

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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PESTICIDE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 29, 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
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 Luneburg, 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 MARCH 25, 2025:

Motion to Approve the Minutes: J. Looney

Second: S. Ward

Discussion: None

In Favor: A. Randle, M. Blanchet, M. Moore, M. Marold, K. Romero, E. Seaborn, R. Berman, S. Ward, J. Looney, N. Bloor, B. Luneburg

Abstain: R. Malfi

Opposed: None

B. INTRODUCTION OF NEW PESTICIDE BOARD MEMBERS

A. Randle welcomed the three new Pesticide Board ("Board") members and asked them to introduce themselves to the rest of the Board.

Rosemary Malfi: She has a research background in pollinator health and moved onto pollinator and pesticide policy with Northeast Organic Farming Association. She currently works for the Xerces Society as the policy director and has served on the Conservationist Pesticide Applicator Advisory Council prior to being appointed as a Board member.

Nicole Bloor: She is a retired physician for internal medicine.

Brita Luneburg: She is a physician in internal medicine and infectious disease. She also serves as the Chair of the environmental and occupational health committee of the Massachusetts Medical Society and has participated in work regarding policy in pesticide use and schools.

C. PESTICIDE PROGRAM UPDATES, TARYN LASCOLA

Rodenticide Scientific Review: The draft Phase 1 report was provided to the Pesticide Board Subcommittee ("Subcommittee") during the April meeting. A two-week comment period was held after the meeting where people were asked to submit comments on the review itself. Many comments were received, most of them being in opposition to rodenticides and some related to the review. ERG reviewed the comments and adjusted the report which primarily consisted of adding stakeholders to the stakeholder list. Phase 1 has been completed and posted online. ERG is currently working on Phase 2.

N. Bloor stated that she noticed that there were only two towns referenced as using other methods of control other than rodenticides. She noted that she was aware there were additional towns that should be contacted. She asked if those towns could be added as stakeholders. T. LaScola replied that it was too late for them to be added, but that the information could be submitted through the public comment period that will be held for the draft of Phase 2.

Open Conservationist Advisory Council Member Seat: Since R. Malfi is now a Board member, there is an open seat for this Council. T. LaScola will be putting out a call for interested parties to fill the seat.

Aerial Exam Process: During the last meeting, S. Ward asked about the process of obtaining the aerial license in the private industry. At the time, an individual needed to take the core license exam prior to taking the aerial certification license despite already having a private certification license. That was due to an issue in the system. That has been fixed so now if an individual has a private certification license for two years they can and take the aerial certification exam without having to take the core license exam.

FIFRA Funding: T. LaScola noted that one of the recent federal budget proposals made by the President cut funding for the pesticide programs. She noted that all states received funds from EPA to assist in the implementation of their pesticide program, including Massachusetts.

R. Berman asked how much funding MDAR receives. T. LaScola replied that it varies but it generally makes up 20-30% of the pesticide program budget.

D. SELECTION OF PESTICIDE APPLICATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

A. Randle reminded the Board that at the last meeting three individuals were interviewed for the open seat on the Pesticide Applicator Pesticide Advisory Council (Justin Marchand, Timothy Strano, Phil Perron and Jason Carota). A. Randle also indicated that Bob Mann and Bob Leon submitted their letters of intent to continue to serve on the Council as their terms had ended.

Motion to select Jason Carota, Bob Mann, and Bob Leon for the Council seats: R. Berman

Second: S. Ward

Discussion: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

C. CONSERVATIONIST PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE, C. RICHMOND

C. Richmond stated that the Council had met three times since the last Board meeting with the discussions revolving around making recommendations regarding the notification requirements. The recommendations were provided by the Board. They covered 333 CMR 13.06 and 333 CMR 13.08. The Council believes these recommendations could apply to all of 333 CMR 13 and that the public and workers have the right to know what pesticides are being used.

M. Marold asked if the Council discussed how to define an abutter. C. Richmond stated that they did discuss it and recognize that there are a lot of different types of properties/building etc and would hope that the Board/MDAR would look at that issue further.

E. Seaborn asked what the expectations were for notifying the neighbors of that recommendation. C. Richmond stated that the intent was that the neighbor be notified prior to the application so that the neighbors may be able to discuss precautions that may be taken prior to the application or be able to link any possible negative effects to an application.

M. Marold stated that she thinks that there are a lot of things with these recommendations that need to be thought through when considering (how notification is provided, distance, etc). She understands that someone to know what is being applied to be able to take precautions but stated there may be more complex situations where it would be difficult to notify or the purpose for notification is not valid/needed.

J. Looney asked about how notification works for larger neighbor situations like condominium situations, nursing homes, schools, etc.

T. LaScola stated that when the draft updates of the regulations are ready for the Board to review, MDAR will be sending the recommendations along with the draft regulations so that the Board can be reminded of any comments the Councils have on the relevant regulations.

C. Richmond added that the Council has been following pre-emption at the federal level.

G. NEW BUSINESS

S. Ward suggested that there be a Board meeting on a farm in the future. R. Berman suggested that with three new Board members, MDAR provided an overview of the pesticide program.

H. ADJOURN

Motion: J. Looney

Second: Brita Luneburg

Discussion: None

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

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