

Glyphosate Commission Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2021 **(virtual via Zoom)**

Adopted March 8, 2022

Attendees:

Martin Suuberg, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection called the meeting to order at 2:01PM, and introduced members of the Commission:

John Lebeaux
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Marc Nascarella
Chief Toxicologist, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Representing Magret Cooke, Acting Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Eve Schlüter
Assistant Director, Assistant Director of Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program,
MassWildlife
Representing Mark Tisa, Director, MassWildlife

Julie Richburg
Lead Ecologist, Inland Natural Resources, The Trustees of Reservations

Commissioner Suuberg opened the meeting; all Commission members introduced themselves, all were present, and noted a quorum existed. He acknowledged agency staff members were also present, including Taryn LaScola from the Division of Crop and Pest Services at Mass AGR, Benjamin Meshoulam, Office of General Counsel at MassDEP, Mark Smith, from the Office of Research & Standards at MassDEP, Paul Locke of MassDEP and Ann Lowery of MassDEP.

Commissioner Suuberg read the Legislative charge in Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021 to the Commission. The deadline in the statute is December 31, 2021, which is an aggressive timeline; Commissioner Suuberg has approached the sponsor of the bill and the joint committee to ask for a March 30, 2022 extension, as well as additional funding.

Benjamin Meshoulam provided an overview of the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. He asked Commission members to review the Open Meeting Law guide sent via email, then sign and return the form on the last page of the guide.

Taryn LaScola gave a high-level overview of pesticides in Massachusetts, how pesticides are regulated, and the Pesticide Committee's registration process.

Mark Smith went over the draft scope of work. The intent is to hire an outside consultant to assist with gathering the data and information and provide a Report for the Commission in order to complete the scientific review of glyphosate. This draft scope of work was provided to Commission members. Mark

said the process as he understands it is that DAR would secure a contractor and DAR and DEP would provide oversight. He said the December 31st deadline would be a challenge, and while he looks forward to an extension, he hopes to make significant progress this year. They would like to move forward with the contractor search as soon as possible. Eve Schlüter asked how Commission members should provide feedback on the draft. Commissioner Suuberg asked Benjamin Meshoulam for guidance; Benjamin said he would like to give it more thought but cautioned the Commission not to discuss it via email. Ann Lowery shared the draft document on screen and edited it in real time based on feedback/discussion from Commission members. Suggestions were noted in the document.

Commissioner Suuberg proposed a vote to authorize staff to move forward with procurement and scope of work as amended by the comments from Commission members. A roll call vote was taken, and the Commission unanimously voted in favor of moving forward.

Commissioner Suuberg moved on to open the meeting for public comments. Representative Carmine Gentile commented that in his view, government works best when all three branches are involved. He noted that key assessments of glyphosate have been made in the judicial branch as findings of fact and encouraged the Commission to consider such assessments. Representative Gentile endorsed the deadline extension in order to achieve the best result. He was impressed with the hearing and thanked the Commission. Finally, he stated his primary concern is focusing on the public health concerns of glyphosate.

Commissioner Suuberg thanked participants for their involvement and said he would be in touch with a date for the next meeting. Eve Schluter asked how the consultant will be selected. The Chair noted that the Commission members would be notified of the posting of the Request for Proposals; and at the next meeting the members would be able to review responses received, candidates, and recommendation for consultant selection.

Commissioner Suuberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded; all members raised their hands in approval. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.