



Washington State  
COMMISSION ON  
PESTICIDE REGISTRATION

**Matthew Blua, Chair – Presiding**

**May 16, 2023**

*Special meeting; Quorum present*

*Via Zoom*

*Meeting minutes- draft*

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.

**Introductions**

Commission members present: Matthew Blua, Gary Melchior, Bryn Hubert, Neil Withers, Catherine Jones Bill Orchard, Jason Beechinor, Griselda Arias, Leighton Overson

Commissioners absent: Doug Walsh, Sally Buckingham, Greg Caron, Anneke Jansen, Erik Hodson, David Gang, Kelly McLain and Aylin Moreno, Maggie Elliot.

Staff: Alan Schreiber, Alicia Adler, and Liesl Zappler

Guests: Steve Scheele, AGO, filling in for Sandra Addix

Steve introduced himself. Many state agencies are having difficulties with contracts and DES, and all commodity groups will be facing closer scrutiny, particularly in the area of grants.

Alan gave an introduction on the meeting items. Matthew, Alicia and Alan, and the AG have discussed the issue of DES requiring WSCPR to post the research RFP on WEBS and ensure that diversity is encouraged. A lot of the WSCPR money needs to be spent by the end of June. The Commission would lose the unspent OP funds if they comply with the DES rules (post on WEBS), and many research projects could not be done. There is an exemption for WSU and USDA from this process, but private sector and out of state entities could not complete their projects.

The AG felt that if the WSCPR did not comply there would be consequences. However, the Washington Blueberry Commission's status changed from suspension of delegation of authority to revoked status allowed for more flexibility. This was the first revocation by DES in state history and now they are more involved with decisions. Alan has weekly meetings with the Small Agency Teams, and their involvement has been positive.

Alicia reviewed a DES letter requiring that all contracts needed to be sent to them. Apparently WSCPR was supposed to ask for a delegation of authority in the Fall, and that the RFP should have been posted on WEBS. If WSCPR has to comply, it will take 45- 60 days to post on WEBS (which go past June 30). DES also reviewed the consequences of noncompliance, and suggested they seek legal counsel and meet with the Board regarding

this. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in WSCPR funding as well as the OP funds will be lost as the contracts couldn't start until late June/ July.

If they proceed, WSCPR would be clear that this was a one-time exemption and moving forward the Commission would comply with the new rules. The Commission is already considered to be out of compliance.

The main risk in not complying is that DES will revoke the delegation of authority. The Commission would need to seek approval of spending funds through DES. There could also be a risk of a negative audit finding. WSU holds the funds, and the Commission has not been audited; the AG did not view this is not a significant risk. There would be conditions for reinstating the delegation of authority such as trainings for Commissioners, policies on procurement, and timelines on posting to WEBS. There is a lot of discretion for DES. If WSCPR does not comply this time, this would be reflected in their next risk assessment. WSCPR can make it clear that in the future they will be in compliance.

Alan will forward the letters from DES to the Board.

The Board has already decided to fund the existing projects. There are significant consequences if they pull this funding such as their relationships with researchers and the state legislature, which has also given them the funding for the OP work.

The Chair reviewed that they would lose a few hundred thousand dollars and have a bad reputation with researchers and the legislature if they comply, or they can risk the consequences of the delegation of authority being revoked, which is potentially easier than being suspended. If they choose to do this, WSCPR would send a letter to DES indicating why they made that decision, and how they will comply in the future. They could also state that they are setting up internal policies to ensure this doesn't happen in the future. They haven't gotten a response from DES regarding corrections or changes to the contracts that Alicia sent to them.

*Gary made a motion to keep the commitments to fund the research projects and to improve compliance with DES requirements. Leighton, seconded. Bill Orchard opposed. The motion passed 7-1.*

The Chair and Alicia will compose the letter to DES, and they'll share it with the Board.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> the Commission name changes to the Commission on Integrated Pest Management.

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.