

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



Department of Agricultural Resources

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www.mass.gov/agr



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Ashley E. Randle
Commissioner

PESTICIDE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Ashely Randle, MDAR (Chair)	Present
Meg Blanchet, DPH, Designee for Commissioner Goldstein	Present
Michael Moore, DPH, Food Protection Program	Present
Misty Anne Marold, DFG, Designee for Commissioner O'Shea	Absent
Sage Grace, DEP, Designee for Commissioner Heiple	Present
Eric Seaborn, DCR, Designee for Commissioner Arrigo	Present
Richard Berman, Commercial Applicator	Present
Steven Ward, Farmer	Present
Jack Looney, Public Member	Present
R. Christopher Brittan, Public Member	Present
Rosemary Malfi, Public Member	Present
Nicole Bloor, Public Member	Present
Brita Lundberg, Public Member	Present

The Board did meet or exceed the minimum number (7) of members present to form a quorum and conduct business.

A. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 24, 2025:

Motion to Approve Minutes: B. Lundberg

Second: S. Ward

Discussion: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

B. PESTICIDE PROGRAM UPDATES, TARYN LASCOLA

Rodenticide Review: The draft Phase 2 of the scientific review has been completed and has been posted online. It has been provided to the Pesticide Subcommittee ("Subcommittee") as well. MDAR will put together a package for the individual review for the Subcommittee. This will contain additional information such as a summary and analysis of the third-party lab results that have been sent in and a summary of anything that has run through the enforcement program. We have also asked the Subcommittee to let MDAR

know if there is additional information they would like to include that was not addressed in the scientific review. There will also be one more public comment period, and this one will be held virtually. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for March 18th.

Discussion:

J. Looney asked if the review takes genetics into consideration. T. LaScola stated that she did not believe the review did, but if that is something the Subcommittee is interested in, they could let MDAR know.

R. Berman asked if the comments should be specific to the scientific review. T. LaScola stated that this hearing is being held for general comments on the individual review given there were already two opportunities to provide comments for the scientific review.

In response to a question from the public about the status of the legislative hearing that was held in October. Chair Randle stated that MDAR does not have an update as MDAR does not participate unless asked by the legislature.

Pesticide Program Annual Report: Provided the report that is required by M.G.L.c. Section 5A to the legislature. Note that it covers 24 and 25 and that it is based on the federal fiscal year as that is how we keep our data. It has been posted online as well for the public to access.

R. Berman asked T. LaScola to provide a status on 333 CMR 10 and 13 updates was. T. LaScola stated that 333 CMR 10 is no longer with MDAR and that MDAR was waiting for approvals from outside MDAR prior to sharing with the Board. 333 CMR 13.00 is still with MDAR as MDAR is waiting for section 10 to be put in front of the Board first.

C. SELECTION OF CONSERVATIONIST PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

There was discussion about the appropriateness of a letter of support that was sent to the Board the night before. Some thought it was inappropriate due to the lateness it was provided and not fair to the other candidates. Others thought it was acceptable.

There was discussion about whether Carrie Stamos and Emma Wick. Those that were in support of Carrie Stamos believed she had a conservationist background that suited the seat better, while those that were in support of Emma Wick believed that she was a more well-rounded candidate due to her agricultural background.

Motion: Appoint Emma Wick to the Conservationist Pesticide Advisory Council

Motion made by: J. Looney

Second: C. Brittan

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, M. Moore, S. Grace, E. Seaborn, R. Berman, S. Ward, J. Looney, C. Brittan, Chair Randle

Opposed: N. Bloor, B. Lundberg

Abstained: R. Malfi

D. PESTICIDE APPLICATOR PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL LETTER TO THE BOARD, BOB MANN

B. Mann referenced the Councils rebuttal letter that had been sent to the Board prior to the meeting. He stated that the Council believes that there were already ample notification requirements in place. He stated that the concerns that the Conservationist Pesticide Advisory Council (“Conservationist Council”) have are already addressed by the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) during the registration process.

R. Malfi responded that she doesn’t believe that the risk assessments that EPA does are not adequate. She also stated that while she understands there are companies that live by and execute high standards when using pesticides, she does not believe everyone has those standards. She also believed that the Conservationist Councils recommendations would increase awareness to the customer and others.

R. Berman asked T. LaScola and asked how big a problem pre-notification/notification has been. T. LaScola stated that MDAR does receive calls from abutters relative to pre-notification/application information. She is aware that a lot of companies will be providing pre-notification even though it is not required. She believes that companies may be less hesitant to share application information. He then asked B. Mann how the pre-notification in Connecticut works. B. Mann stated that there were 500 out of 3.5 million people in the state that had signed up for pre-notification. He indicated that if something like this was to be put into place, MDAR would need to find a way to regulate it without additional resources.

N. Bloor stated that she believes that the more information the consumer has the better and that even though the population of those that request pre-notification may be small it would be impactful and that she believes that abutters should know what is being used next door if they would like. B. Lundberg agreed with N. Bloor and provide some personal examples of how this would have been helpful to her.

E. CONSERVATIONIST PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE, CLINT RICHMOND

C. Richmond stated that the Conservationist Council has been discussing the Pesticide Applicator Pesticide Advisory Council rebuttal letter. He stated that there was some discussion to scale back the notification requirements. He noted that the groundwater regulations and groundwater protection list will be discussed at a future meeting.

F. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

H. ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn: J. Looney

Second: S. Ward

Discussion: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

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