

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on February 14, 2020 at the Richard Cronin Building located at 1 Rabbit Hill Road in Westborough, MA.

A. ROLL CALL

Bob Leon, General Environmental Services & New England Pest Management Association	Present
George Williams, Univar	Present
Russ Bragg, Tree Tech	Present
Jared D. Bettencourt, Minute Man Pest Control	Present
Bob Mann, National Landscape Association of Landscape Professionals	Present

The Council did meet or exceed the minimum number (3) of members present to form a quorum and conduct business.

OTHER INDIVIDUALS PRESENT:

Taryn LaScola-Miner, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

DOCUMENT(S) PRESENTED:

Agenda
Draft minutes from the November 14, 2019 meeting

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Motion: B. Mann motioned to accept the minutes provided the Department make the following changes:

- Location of the meeting be changed to West Springfield
- Update the attendance to reflect that George Williams was not present and the rest of the Advisory Council was present.
- Change who motioned to accept the minutes

Second: R. Bragg

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

C. PESTICIDE PROGRAM UPDATE

T. LaScola-Miner provided program updates to the Council.

Complaints Numbers since November 14, 2019:

There have only been two complaints since the previous Advisory Council meeting.

Pesticide License Renewals

The status of pesticide licenses are:

- 7800 active pesticide licenses
- 1600 licenses pending renewal

T. LaScola-Miner explained that there is a six (6) month “grace” period where individuals can renew up to June 30th and pay a late fee. After June 30th, the individual must retake the test.

Pesticide Product Registration

The status of product registration are:

- 8900 products were eligible for renewal and 7300 pesticide products had been renewed
- 76 products are pending renewal
- 500 products new product registration

T. LaScola-Miner explained that the gap between products that are eligible for renewal and products that have been renewed may be due to the fact that the Department is converting to an online registration process.

Certification and Training Rule (EPA)

The Department had to update their EPA State Plan in order to in compliance with the new EPA Certification and Training Rule. The Department has submitted the plan to EPA for review. T. LaScola-Miner explained that because of some of the new EPA requirements the Department must update the regulations which is why the Department is reviewing and updating 333 CMR Section 10. The Department has completed its first draft of the Section 10 updates. T. LaScola-Miner explained that before a regulation is updated/changed, the action needs to go before the Pesticide Board for approval. Once there is a final draft, the regulation is presented to the Board for review. The Board must approve the final changes before they are promulgated. T. LaScola-Miner indicated that she would like to run some of the concepts by the Advisory Council once it has been reviewed internally.

Neonicotinoid Review

EPA recently came out with their Interim Decision on the neonicotinoid on the registration review. EPA is proposing that label changes take place. Some of this includes:

- Setbacks to water
- Pollinator specific language
- Wind speed limits
- Droplet size
- Updated/Added PPE
- Deleting residential spray use on turf for Imidacloprid
- All products except Acetamiprid would have added language “Intended for Professional Use”

B. Leon asked if label changes would affect the product classification. T. LaScola-Miner explained it would not change its classification, but the Pesticide Board Subcommittee could make the decision to change their classification. The Pesticide Board Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2020 and the neonicotinoid hearing is planned for March 13th.

T. LaScola-Miner provided an overview of the neonicotinoid literature review conducted by the Department. She explained that the Department hired a company that performed a literature review relative to neonicotinoids. The review was not a risk assessment. It pointed out that 43 out of 44 pieces of literature concluded that neonicotinoids pose risk/harm to pollinators. The review pointed out that this was not specific to types of neonicotinoids. The review referenced EPA's scientific information and another organization that had performed their own review.

B. Mann stated that he did not believe the review provided a lot of information.

T. LaScola-Miner stated that the Pesticide Subcommittee hearing is only relative to the review, but the Pesticide Subcommittee will receive additional information during their discussions.

Glyphosate Review

EPA came out with their Interim Policy decision and has determined that it was not a carcinogen.

Apprenticeship License

T. LaScola-Miner reviewed M.G.L.c. 132B Section 10 and pointed out that some form of an exam is needed for someone to use a pesticide. There was discussion about whether this would be beneficial to the industry given that an exam would have to be given.

D. CONSUMER INFORMATION BULLETIN

G. Williams pointed out that the Category 47 exam is outdated and would industry has offered to help update the exam. T. LaScola-Miner informed the Advisory Council that the Department is working the University of Massachusetts to begin reviewing and updating the pesticide exams. asked if the Department can look at developing a separate mosquito and tick consumer information bulletin.

E. NEW BUSINESS

G. Williams asked if it would be possible for someone who spoke English as a second language could have a translator or an untimed exam. T. LaScola-Miner stated she would bring that request back to the Department to discuss.

F. PROPOSED DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date was potentially scheduled for May 5th.

G. ADJOURN

Motion: B. Mann motioned to adjourned

Second: R. Bragg

In Favor: All

Opposed: None