**VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS (VAAFM)**

**VERMONT PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL (VPAC)**

**NOVEMBER 20, 2019 MEETING MINUTES – “DRAFT -SUBJECT TO APPROVAL”**

**AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, 116 STATE ST, MONTPELIER, VT 05620**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE MEMBERS ABSENT GUESTS**

Ballard, Katie Bosworth, Sid Boccuzzo, Linda (VAAFM)

Bosworth, Sid  Cummings, Erica (VAAFM)

Giguere, Cary Casey, Patti (VAAFM)

Hazelrigg, Ann Knight, Sylvia (Earth Community Advocate)

Levey, Rick Stander, Andrea (Rural Vermont)

Palmer, Eric

Royer, Liz

Shively, Andy

Shultz, Barbara

Vose, Sarah

**Meeting Called to Order Meeting Adjourned**

9:03 am EST 10:55 am

**Public Comment**

Sylvia Knight had a question about a jump in glyphosate use reported in 2016. Cary Giguere explained that there were issues when importing usage data into the new database. The Agency PHARM staff are currently reviewing usage data from 2010-2017 and correcting errors. Updated usage amounts will be available by the end of the year. It was suggested, the increased use could be partially attributed to the adoption of no-till and reduce tillage practices during that time.

**Business**

Sarah Vose received a complaint about the of smell of new railroad ties, the odor could be smelled within the complainant’s house. Currently there aren’t best management practices (BMPs) for railroad tie storage.

Andy Shively suggested involving the railroad companies to discuss.

Rick Levey suggested asking the railroads to the next VPAC meeting to discuss railroad tie storage concerns.

Andy Shively will reach out the railroads and invite them to the next meeting.

Patti Casey- Gave an update of the vector surveillance program:

* 2019 - No EEE found in human, horse, or mosquito pools in the state but found in several surrounding states
* Deer tick populations were 2x higher in 2019
* Found Asian Tiger mosquitos in Southern Vermont-Tropical species that can carry Zika among other diseases, don’t think it will overwinter.

The Mosquito Control Districts in Vermont participated in a 3-day training on larvicide resistance monitoring.

BLSG mosquito control district used more adulticide than larvicide in 2019, which brought up questions about whether the Agency funds adulticide applications. State statute only allows funding for larvicide. Towns are responsible for adulticide applications.

Questions arose about adulticide resistance management and the use of malathion as an alternative and its impacts on human health and endangered species.

Sarah Vose reported that the Health Department received half a dozen calls in 2019 concerning the use of malathion.

Patti Casey- updated Board on the Surface and groundwater sampling in 2019:

* ~400 samples over 179 sites
* Glyphosate; 2019 = 152 and over 400 historic water samples, all were non-detect
* There were a few surface and groundwater samples that trace levels of corn herbicides were detected, primarily in areas of high agricultural use.

Erica Cummings gave an update on neonicotinoids in Vermont (see attached).

Barbara Schultz gave an update on emerald ash bored (EAB) and forest health

* EAB had been found in 10 towns, 8 counties-probably more…
* Hard to detect, likes stressed trees
* Don’t know the long-term effects on VT forests
* Trying to slow the spread by identifying where ash populations are and where EAB has been found.
* Can treat trees to prevent the spread of EAB; Azadirachtin and Abamectin-benzoate -neonicotinoids are not recommended
* Ash are wind pollinated therefore ash in a 10-mile radius should be treated.
* 1% of the ash are resistant to EAB -Program to save seed to preserve genetics.

Liz Royer- Act 21, toxics in municipal water systems

* PFA sampling in public schools
* 590 sampled, 295 results received – 3 systems, > 20ppt
* Ski and floor wax likely contaminant of PFAs
* Concern over ability for small towns to monitor toxins due to the cost of testing

Cary Giguere gave a brief update on hemp. Currently there are no pesticides registered by the EPA for hemp. The Agency has drafted a list of active ingredients that could be used on hemp; <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/PHARM/hemp/Hemp%20products.pdf>

No updates on VPAC Board vacancies.

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