

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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PESTICIDE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2025

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	Present
Kathy Romero, DEP, Designee for Commissioner Heiple	Present
Nicole Keleher, 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

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 JANUARY 29, 2025:

Motion To Approve: S. Ward

Second: M. Moore

Discussion: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstain: K. Romero

B. PESTICIDE PROGRAM UPDATES, TARYN LASCOLA

Annual Use Reports:

MDAR is currently collecting 2024 annual use reports from applicators. The deadline for submitting the report is June 2025.

Remote Meetings:

Legislation was passed and signed by the Governor that would extend the ability to have public meetings remotely. The extension runs until June of 2027.

License Requirements for UAV Applications:

At the last meeting S. Ward had asked about the licensing process for individuals to obtain the aerial certification as he had heard that an individual had to take multiple exams to obtain the license. After further investigation, that is what is currently required, but that is due to system limitations. MDAR is working with IT to rectify that in the system.

Rodenticide Scientific Review Update:

The contract for the scientific review was awarded to a company called ERG. They are currently working on Phase 1 of the report which will describe the approach they intend on using such as stakeholder groups that will be contacted, and criteria used to identify literature/scientific research that will be included. There will be a comment period held for the draft of Phase 1. During this public comment period, ERG will be asking for information that they may have missed in the Phase 1 report, such as key stakeholder groups or literature/research that they should looking at.

C. PESTICIDE APPLICATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL OPEN SEAT

There is an open seat on the Pesticide Applicator Advisory Council. A call for interested parties was sent to stakeholders and there were four applicants. The four applicants were:

Jason Carota
Justin Marchant
Phil Perron
Timothy Strano

Each applicant had an opportunity to hear from the applicants. A vote on who would be chosen to fill the seat will be held at the next meeting. It should be noted that Jason Carota was not able to attend the meeting. Additionally, two current members (Bob Leon and Bob Mann) submitted their interest to stay on the Council.

D. PESTICIDE USE DATA

As a result of a request from the Conservationist Pesticide Advisory Council to add more information to our pesticide use data, the Board asked MDAR to explore what other states require. A survey was sent out from American Association of Pest Control Officials (AAPCO). We received responses from 24 states and 5 tribes. Of that, 8 states and 3 tribes indicated they collect use data. The type of information collected does vary from state to state. For example, some states only collect restricted use data, some states/tribes only require agricultural entities to report the data. The frequency of reporting also varies weekly, monthly, and annually and can depend on the type of application and type of applicator. Most states collect the same basic data as MDAR does. 4 states and 2 tribes collect varying types of location however it is unclear if the location data is made publicly available. Analysis of the data is done in most circumstances although it is noted that it is very involved. About half of the state/tribes either post the information on their website or provide a public information request. When states did know the cost of the data collection system, it was estimated between \$200,000 to \$400,000 for their system and one state replied that to start up their system it was 1.5 million dollars. Staff varied from 1-6 people with most people having other duties and some use interns/contractors to conduct the work.

In comparison to Massachusetts, MDAR requires all licensed applicators (agricultural and commercial) to report data annually. The cost of the current online webform was approximately \$7000 (onetime fee). We had three people working with the contractor on development of the form and two staff maintaining the form and its data. It should be noted that each staff member that works on the use date has other duties/responsibilities. We do not collect location use information. MDAR does not conduct an analysis of the data, but it does use the data when looking for patterns on specific products/active ingredients and/or when needed by enforcement staff.

E. PESTICIDE APPLICATOR PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE, B. LEON

B. Leon stated that the Council was getting close to providing a formal request for license when conducting 25b products and reducing the amount of time between obtaining a Commercial Applicators license and a Commercial Certification license.

R. Berman commented that he hoped the changes made in 333 CMR 10 would address these concerns. He asked when MDAR thought the Board would see the first draft. T. LaScola stated that she did know when it would be ready.

F. CONVERSATIONIST PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE, CLINT RICHMOND

There was no representation from the Council at the meeting.

G. NEW BUSINESS

S. Ward indicated that there was legislation that would ban noenicitinoids and he would prefer that those types of things are run through the Board.

R. Berman asked about the status of the open seats on the Board. T. LaScola stated that there were applicants for the seats and Chair Randle added that the seats should be filled by the next meeting.

H. ADJOURN

Motion: J. Looney

Second: K. Romero

Discussion: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None