

# **PESTICIDE BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**January 14, 2020**

**The Department of Agricultural Resource, 251 Causeway St., FL#5 Conference RM 1 Boston,  
MA**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

- Michael Moore, Chairperson, Director of Food Protection Program
  - Department of Public Health
- Taryn LaScola, Alternate Designee for Commissioner John Lebeaux
  - Department of Agricultural Resources
- Richard Berman
  - Commercial Applicator

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

- Susie Reed, Department of Agricultural Resources
- Hotze Wijnja, Ph.D., Department of Agricultural Resources
- Dr. Hillary Sandler, UMass Cranberry Station
- Bruce Taub

### **I. PRODUCT REGISTRATIONS**

#### **VOTED**

That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee registers the pesticide products listed on the EIPAS PR  
January 14, 2020 Subcommittee cover sheet:

Moved: Berman  
Second: LaScola  
Approved: 3-0

## II. Recertification Request for Section 18 Emergency Exemption for *Pronamide* (Kerb SC, 35.6% a.i., EPA 62719-578) in the 2020 Use Season for the Control of Dodder in Cranberries.

The Department received a recertification request for a Section 18 Emergency Exemption for use of Kerb SC Herbicide (a.i. pronamide) on cranberries in Massachusetts to control the weed pest dodder. Wijnja noted that this is a repeat request, the same Section 18 exemption was granted by U.S. EPA for the 2019 growing season. Dr. Hillary Sandler from UMass Cranberry Station provided additional information to support this request. Sandler pointed out that dodder weed in cranberry bogs continues to be a problem for certain growers. Where infestations are significant, growers have been able to control dodder, and limit its seed production which improves control in subsequent years. It was also pointed out that the restriction for pronamide residues in cranberry for export to the European Union, local cranberry handlers request growers to not use Kerb Herbicide or agree to receive a lower price for fruit. This results in Kerb Herbicide only used by certain growers that deal with significant dodder infestations. Sandler pointed out that the all the conditions described in the 2019 request still exist. The only change in this year's request is the start date that was changed from May 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of April. This will allow timely application of a warm spring. Berman asked if dodder infestations are spreading in cranberry bogs in MA. Sandler indicated that there is no indication that it is taking place. LaScola asked what the status was about a Section 3 registration for use of Kerb on cranberry. Sandler stated that the request is being reviewed by EPA and a few additional data were requested to address human health risk assessments. Section 3 approval is expected by the end of 2021. Once the Section 3 label is approved, interactions with European Union can proceed to address maximum residue levels for export of cranberries.

**Move:** That due to the lack of currently registered pesticide products for the control of the emergency pest problem, the Pesticide Board Subcommittee approves of a FIFRA section 18 Emergency exemption petition for the use of Kerb SC, EPA Reg. No 62719-578, containing the active ingredient *pronamide* for the control of weed pest dodder in cranberries.

This motion also takes into account the following data provided by the Department, the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension, and product registrant:

- Application from the Department and/or the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension;
- Registrant's letter of support;
- Proposed supplemental labeling;
- Pesticide residue data, if needed to support a FIFRA section 3 registrations;
- And any other data or conditions as included.

Moved: Berman  
Second: LaScola  
Approved: 3-0

## III. New Business

LaScola provide an update on the status of the neonicotinoid review and considerations of

meetings and public hearing associated with this task. A meeting is tentatively scheduled on the January 28, 2020 for which a room is reserved at MA Div. of Fisheries & Wildlife office in Westborough. Further considerations included the possibility of a public hearing on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Hearing procedures were considered and will need to be established in further detail after consultation with legal staff. Moore brought up the decision making task of Subcommittee and sought further details on the process and timeline for decision making. Elaborations on this indicated that the decision will be done based on a compilation of comments and information collected with the public hearing process. In the meantime, the Subcommittee can still have regularly scheduled meetings to conduct business and discuss neonicotinoids report. A meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> is tentatively scheduled.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **VOTED**

To adjourn the January 14, 2020, Subcommittee Meeting.

Moved: Berman

Second: Moore

Approved: 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.