

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETS NOV. 2

MCFA welcomes EPA's Rod Snyder, Jake Li

MCFA's virtual Technical Committee meeting on Nov. 2, 2021 drew the largest attendance in recent history. The committee is co-chaired by Mike Aerts of Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, and Gabriele Ludwig with Almond Board of California.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new Senior Advisor for Agriculture, Rod Snyder, previewed some of the ag issues that he intends to prioritize. He noted his interest in being a resource and a partner for the ag community, and his plan to have an open-door policy, listening and seeking to provide answers from across the agency. When asked where Waters of the U.S. regulations ranked on his priority list, Snyder noted that was likely the issue he's hearing the most about.

EPA's new Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pesticide Programs, Jake Li, noted the agency is prioritizing compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), driven in part by litigation against the agency. He reported the agency is exploring opportunities to modify

the FIFRA registration review process to address ESA issues – for example, by addressing potential mitigation issues up front in reviews, to reduce the likelihood of “likely to adversely affect” determinations. He stressed the need to find a “durable, workable approach” to ESA protections moving forward. He reported the agency will release an ESA workplan in the coming months, outlining how it plans to move forward. Li closed by inviting input on how to continue the dialogue efficiently.

Other items on the committee's agenda included a presentation from an American Soybean Association representative overviewing the idea of establishing a legal fund to allow growers to use the judicial branch of government to address broad industry concerns. A National Cotton Council representative proposed a pilot project to update maps locating endangered species, and to work more directly with members of the Services. Details about both proposals were routed to committee members for their information. **END**

MCFA goes on the record

Since our last member update, MCFA has actively advocated for access to safe, affordable, effective crop protection tools by commenting on federal agency proposals, and reaching out to our industry via trade media.

MCFA submitted comments to EPA on two topics:

- The agency's plans to revoke tolerances for chlorpyrifos. ([Oct. 29, 2021](#))
- An agency report evaluating assumptions used by the groundwater modeling calculator the agency deploys to estimate pesticide concentrates in vulnerable groundwater sources. Those estimates in turn inform the agency's assessments of the dietary risk a pesticide may pose to humans. Reforming the agency's drinking water assessments to use actual water monitoring data is one of the eight priorities of MCFA's [Work Plan](#). ([July 1, 2021](#))

MCFA comments are developed through the alliance's Technical Committee, which is composed of and led by industry volunteers.

MCFA also issued two news statements to specialty crop industry trade press outlets, designed to raise

awareness of MCFA activities and grow support from a larger industry audience:

- A [Sept. 27, 2021 statement](#) outlining MCFA priorities for the Biden administration.
- An [Aug. 26, 2021 joint statement](#) with American Soybean Association, American Farm Bureau Federation and National Cotton Council, voicing disappointment with EPA's draft biological evaluation for several neonicotinoids.

Both MCFA statements were widely reported on by produce industry trade media outlets. **END**

MEMBER CALL TO ACTION

MCFA needs you, now!

- **Pay your 2022 dues early.** Invoices will ship soon.
- **Better yet, increase your contribution.** And suggest new members to [MCFA's leadership](#).
- **Share this update.** Show your members and colleagues that MCFA's work is vital, and that our dues are a good investment.
- **Our 2022 Member Meeting will be scheduled soon!**

Minor Crop Farmer Alliance advocates for use of sound science in government minor-use pesticide policies, so that growers have access to safe, effective, affordable crop protection tools. Founded in 1991, we are funded and led by fruit, vegetable, nut, ornamental plant and other specialty crop producer organizations from across the United States. To learn more, visit us [online](#).