

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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## **CONSERVATIONIST PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL** **MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** January 9, 2026

### **A. ROLL CALL**

Kimberly Pearson, Brewster Natural Resources Advisory Commission	Present
Clint Richmond, Sierra Club	Present
Regina LaRocque, MGH Center for Environment and Health	Absent
Kristin Andres, Association of Preserve Cape Cod	Present

The Conservationist 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:**

Minutes from October 25, 2025  
Conservationist Pesticide Advisory Council Notification Recommendations  
Pesticide Applicator Pesticide Advisory Notification Rebuttal

### **B. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 25, 2025:**

**Motion to Accept the Minutes:** K. Andres

**Second:** K. Pearson

**In favor:** All

**Abstention:** None

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

#### Rodenticide Review

Phase 2 of the rodenticide review has been completed and has been posted online.

#### Exam review and updates

MDAR has been working on updating the pesticide exams to comply with the federal requirements that were put into place back in 2017. Currently, the following exams have been reviewed and updated: Aerial, Cranberry, General Pest Control, Greenhouse, Nursery, Rights of Way, Shade Tree and Ornamental, Small Fruit, Termite, Tree Fruit, Turf, Vegetable, Vertebrata, Custom Ag, Aquatic and Dealer.

### **D. PESTICIDE APPLICATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS, BOB MANN**

B. Mann stated that the letter points out when the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) conducts their registration and registration review process, they evaluate the exposure risk to individuals that may encounter the product. He noted that if the risks are too high, EPA would implement additional mitigation measures on the label. He noted that the Pesticide Applicator Pesticide Advisory Council is happy with the current requirements.

C. Richmond stated that although EPA looks at those things, the states still have the authority to impose additional items. He noted and asked T. LaScola if EPA would take multi-unit dwellings and specific areas into consideration when looking at mitigation measures. T. LaScola responded that regardless of where it is applied, the use pattern that the product is designed to be used for, including site, is taken into consideration when mitigations measures are placed on a label.

C. Richmond noted that the Conservationists Pesticide Advisory Council recommendations were for indoor and outdoor (including structural outdoor) applications and the recommendations increased the amount of notification that was provided to the public about pesticide applications.

K. Pearson stated that EPA looks at exposure to the general public versus workers. She asked B. Mann how the different evaluations done by OSHA and EPA are reconciled. He responded that the two are very different and for the context of pesticides, it is all dictated by EPA and the label. T. LaScola stated that EPA does look at occupational exposure, and that the human health evaluations look at exposure to children and immune suppressed individuals and apply a safety factor of 100 times and in some instances 1000 times.

C. Richmond asked if this Pesticide Applicator Pesticide Advisory Council letter is public. T. LaScola stated it was. She also explained that when the regulations these recommendations affect are presented to the Pesticide Board, she will resend the recommendations to the Board so that they are reminded of the recommendations. She then summarized the process that a regulation change goes through.

C. Richmond asked B. Mann if he thought the Pesticide Applicator Pesticide Advisory Council would be more open to additional notifications requirements if they were only required for restricted use pesticides or pesticides that have a signal word of “Danger” versus all general use pesticides used by commercial applicators. B. Mann responded that products that have a “Danger” signal word do not always have that signal word because they are a higher risk to the environment. The reason could have been related to worker safety.

## **E. NEW BUSINESS**

C. Richmond noted that California’s groundwater protection list is larger than Massachusetts and asked if MDAR knew why that was and if it could be a topic of discussion in the future. T. LaScola stated that she could provide a summary of the groundwater protection regulations at a future meeting.

## **F. ADJOURN**

**Motion to Adjourn:** K. Pearson

**Second:** K. Andres

**In Favor:** All

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**Any documents referenced in these minutes may be obtained through a Public Records Request. To make a request, please go to [AGR Public Records Requests | Mass.gov](https://agr.mass.gov/public-records-requests).**