

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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

**Zoom Meeting:** <https://zoom.us/j/7991372664?pwd=N2k4d0JTSWsyMzZDelFlemZ0cXhlZz09>

Meeting ID: 799 137 2664

Password: 292099

**Call In:** (646)558-8656 / 799 137 2664

Password: 292099

#### **A. ROLL CALL**

Bob Leon, General Environmental Services & New England Pest Management Association	Present
George Williams, Univar	Present
Russ Bragg, Tree Tech	Present
Jared DeBettencourt, Minute Man Pest Control	Present
Bob Mann, National Landscape Association of Landscape Professionals	Present

The Council did meet or exceed the minimum number (3) of members present to form a quorum and conduct business.

#### **OTHER INDIVIDUALS PRESENT:**

Taryn LaScola-Miner, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
Various participants from industry

#### **DOCUMENT(S) PRESENTED:**

Agenda  
Draft minutes from the November 14, 2019 meeting

#### **B. REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

**Motion:** G. Williams to accept  
**Second:** B. Mann  
**In Favor:** All  
**Opposed:** None

#### **C. COVID PESTICIDE PROGRAM UPDATE**

T. LaScola-Miner provided program updates to the Council.

#### **Pesticide Exams**

The Department cancelled exams beginning March 13<sup>th</sup> due to COVID. The Department continues to explore options to provide exams and is exploring an online exam proctoring services as a long term solution. The public

that attended the meeting voiced their concerns and frustration relative to the fact that exams were not being given. There was much discussion from the public that joined the meeting asking about alternate ways to provide the exam or offer licenses such as:

- Individuals receive training and then receive a temporary license
- Allowing companies to proctor the exams themselves
- Reciprocal licenses

T.LaScola-Miner addressed each of these alternatives and explained that the Department is not comfortable with the first two alternatives due to security and integrity of the program and its regulated community. The third option is not an option as the regulations require that in order to allow reciprocity the state in which the reciprocal license is from needs to reciprocate with MA.

The Department had recently released a pesticide bulletin that would allow for an individual with an expired license (2017 and 2018) to have their license reinstated.

#### Status of Pesticide Program

T. LaScola stated that the pesticide program is continuing as normal. Licenses and pesticide products continue to be renewed and registered. The enforcement team has scaled back some of their inspections but is still following up on complaints.

#### **D. PESTICIDE PROGRAM UPDATES**

##### Complaints Numbers since February 14, 2020:

There have been eleven complaints since the previous Advisory Council meeting.

#### **E. 333CMR, Section 10 Update/Review**

T. LaScola-Miner reviewed the changes that were made in the first draft of the section 10 regulations. The updates included:

- Require a license to apply 25b products commercially
- Exempt anti-microbial applications from licensing requirements
- Eliminated and combined some certification categories:
- Added language to allow someone with a category in another state to NOT have to take the core exam before taking the cert exams
- Exempted the "Direct Supervision" requirements if someone is on site during the application
- Put PACE policy into regulation
- Put online CEU limit into regulation
- Add an emergency exemption for reciprocity
- Added elements to record keeping requirements

T.LaScola-Miner asked the Advisory Council if they had any suggestions relative to the insurance requirements as they are old. G. Williams stated he would send some information to her.

There was also discussion among the Advisory Council and the public about the fact that there are no licensing requirements for an individual using disinfectants/antimicrobials. A comparison was made to the fact that the Department added a license requirement for a 25b minimum risk products (exempt from registration) to be used but the Department was not requiring a license for registered antimicrobials to be used. The Advisory Council indicated that the Department should look into the idea.

#### **E. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business brought up.

**F. PROPOSED DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date was potentially scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**G. ADJOURN**

**Motion:** R. Bragg motioned to adjourned

**Second:** J. Debettencourt

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None