

VERMONT PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL
March 26, 2014 MEETING MINUES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bosworth, Sid
Decker, Kathy
Gary, Lené
Giguere, Cary
Hoffman-Contois, Razelle (Chair)
Levey, Rick
LaValley, Jenn (Admin)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Palmer, Eric

GUESTS

Alan Graham
Jesse Fries
Elise Haydon
Sylvia Knight
Nancy Rehm
Jonah Richmond
Lesly Wright

Meeting Called to Order

1:16 pm EDT

Meeting Adjourned

4:45 pm EDT

Announcements and General Business

- Minutes of the February 19, 2014 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved (C. Giguere moved, L. Gary seconded). These will be posted to the VPAC SharePoint site.
- Jenn LaValley, VPAC Administrative Coordinator, continues to improve the VPAC SharePoint site. Right of Way permit applications submitted for consideration at the April 2014 meeting are posted to the site as received. Please continue to send documents for posting or requests for removal of posted materials directly Razelle as she and Jenn will work together to keep the Share running smoothly. Council members, and others who request to be on the distribution list, will be notified by e-mail as documents are posted. The VPAC webpage http://agriculture.vermont.gov/pesticide_regulation/vpac includes a list of meeting dates/times/locations and a link to the VPAC Share <https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/agriculture/vpac>.
- Razelle announced that Crag Digiamarrino notified her that a new VTRANS representative to Council has been identified.

Public Comment

-Sylvia Knight presented a PowerPoint presentation on concerns regarding potential cumulative effects of pesticide use in Right of Ways (ROWs). The Council was encouraged to consider use in ROWs and watersheds in a holistic manner (including how buffers and other permit conditions may impact entire watersheds) and asked to keep protection of waters in mind during discussions regarding potential updates to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Pesticide Regulations.

-Elise Hayden and Leslie Wright addressed the Council with concerns regarding mosquito control efforts in the Brandon/Leicester/Salisbury/Goshen Mosquito Control District (MCD). The MCD conducts mosquito adulticide spraying based on nuisance complaints. Detailed concerns were raised regarding 2013 activities which used a product containing the organophosphate active ingredient malathion and potential future activities including, but not limited to: potential introduction of pesticides into waterbodies and impact to aquatic organisms; establishment of buffer distances; the potential for repeat human exposure over several months of treatments and potential health implications; input into selection of active ingredient; notification and no spray zone communication; the criteria used to determine when treatment for nuisance conditions may occur; the desire for increased regulatory oversight and accountability and that adulticide activities be part of a formal permitting program such as currently exists for larviciding activities. Cary Giguere explained the existing structure of the MCD adulticing program and that authority resides with the Municipalities who may hire any licensed applicator to use a registered adulticide product. Razelle asked if the use of adulticide products for this purpose could be reviewed by the Council. Cary explained the Council has no authority to make any changes. Rick Levey believes the Pesticide General Permit may have some provisions that could be of assistance. Alan Graham noted that mosquitoes in this MCD are a big issue and hopes that increased larviciding efforts will help decrease adult populations. As decisions regarding land based adulticiding reside with the MCD, it was recommended that these concerns be raised on the local level with the Select Board. The option of requesting the program be restructured to an "opt in" format was discussed. The Council was queried regarding the stringency of requirements necessary to become a certified applicator. Increased outreach and education were requested. Cary Giguere offered to facilitate a meeting with the MCD Board. Ms. Wright expressed that she will focus and increase her efforts on both the local level and with the local legislator.

Nancy Rehm expressed concerns regarding the current pesticide application notification process for those who live in condominiums. Cary Giguere acknowledged the existing "condominium conundrum" and has editing the AAFM Pesticide Regulations to require that notification be provided to all tenants/occupants not just owners or management offices.

Business

Mosquito Control – A look back at 2013 and a look ahead to 2014- Presentation by Alan Graham, AAFM, State Entomologist
An overview of activities conducted and results was presented. It was noted that some nuisance mosquito species are secondary vectors of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus. Alan described the 4 instar stages of mosquito larvae development and that treatment must occur whilst in the first or second instar.

AAFM Pesticide Regulation proposed revisions continued discussion – Matt Wood, AAFM spoke at length with the Council regarding the current and proposed edits to the Golf Course Permit Program portion of the Regulation. Kathy Decker noted that wetland classifications may need to be updated. The best way to ensure that reasonable and appropriate dilution calculation approaches are employed was

extensively discussed. Razelle had previously researched and provided information to the Council regarding groundwater reference values. If the intent is to prevent degradation of groundwater quality, it would be appropriate to retain comparison to Preventative Action Levels as provided in Appendix One of the Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy. There was extensive discussion of the best approach for incorporating enforceable buffer distances and the origin of existing buffers. Cary Giguere agreed to work on putting together a chart of water sampling results related to impounded surface waters wholly on golf course property and those not wholly contained. Rick Levey will check to see if updates to wetland classifications and buffer distances are warranted. It was agreed that the Council will play an important role in developing procedures for an updated Golf Course Permitting Program.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 30, 2014 1pm in Montpelier - National Life Building Room M240.