

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



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PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 25, 2020

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/7991372664?pwd=N2k4d0JTSWsyMzZDeFllemZ0cXhIZz09>

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	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.

DOCUMENT(S) PRESENTED:

Agenda

Draft minutes from the meeting

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Motion: G. Williams

Second: R. Bragg

In favor: All

C. PESTICIDE PROGRAM UPDATES, T.LASCOLA-MINER

T. LaScola-Miner provided program updates to the Council

Online Exams: The Department held a call with the pesticide industry associations and licensed dealers to discuss the online exams and some of the challenges it has so that they may assist their members/customers. Some of the challenges with the exam include:

- Camera is needed
- Google Chrome is needed for the browser
- A phone and tablet cannot be used

T.LaScola-Miner explained that individuals will have to create an account through the current system (EIPAS/ePortal) and that they will continue to maintain their license in that system. Once an individual registers for the exam, the individual will be sent links to the online exam. The exam can be taken any day of the week and any time of day. There is an additional fee to take the exam (\$25-\$30). There is a tutorial that people will have to sit through before they take the exam. Some of the features that this system offers are:

- Embedded label
- Flagging skipped questions
- Photo ID required
- 360 degree view of the room
- Artificial intelligence will be monitoring the individual and will flag any cheating behavior.

The results are sent to the Department. Notification of the results and issuance of the license will stay the same as it has.

Continuing Education Units: The Department sent out a notice to license holders informing them that when they renew their license, they will be asked to upload any credits that they have received.

T.LaScola-Miner explained that during the renewal process an individual will be prompted to upload their credits. If the individuals' three-year cycle ends during the renewal year, then they will have to upload credits before moving along to renew their license.

Complaints: There have been 29 complaints reported to the Department since the last Pesticide Advisory Council meeting. They comprise of drift, misapplication, and wrong addresses mainly within in the lawncare/tree industry.

Antimicrobial Information: T. LaScola-Miner reported on her findings as to what other states do relative to licensing for anti-microbial applications. The state of Maine seems to have the clearest requirement in that it exempts general cleaning companies from the license requirement. New Hampshire and Vermont also had licensing requirements.

T.LaScola-Miner suggested that if the Advisory Council was in favor of requiring a license to apply anti-microbial applications that they bring it to the Pesticide Board and vote on it. B. Leon asked the Advisory Council to think about this issue and they could discuss at future meetings.

D. ONLINE CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEU), B.LEON

B. Leon stated that a number of individuals had been asking about the online CEU policy for 2021. He asked if the Department had thought about allowing for all CEU's to be obtained online for 2021. T. LaScola-Miner stated that the Department will discuss if that allowance will be extended to 2021 and it will also be discussing what the online training protocol will be going forward.

E. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought up.

F. PROPOSED DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date was tentatively scheduled for December 11, 2020.

G. ADJOURN

Motion: B. Mann

Second: G. Williams

In Favor: All