

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



Department of Agricultural Resources

225 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA 01772

www.mass.gov/agr



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Ashley E. Randle
Commissioner

CONSERVATIONIST PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 13, 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	Present
Kristin Andres, Association of Preserve Cape Cod	Present
Emma Wick	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 January 9, 2026

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM January 9, 2026:

Motion to Accept the Minutes: K. Andres

Second: K. Pearson

In favor: All

Abstention: None

C. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER, EMMA WICK

E. Wick provided some information about herself which included the fact that she has been working with USDA in the cranberry industry as a conservation planner for a little over a year. In this role, she does conducts resource assessments and explores ways to add protection to the environment. Her background is in environmental permitting and planning with the focus being on wetlands, water quality and land stewardship. She has worked with the cranberry industry.

R. LaRocque asked T. LaScola what the process was to select a new member for the Council. She stated that she knew of people that had submitted applications and were not interviewed. T. LaScola stated that a call of interest is sent out and all applications are provided to the Board for their review and interviews. She

stated that if someone applied and was not interviewed, she would want to know who that person was. T. LaScola noted that there was also open seats on the Pesticide Board which is a different process.

D. PESTICIDE ENFORCEMENT UPDATES, T. LASCOLA

Annual Use Reports: A notification was provided to the pesticide applicators informing them that it was time to submit their annual use report for 2025.

Discussion:

R. LaRocque asked what the status of the electronic use report system was. T. LaScola stated that the electronic system has been up since 2022. She stated that a small dataset of what is collected is posted on the website. The previous year's dataset is searchable and years prior to that are in a pdf form.

C. Richmond raised the issue that some fields in the reporting are and can be left blank. T. LaScola replied that she is aware of that issue but due to the systems restrictions, they cannot make the fields required. The guidance document that is provided to the applicators and posted on the webpage has information on it to attempt to address this issue.

Pesticide Program Annual Report: The annual report was posted on the MDAR website and submitted to the legislature.

Discussion:

R. LaRocque asked why the report states that evaluating the data to show if there was an increase/decrease in the state would require statute changes and additional resources. She noted that this should be easier now that there is an electronic system and artificial intelligence can be used. T. LaScola responded that the statement was relative to the fact that MDAR only collects use information from licensed applicators and therefore the use data does not represent all the use in the state. Additionally, she noted that the report notes that it is difficult to determine if pesticide use is reduced/increased without adding context such as what the pest pressure was like that year. She noted that it would require additional resources to determine that given the level difficulty it would take. R. LaRocque stated that it doesn't need to be analyzed but it should be compiled and presented in a way that could be monitored over time.

C. Richmond indicated that he would like to see a summary of the amounts as well and believes that it would still show value. He also indicated that he would like to know how many people submitted the use report and who submitted them. T. LaScola stated that MDAR asked the Pesticide Board if they would support posting that information on the website and they did not. She stated that if someone wants information that is not posted online, they can request it through a Public Records Request ("PRR").

C. Richmond asked if any researchers have asked for the pesticide use information. T. LaScola stated that if the request is through a PRR, MDAR does not always know what the request is for and cannot ask. She did note that there have been a lot less PRR's since the information has been posted online.

C. Richmond stated that he would be interested in capturing how many applications were performed as well. E. Wick asked what he thought this information could assist with. He responded that it could show how much exposure is taking place and popularity of the product along with other things.

R. LaRocque suggested that legislature be contacted to find out how they would like to see the data and how it impacts the laws they write. It was discussed that the Council doesn't reach out to the legislature, but they could speak to the Board about this.

C. Richmond asked that the reports be posted in an excel spreadsheet versus a pdf format. T. LaScola stated that she cannot post it that way due to directives from outside the Department as to how things need to be posted online. He asked if it could be posted in a landscape format vs. a portrait landscape. T. LaScola stated she would look into whether she could get the pdf in a landscape view.

K. Andres asked what MDAR does with the annual use data. T. LaScola responded that they use the data to answer questions about certain products or active ingredients such as what impact a change in product availability or registration would have based on its use. The information is also sometimes used during enforcement cases.

E. NEW BUSINESS

K. Pearson wanted to discuss when and if the Council or public could know when a pesticide that contains PFAS will be registered in the state. T. LaScola stated that the Councils role is to recommend and advise the Pesticide Board, not the Pesticide Board Subcommittee. It was explained to her that MDAR, through a PRR, could tell someone if a registration application was submitted.

C. Richmond stated that while the Council may not be able to comment on product registration, but they may be able to address the use of pesticides with PFAS through the regulations.

F. ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn: K. Andres

Second: K. Pearson

In Favor: All

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](#).