

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 26, 2020

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/7991372664?pwd=N2k4d0JTSWsyMzZDelfFlemZ0cXhlZz09>

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, Veseris	Present
Russ Bragg, Tree Tech	Absent
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
Tim Deschamps, Central Mass Mosquito
Jane Rascal, EcoHealth Advocates
Pine duBois, Jones River Watershed Association
Robyn Januszewski, Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control
Priscilla Matton, Bristol County Mosquito Control Project
Gabrielle Sakolsky : Gabrielle Sakolsky, Cape Cod Mosquito Control
Clint Richmond, Mass. Sierra Club
Tim Deschamps, Central Mass Mosquito Control
Marty Dagoberto L. Driggs, NOFA/Mass
Karen Connelly, Mass. Assoc. of Lawn Care Professionals

DOCUMENT(S) PRESENTED:

Agenda
Draft minutes from the May 15, 2020 meeting

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Motion: G. Williams motion to accept the minutes provided that the location be changed from the Department of Fish and Wildlife to the Zoom call information.

Second: B. Mann

In favor: All

C. PESTICIDE PROGRAM UPDATES, T.LASCOLA-MINER

T. LaScola-Miner provided program updates to the Council

Exams: The Department began giving pesticide exams in vehicles starting week of June 16th. Two exams per location at two locations twice a week. The locations of the exams is being held in Auburn and Agawam. The Department is only allowing 20 cars per exam but the Department should caught up with the back log of exams the following week. Overall, there were approximately 175 people that decided to not take the exam and 75 people that the Department has not heard from despite the considerable outreach that was done. The Department is beginning to plan on how to provide new exams and is in the process of hiring a contractor to put the exams online.

Complaints: There had been an additional nine (9) complaints since the last meeting. The complaints consisted of allegations of drift and pesticide misuse. The allegations were primarily around Mosquito/tick and lawncare applications, but there were some neighbor against neighbor complaints as well. Jane Rascal from EcoHealth Advocates asked if private companies and mosquito control districts are required to prevent/control drift when making applications. T. LaScola-Miner stated that there are regulations that are in place relative to drift (ie: following label directions and operating in a careful manner) by private companies. She also explained that the mosquito control districts are not allowed to drift onto excluded properties. There was additional discussion amongst the council members and T.LaScola-Miner about drift and how drift complaints are followed up by the Department

D. 333CMR SECTION 9 REGULATIONS UPDATES, T.LASCOLA-MINER

T. LaScola-Miner provided an overview of the changes that were made to this section. She explained that the section had to be updated to comply with the new Federal Certification and Training Rule. Additions made were minimal and included name and address of the purchaser or the company.

E. ANTIMICROBIAL/DISINFECTANTS, BOB LEON

Given COVID-19 and the fact that companies are getting into business using antimicrobials/disinfectants, B. Leon would like to explore the requirement of a license to use antimicrobial/disinfectants commercially. G. Williams and J. Bettencourt concurred that they believe there should be a license requirement. There was discussion about which types of services using antimicrobials would be required to obtain a license. The council asked that information as to what other states do be obtained for further discussion.

F. BILL 2757, BOB MANN

B. Mann wanted to know what the background/context was relative to this piece of legislation. He was concerned about the effects on the Department and any pesticide pre-emption laws. T. LaScola-Miner explained the legislation would allow the Massachusetts State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board to conduct work in towns that are not part of a Mosquito Control District if there was an elevated risk of arbovirus.

T. Deschamps from the Central Mass Mosquito Control District explained that the original language was very brief but had since been expanded to contain language about a Mosquito Control Task Force. He expressed his concern for some of the items within the legislation.

G. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought up.

H. PROPOSED DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date was potentially scheduled for September 25th, 2020.

G. ADJOURN

Motion: B. Mann

Second: G. Williams

In Favor: All