

# 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



Maura T. Healey  
GOVERNOR

Kimberley Driscoll  
LIEUTENANT  
GOVERNOR

Rebecca L. Tepper  
SECRETARY

Ashley E. Randle  
COMMISSIONER

## **PESTICIDE APPLICATOR PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Date: March 15, 2024**

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

Bob Leon, Ecologic Entomology & New England Pest Management Association	Present
Molly Moran, Forshaw	Absent
Jeff Utley, Nutrien Ag Solutions	Absent
Jared DeBettencourt, Minute Man Pest Control	Absent
Bob Mann, National Landscape Association of Landscape Professionals	Present
Nicholas Millen, Arborjet	Present

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

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

Draft minutes from the meeting held on December 1, 2023

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

**Motion:** Accept the minutes, B. Mann

**Second:** N. Millen

**In favor:** All

**Abstention:** None

#### **C. PESTICIDE PROGRAM UPDATES, T. LASCOLA**

Glyphosate Commission: T. LaScola stated that the Glyphosate Commission recently met. They reviewed the Phase 2 report. Some members of the Commission had comments. The report will be posted for the public to comment on.

Annual Use Report: The annual use report and Restricted Use Sales report was opened. Due to feedback received about the 2022 report, MDAR did add back in more specific sites to the report which were relative to agricultural sites. MDAR reviewed the form to determine if changes could be made to ensure that the information being entered was more accurate. Due to restrictions within the form and when the timeline, there were not many changes that could be made. MDAR will look at making more in depth changes for the 2024 reporting season. To rectify what it could, MDAR put together a guidance document that addressed the issues that were seen with the 2022 data.

B. Leon asked if MDAR saw a lot of issues with the 2022 reports. T. LaScola stated that the things they saw were lack of both EPA registration number/product or the amount was not a quantifiable amount.

#### **D. PESTICIDE USE DATA, B. MANN**

B. Mann stated that while he respects what the Conservationist Pesticide Applicator Advisory Council put forth to the Board relative to adding location to the annual use data, he wanted to address the request. He stated that he drafted a letter that he wanted to submit to the Board from the Council. He asked the Council members if they had any comments.

B. Leon and N. Millen agreed with what B. Mann had put in the letter. B. Mann noted that there are a lot of things to keep in mind when looking to update a system. It includes resources, what the data reflects and safety/security of the information. B. Leon stated that it would be very difficult for a company to compile pesticide use information based on location. He also stated that he does not know how accurate the information would be given the data does not reflect homeowner use.

T. LaScola added that the Pesticide Board directed MDAR to investigate what it would take to add location. She stated that she is going to survey other states to learn more about how they collect and use the data.

Rosemary Malfi from the Conservationist Pesticide Advisory Council (who was an attendee) asked B. Mann to explain the source data that the public can access that he had previously reference. He stated that it was Cannatech and that EPA cites it in some of their documentation. She also asked if the Council was opposed to county level reporting. B. Mann offered to send the letter to her.

B. Mann asked T. LaScola if she knew whether the use report study group that was mandated under MG.L.c. 132b, ever met. She explained that the mandate came in through the Acts of 200, An Act to Protect Children's and Families from Harmful Pesticides. She stated that the group did meet but she did not know what the result was as she was not part of it. B. Mann noted that maybe it would be a good idea to reinstate the group.

T. LaScola recommended that given the seriousness of submitting a letter to the Board, the Council wait until the other Council members were present to approve the letter. B. Leon agreed to do that but stated that he wanted the letter to go to the Board as soon as possible.

#### **E. PESTICIDE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS, B. LEON**

B. Leon stated that from the structural pest control point of view, he believed a two-year waiting period before being allowed to take the commercial certification exam was too much. He believes that one year would be enough but realizes that turf/ornamental industry does not always work year-round and he wanted to know what B. Mann thought about that.

B. Mann responded that he thought that two years may be too long as there were going to be additional ongoing training requirements under EPA. B. Leon asked T. LaScola if there was a requirement from EPA relative to a waiting period. T. LaScola responded that there is not. N. Millen stated that looking from a turf/ornamental perspective he is torn.

T. LaScola asked if the turf/ornamental season runs from March through October. B. Mann confirmed that was correct and that applications would begin sometime in early April. She also asked B. Leon if the desire to not wait two years was because the direct supervision requirements are too burdensome. He responded that he would rather someone have gone through the appropriate training/exam versus having a supervisor tell them what to do.

#### **F. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business discussed.

**G. ADJOURN**

**Motion:** B. Mann

**Second:** N. Millen

**In Favor:** All