

February 9, 2024, 2 p.m.

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1. Commissioner Heiple as Chair called the meeting to order. All commission members were present.

New Commission members were introduced (Chair Heiple, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection, Kristopher Callahan, designee of Commissioner Goldstein, Department of Public Health, and Ashley Randle, Commissioner, Department of Agricultural Resources.) Continuing members, Julie Richburg from the Trustees of Reservations and Eve Schluter from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife were also welcomed.

2. Minutes from last meeting (9/15/22). No corrections were suggested. Motion to adopt minutes was made by Commissioner Randle, seconded by Julie Richburg. Motion was unanimously passed.
3. Review / Discussion of Final (Phase II) Report from ERG. The Chair summarized for all the history of the Commission with accompanying PowerPoint slides. Main topic of discussion is review of the Draft Phase II Report. Reminded the Commission that in the last meeting it was agreed to provide an opportunity for public comment on the final report, and that comments would be included as an appendix to the final report. The Chair introduced John Wilhelmi to provide an overview of the Report's highlights.

John Wilhelmi of ERG thanked the Commission and noted that he worked with others on this report both from ERG and from its subcontractor Tetrattech. He proceeded to provide a summary of the report's highlights in the areas of Resources Reviewed, Uses and Usage of Glyphosate, Human Health Effects, Environmental Effects, and Alternatives, corresponding to sections of the report. He noted that in the last few months some additional resources have been made available, including some electronic use data from the Department of Agricultural Resources in Massachusetts and products being phased out. Presentation followed slides. Thanked the Commission for the opportunity to do this work.

The chair asked if there were comments on the report from Commission members.

Eve Schluter: Noted she is impressed by the Report's assessment and the quantity of sources reviewed. Her concerns focus on listed species and include some minor comments. Noted that because of the Report's length and complexity it would be

helpful to have a summary and conclusion section to reiterate the conclusion that the effects of Glyphosate are inconclusive now from the perspective of Fish and Wildlife. She would like to see more detail on the difference between Glyphosate and Glyphosate Based Formulations, and noted some additives may be causing issues. She also pointed out that some studies used higher than recommended usage rates. In section 2.6 (on environmental effects) she suggested clarification of the tables to avoid misinterpretation. LLA based conservative assumptions used in analysis – and what that means could be explained. The report might also include what the state is currently doing to limit risks to state listed species.

Julie Richburg: Thank you for the detailed and well-organized report. Has suggestions on ways to clarify Report which she can and will send separately. During consideration of Phase 1 and preparing for the Phase 2 report, a list of stakeholders was identified for consultation in developing the phase 2 report. Could not find that information in the report. Were they contacted?

John Wilhelmi responded that references to the outreach done via emails may be found in part 1 of the report. He confirmed that all stakeholders listed from Phase 1 were contacted via email. Some parties were unable to be contacted, as email addresses were not effective.

The Chair acknowledged Rep. Gentile and asked if there were any comments from him or his staff. None presented.

Chair summarized next steps: ERG to revise report to reflect comments from commission members Julie Richburg and Eve Schluter. Reminded commission that at previous meeting Commission agreed to post the final report for public comment. Suggested a 30-day public comment period for the updated report from ERG; ask ERG to compile the public comments and add them as an appendix to the final report.

Chair then outlined next steps: after comments are compiled and added to the report the Commission will meet again to approve the final report. The commission then will send the final report to the identified legislative committees as described in the enabling legislation. The individual review to be completed by the Pesticide Subcommittee must also be sent to the legislative committees.

Julie Richburg moved to proceed as proposed. Seconded by Eve Schluter. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Closing ERG contract. The chair asked Commissioner Randle if any further actions were needed to close out the contract with ERG. Commissioner Randle responded that nothing further is needed.
5. Other Business:

Julie Richburg asked for clarification of whether comments will only be received in writing via email, and then compiled and included in the Report's appendix, and that no public hearing would be conducted. Confirmed by the commission members.

Jesse Grant noted there were comments in the Teams Chat. Ann Lowery suggested reading through the comments to see if they would be appropriately considered as comments on the Report or could be answered now. Chair agreed.

Ann Lowery read comments:

- a. What types of tox studies and models did the EPA use to demonstrate that there are no impacts to the endocrine system? What about human developmental models using mammals? (Kevin r)

Reaction: *Mark Smith (MassDEP) responded that EPA considered the standard types of studies. John Wilhelmi concurred and noted that the report considered available data on these endpoints.*

- b. My name is Acacia Warren, Doctor in Veterinary Medicine. Have you considered that glyphosate-based herbicides (GBH) could interact at very low levels with metals and plastics and impact health of animals and humans? Please review it or contact me for a list of recent publications. Also, has GBH-based impact on Antimicrobial Resistance been reviewed? The pathway of glyphosate is present in the human microbiome and changes beneficial bacteria. Same for native pollinators like honeybees and others. This is a serious issue for potential antimicrobial resistance in human and animals. I would like to see a new report with the most recent review of scientific literature, including interviews with experienced researchers with expertise on endocrine disrupting hormones (EDCs). (Acacia Warrern)

Reaction: *John Wilhelmi responded that these issues were beyond the scope of this report.*

- c. A simple question the report shows two different dates in the headers June 2023 and November 2023 Does that mean the information on the pages is ONLY current to that date? (cwrice)

Reaction: *Ann Lowery explained that the most recent version of the report is posted on the website. The dates will be aligned in next posting.*

- d. Will there be a public hearing at any point? (Clint Richmond)

Reaction: *Ann Lowery suggested this question was answered earlier when Julie Richmond raised the issue – no public hearing is planned.*

- e. I did not see any information about the recent decision by the Ninth Circuit vacating the EPA recent attempts to re-register glyphosate due concerns about human health review. As it stands now Glyphosate is in registration limbo. (cwrice)

Reaction: *John Wilhelmi noted the Report acknowledges the state of EPA's registration of glyphosate.*

- f. The Boston Based Silent Spring Institute has released a study of over 900 chemicals including 30 chemicals, of which glyphosate was one of them can have been shown to display breast cancer causing traits. A copy of that report has been sent to MDAR. (cwrice)

Reaction: *Ann Lowery suggested this is not a question but could be considered a comment if submitted during the public comment period.*

- g. The motion was "at least 30 days". When will the exact timeframe for comments be decided, or will it be "only 30 days"? (Kevin Doyle)

Reaction: *Ann Lowery noted that the Updated Report from ERG will be posted on the website noting the public comment period and a notice to interested stakeholders will be sent via email with the dates included.*

- h. Has the FDA looked at glyphosate? (Kevin r)

Reaction: *John Wilhelmi noted that the FDA's role is to evaluate residues on food compared to standards/ limits. The FDA was not identified as a source to consult for the report. Would consider materials submitted in comments related to FDA's efforts.*

- i. We know glyphosate negatively impacts the microbiome of humans and there is an extremely large amount of data on the importance of the health of the microbiome in regard to human health. (Leyna Bautista)
- j. A comprehensive review of Glyphosate should include AMPA its toxic major metabolite. (Ed Stockman)

Reaction: *Commissioner Heiple: Last comments seem to be appropriate for including as a comment if submitted during the comment period for the final report.*

- 6. Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was offered by Julie Richburg and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.