

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

PESTICIDE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 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	Present
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	Absent

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 16, 2026:

Motion to Approve Minutes: S. Ward

Second: J. Looney

Discussion: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

B. PESTICIDE PROGRAM UPDATES, TARYN LASCOLA

Rodenticide Individual Review: T. LaScola stated that a public hearing for the rodenticide individual review was held on March 18, 2026. The hearing lasted approximately two hours and was conducted virtually. There were approximately 120 attendees who attended with 40 individuals signed up to provide oral comments. The hearing was able to accommodate all the speakers and additional attendees who wished to speak but had not signed up. The written comment period remained open until March 20, 2026. MDAR received a significant number of written comments, which staff are organizing for the individual review package.

The package for the review committee/subcommittee is expected to include a summary of oral comments, written comments, public hearing materials, and third-party laboratory information received from wildlife rehabilitators and related facilities over roughly the past year. Staff are working to summarize and connect the available laboratory and related data so members can better understand the number and nature of reports. Staff noted that this work may take several weeks because of the volume of materials and lab results.

Pesticide Subcommittee members were invited to identify any additional information they would like included in the individual review package or scientific review materials. Staff will attempt to obtain and include available information requested by members.

Open Pesticide Board Seat: T. LaScola stated reported that a resignation has created an open seat on the Pesticide Board. A call for interested candidates was circulated in February 2026 with responses requested by the current month. There had not been any interested parties responded at the time of the meeting. She stated that she will continue outreach and recirculate the message to identify additional interested candidates for service on the Board.

C. PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE, BOB LEON

B. Leon was not present at the meeting and therefore an update was not provided.

D. CONSERVATIONIST PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE, CLINT RICHMOND

C. Richmond stated that the Council had held two meetings since the prior Board meeting. The Council continued discussing notification-related recommendations. Council members discussed potential approaches for notification. The Council also discussed the groundwater regulations. During discussion, California was noted as having more product on their groundwater protection list than Massachusetts. C. Richmond noted that the council meetings continue to draw a large number of attendees, including legislative representatives, interested members of the public, and organizations focused on pesticides and pesticide reduction.

E. NEW BUSINESS

S. Ward asked T. LaScola how the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) program in cranberries was. She responded that a pre-season meeting was held and that a summary of last years work was provided to the MDAR.

R. Berman asked what the status of 333 CMR Section 13 was. T. LaScola stated MDAR is still working on drafting changes. She explained that the Board members and the public will have multiple opportunities to review draft language, ask questions, make suggestions, and discuss concerns before the draft proceeds to public hearing.

She stated that she will keep track of Councils recommendations and concerns and will recirculate the recommendations to Board members when the applicable sections of the draft regulations come before the Board for discussion.

H. ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn: J. Looney

Second: S. Ward

Discussion: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

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](#).