.
- No imidacloprid detections in spring 2024; all were above ALB in 2023
- Diuron concentrations almost the same

- Dimethoate and Prometryn somewhat higher
- Oxyfluorfen lower

Take home messages:

- Campbell Creek still has the highest # of detections and exceedances of ALBs
- Exceedances of ALB = Linuron, Diuron, Prometryn, Dimethoate
- We need to address Linuron as a top priority!

DEQ was asked about compliance. David reiterated that PSP is a voluntary program that is intended to forestall regulation of water quality, if successful at reducing pesticides concentrations in the water over time. If a PSP is not successful, then DEQ will consider other approaches under the Clean Water Act, including the development and implementation of pollution budgets or Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to protect and enhance pesticide related water quality concerns.

Steve asked for more details on how the samples were analyzed by the DEQ lab. Ellen will provide contact information.

PSP expressed concerns that we don't know how the chemicals are getting in the waterways. We need to stop chemical movement to waterways. An opinion was expressed that drift was not a pathway. The PSP believes that the biggest drivers are 1) irrigation method (e.g. flood) and 2) the spring flush. The latter is supported by the findings of high concentrations of Linuron in the spring sampling.

COAREC, OSU, COSI asked for copies of Ellen's shapefiles for field boundaries, irrigation method, and drainsheds. Ellen will provide.

PSP agreed to move two sampling sites from Culver Drain and Mud Springs to the Campbell Creek and Rattlesnake drainsheds to better pinpoint where in these drainsheds the chemicals are getting into the water. Ellen will notify DEQ.

B. Vision and Formal Partnership Required by PSP Grant and Strategic Plan

- *Strategy 1: Establish formalized partnership initiative (a shared vision) onto which partners can sign (non-profits, businesses, municipalities, private landowners, etc)*
- *Metric 1: Sign 10 entities onto the formalized partnership initiative (a shared vision). Provide annual updates to formal partners through an annual meeting.*

The PSP discussed a vision and agreed to put it off until a subsequent meeting, which is scheduled for March 10.

C. 2024 Outreach

1. Required by Strategic Plan:
   - *Metric 1b: Develop material for BMPs for 6 target groups based on crops grown (bluegrass seed, carrot seed, and hay), irrigation practice applied (sprinkler, and furrow irrigation), or pesticide used (those listed as High Pesticides of Concern).*

2. Also done: printed up 100 brochures on the PSP, POCs and locations and distributed last fall to chemical suppliers. Also printed up 100 for Farm Fair and have a bunch left over.

The PSP agreed to have Ellen snailmail the PSP brochure to landowners and land managers in the Rattlesnake and Campbell Creek drainages. This will be accompanied by a new brochure on Linuron, to be worked on by Ellen and the PSP.

D. Future Efforts

1. Mapping to target outreach

   The PSP agreed that we need a much better understanding of irrigation systems and actual field cropping to target outreach to the agricultural community. Cropping data can come from the Field Pinning maps at COAREC and the CDL database (national cropland data layer). This information can greatly benefit the PSP and other efforts to help landowners thrive in spite of water scarcity.

   Ellen will work with COAREC, OSU Extension, and COSI on this mapping ASAP; emphasis is on carrots, bluegrass, and alfalfa.

2. Types of outreach

   The PSP agreed that we didn't need flyers, posters, etc because our target audience isn't small acreage hobby farmers. Our audience is larger scale production growers. What we really need is targeted outreach via 1-on-1s to growers using the chemicals. However, Ellen indicated that she had already ordered agricultural windsocks at the request of some landowners at Farm Fair.

Replacement Agricultural Windsock With Calibration

3. Replacement part reimbursement

   The PSP thought that it could be beneficial to identify specific parts on spayers for a reimbursement program. They would not model this on the example provided by Ellen, which was targeted for older equipment used for small acreage landowners in another county.

E. 2025-27 PSP Grant

- Due April 4
- Quote from Kathryn Rifenberg (ODA): "The PSP is not a monitoring program. The purpose of the water quality sampling is to find areas where outreach, education, and technical assistance can be created to reduce pesticide detection frequencies and concentrations in local waterways. If a location has been sampled for several years and no notable detections have been found then that sampling location needs to be moved to a new area"

F. Next Meeting = March 10, 10am-noon, COAREC

- Decide on vision
- Review mission and role
- Decide where to move the sampling locations
- Decide on what to include in next grant!
  - Monitoring, mapping, outreach, equipment reimbursement, ?????