

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES
Secretary

JOHN LEBEAUX
Commissioner

PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on November 14, 2019 at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Office located at 64 Century Way in West Springfield, MA.

A. ROLL CALL

Bob Leon, General Environmental Services & New England Pest Management Association	Present
George Williams, Univar	Absent
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 June 14th, 2019 meeting
Bill H.3714 (provided by B. Leon)

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Motion: R.Bragg
Second: J.Debettencourt
In Favor: R.Bragg, J.Debettencourt, B.Mann
Opposed: None
Abstained: B. Mann

C. PESTICIDE PROGRAM UPDATE

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

Complaints Numbers since September 5, 2019:

10 complaints were followed up with. Approximately half of them were drift complaints in relation to mosquito/tick control applications.

Pesticide License Renewals

Renewals are being submitted. The Department will be reinstating the late fee for anyone that renews after Dec 31st, 2019.

Pesticide Product Registration

Currently 30% of the products that should be renewed have not been renewed yet. The Department has decided to extend the renewal period to Dec. 1, 2019. It is also reaching out to the registrants to ensure that they renew their products.

Certification and Training Rule (EPA)

EPA updated the certification and training requirements in FIFRA. Some of the changes that were made include direct supervision, record keeping, exam content, exam proctoring, and license specifications. The Department will need to review its exams and update its regulations to ensure it is compliant with the changes. Additionally, the Department needs to update its State Plan indicating how the state is or will become compliant with the changes.

Neonicotinoid Review

The Department has hired a contractor to conduct the review. The company will be working with its' chief apiary inspector and toxicologist. Once the review is complete it will go out for public comment and then go before the Pesticide Subcommittee. The Pesticide Subcommittee must determine as to whether or not neonicotinoids pose an adverse effect on the environment and if further restrictions need to be place on the products. A report must be given to the ENRA committee.

Publicizing Enforcement Action

The Department sent out a survey to other states asking what they do relative to publicizing enforcement actions. 33 states took the survey and half of them indicated they publicize their enforcement actions. The Department is proposing to publicize any Administrative Orders, License Revocations, and License Suspensions. Information posted would include name, license number, company and the regulation that was violated.

B. Leon indicated his concerns that companies would use as this a marketing tool when bidding for business but if used properly it could serve a good purpose.

There was some discussion that this information on how the industry could use the information as an educational tool.

D. SUPERVISION OF UNLICENSED APPLICATORS, B. MANN

B. Mann would like the Department to look at some type of apprenticeship or have a category for new applicators that have not had a chance to take the exam. T. LaScola-Miner stated that she would have to review M.G.L.c.132B to see if it would even be a possibility. B. Mann reference some of what New York does.

B. Leon asked about allowing for the exams to be given in a different language. T. LaScola-Miner responded that until all labels are in different languages the exam will not be given in a different language.

E. PROPOSED DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next proposed date was scheduled for February 14, 2020.

H. ADJOURN

Motion: B. Mann motioned to adjourned

Second: R. Bragg

In Favor: All

Opposed: None