

Oregon OSHA
Ag Labor Housing Advisory Committee
Friday, November 30, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Alba Johnston	Jeff Carlson	Mike Omeg
Alta Schafer	Jenny Dresler	Nargess Shadbeh
Amanda Dalton	Jonathan Sandau	Renee Stapleton
Ana Molina	Jonathon Gonzalez	Sarah Rew
Ann Nillette-James	Kate Ryan	Scott Dahlman
Candy Carnes	Lavrie Hoefler	Sherry Marks
Christina Higby	Lee Milholland	Stacey Cooper
Emily Green	Mayra Ledesma	Trena VanDeHey
Erin Roby	Michael Wood	Veronica Meza
Holt Andron	Mike Doke	(Nick? Southern Oregon)

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Carlson.
Self-introductions were made.

Jeff Carlson welcomed everyone to the meeting. This meeting is a discussion to see where Oregon OSHA wants to go in the rulemaking process.

Michael Wood added that Oregon OSHA hasn't taken a look at ag labor housing for over a decade. A list will be created of the issues and items for further discussion. Additionally, the comments received on the recent Worker Protection Standard rulemaking brought up a number of ideas related to the Agriculture Labor Housing standards that can be explored. It was stated that it was a little hard to prepare for this meeting as there was no agenda and asked that the issues not be limited to the Agriculture Exclusion Zone (AEZ) issues.

Discussion Points:

Pesticide contamination: other pesticides reduction techniques that could be implemented other than distance. Apply science to this rather than just drawing a line around a facility, such as mitigation. They are concerns about building something to meet today's standards and then having to tear down if the requirements change.

Some of the issues are infrastructure related. As an example, additional strain on the water systems needs to be taken into account. There are also city and county laws and zoning restrictions that need to be followed.

Concern regarding the presence of nitrates and arsenic in well water. Water testing can be an issue if there is no lab to send the samples for other things other than is what is required. In Oregon employers are required to test our irrigation water monthly by food safety, and there is a global requirement too, Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Oregon OSHA can adopt requirements on potable water, as they are not currently in the existing rules.

Handwashing and sinks. Some have limited numbers of sinks and they use them for laundry, bathing (children), dishes, etc. Could there be a separate one for washing contaminated clothing so they aren't bathing their children or washing their dishes in pesticides. For washing clothes have separate machines for work clothes and then normal, family clothes.

Can you have fee/quarter laundry machines?

For a hotel/motel do you have to have a screen door if the facility has working air conditioning?

Michael explained the statutory requirement for group of small ag employer advisory group. Oregon OSHA will continue to have this group acting within the bigger advisory group. This allows for associations/worker advocates to be included in the discussion. For example, the statutory group may be asked to weigh in on a specific topic.

Oregon OSHA has employees participating in this group and they have freedom to give advice and speak freely, they are not speaking for Oregon OSHA, but as their opinion.

Oregon OSHA will put together a working draft and then bring to a future meeting. The goal would be to have a draft proposal available by mid-season and close the comment period after harvest is complete to allow for comments.

It would be helpful to have representatives from Building Codes, the cities, and the counties that are involved in the discussion if it is possible.

Maybe have an incentive program in place for growers to be better. If you get a number of 100% inspections in a row, then you get an exemption for x number of years.

Offsite housing is not always a feasible option. It is important to understand the limitations that are in place, and the room to navigate between them.

If you have anything else to add you can email Jeff Carlson Jeffery.T.Carlson@oregon.gov

We will get a hard deadline, at least 2 weeks before the next meeting we will send agenda/list of discussion. We will look at the Q&A and the tech logs to see if there are areas in need of clarifications.

The group discussed what they would like to see in the future meeting discussions:

- Distance of facilities to fields/live stock. Maybe for just future buildings
- Pesticide contamination
- Laundry availability
- Food contamination
- Structural integrity
- Bathroom/ Showers: privacy, and closer proximity
- Water: expand testing to arsenic and nitrate, indoor plumbing
- High heat in structures: ventilation, air conditioning

- Locks - security on structures
- Storage for individual private space/store personal items
- Sinks and handwashing: number of sinks, location, etc.
- Shower ratios: common shower rooms, privacy for changing and between showers
- Bathroom locks
- Height of stove cook tops
- Indoor cooking facilities: what is the definition between shared vs. common space
- Definition of seasonal workers
- Tiered system relating to seasonal vs. year around workers
- Place to clean boots/shoes and store away from the living quarters.
- Outside lighting
- Common areas outside: kids play ground, areas with shade that are not in the orchard
- Mattresses: fumigate, how to clean and keep clean
- Signage/Information translated and posted in common area

Action Items:

- Send comments or additional items for discussion to Jeff Carlson.
- Compare the H2A requirements and the Global Gap requirements to the current rules to identify any gaps.
- Invite representatives from Building Codes, Counties ,
- It would be helpful to have representatives from Building Codes, City/County Planning Departments.
- Review the Q&A and technical logs to see if there are areas that need clarification

Next Meeting:

TBD – Doodle Poll to be sent mid December
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 Durham Plaza
 16760 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd, STE 200
 Tigard, OR 97224