

# 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 June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Richard Cronin Building located at 1 Rabbit Hill Road in Westborough, MA.

#### **A. ROLL CALL**

Bob Mann, National Landscape Association of Landscape Professionals	Present
Jarred DeBettencourt, Minuteman Pest Control	Present
Bob Leon, General Environmental Services & New England Pest Management Association	Present
George Williams, Univar	Absent
Russ Bragg, Tree Tech	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  
Ryan Petitti, TruGreen

#### **DOCUMENT(S) PRESENTED:**

Agenda  
Draft minutes from the April 12, 2019 meeting

#### **B. REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

**Motion:** B. Mann motioned to accept the minutes provided the Department

**Second:** G. Williams

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

#### **C. PESTICIDE PROGRAM UPDATE**

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

- The Department issued the new Termite Consumer Information Bulletin and Mosquito/Tick Advisory to all licensed applicators via email.
- The Department issued a notice to Dealers and Commercial Certification C37 about two products that were cancelled. It explained that 12 neonicotinoids were voluntarily cancelled but only two products were registered in MA. One of the products is Aloft GC which the Department knows is used by golf courses. She explained that any product that is packaged, labeled and ready for shipment can be sold until May 2020. The products can be used up as long as the state registration is current.

- The pesticide enforcement division has been very busy with complaints. Complaints range from wrong address applications to drift allegations.
- Online pesticide product registration renewals have gone live. The pesticide product registration team has been getting a lot of calls but the volume is not as large as it was during the pesticide license renewals. One of the biggest complaints is that the registrants have to input all of their products for the first year.
- An apiary map has been developed. The Department notified all applicators of the map via email. A beekeeper and/or pesticide applicator can put in locations of their apiary and/or where pesticide applications will take place. We received a number of positive responses from the applicators about the map.
- At the last meeting there was a question about what happens when an individual no longer has insurance coverage. T. LaScola-Miner explained that the applicator does receive a notification.

G. Williams asked for more details on what kind of complaints are coming. T. LaScola-Miner explained that the Department isn't able to provide a lot of details given the fact that the cases are open.

#### **D. PESTICIDE ENFORCEMENT TRANSPARENCY**

T. LaScola-Miner asked that based on conversations from the previous meeting what level of transparency the Council was asking for. She explained that based on the last Council meeting it was unclear if the Council was looking for a general report/update at the Council meeting or public notification of enforcement actions. The Council explained that it is important to know the types of complaints the Department is receiving so that they can incorporate or focus on those items during trainings. T. LaScola-Miner explained that while the Department does keep data on inspections/complaints/investigations it is limited and that depending on the level of detail the Council is looking for will depend on if the Department will be able to retrieve the information.

It was agreed that the Council would like the Department to report out the number of complaints, the type of complaints, and the type of industry, whether or not it's a 25b product.

B. Leon stated he was concerned with posting enforcement actions because it could be used as a marketing tool in the industry. T. LaScola-Miner explained that it could be used as a tool for the public that is looking for information before hiring a company and that posting enforcement actions/company information could be done in different ways and at different levels of detail. B. Leon stated that he wanted to talk to New England Pest Management Association. It was agreed that this topic will be added to the agenda for the next Council meeting.

G. Williams stated that he has heard from industry that there is a need for a way to people to submit anonymous complaints to the Department.

A discussion was had as to how and why there currently so many mosquito and tick control companies. The Council discussed having a large training that included individuals from all industries that focuses on Mosquito and Tick control issues. T. LaScola-Miner indicated that would be happy to participate in something of that nature.

#### **E. 25b PRODUCTS AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS, B. LEON**

The Council reiterated that they would like to see a licensing requirement for individuals that use 25b products.

#### **F. RECENT BILLS/LEGISLATION FILED, B. LEON**

The Council had some general discussion about some of the filed legislation that would affect the pesticide industry. There was discussion about the potential of a rodenticide bill and the bill restricting neonicotinoids. B. Mann also explained that there was some legislation that would allocate funds to the Department to conduct a neonicotinoid review.

**H. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

**I. PROPOSED DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was tentatively set for September 20th, 2019

**J. ADJOURN**

**Motion:** B. Mann motioned to adjourned

**Second:** G. Williams

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None