

**VERMONT PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL (VPAC)**  
**July 9, 2014 MEETING MINUES**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Decker, Kathy (via phone)  
Gary, Lené  
Giguere, Cary  
Hoffman-Contois, Razelle (Chair)  
Levey, Rick

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Bosworth, Sid  
Palmer, Eric  
LaValley, Jenn (Admin)

**GUESTS**

John Snell  
Robert Wright  
Sylvia Knight

**Meeting Called to Order**

1:20 pm EDT

**Meeting Adjourned**

3:00 pm EDT

**Announcements**

- Razelle Hoffman-Contois informed the Council that as discussed and voted upon at the May 28, 2014 meeting, a note was sent to Secretary Ross with the Council recommendation that Cocobear™ Mosquito Larvicide be added to the Mosquito Larvicide Permit in place of the monomolecular film product Agnique® which is no longer being produced. The caveat being that the same restrictions for use of Agnique are included for the Cocobear product. She also shared that per the Council discussion and vote, a second note, offering support for a small scale pilot study with the Natular G30 larvicide product was provide to the Secretary. Members of the Council discussed ways of providing training regarding identification of vernal pools for the Mosquito Control Districts. Outreach at the annual Control District meeting was deemed a potentially viable option.
- Several Council members noted that Eastern Equine Encephalitis was recently detected in a mosquito trapped in the Grand Isle area. Cary Giguere noted this is the earliest detection of such in New England and has led to an intensive survey effort over the last few days.
- Cary reported that the U.S. EPA Region I Chlorpyrifos Remediation Team is in the process of demobilizing and departing. Remediation of almost 2 dozen homes has been conducted. Some clearance samples are pending.
- Cary noted there have been reports that levels of clopyralid are being detected in some food scraps such as pizza, pasta and other small grain products that while well below tolerance levels or of potential concern for public health, may impact plants. This may be of increased interest as Act 148 takes effect.
- Cary noted that discussion is still underway with to secure a member for the public agriculture seat on the Council.
- Minutes from the May 28, 2014 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved. (R. Levey moved, L. Gary seconded). Will be posted to the VPAC Sharesite.
- VPAC SharePoint site continues to evolve. Documents for posting or requests for removal of posted materials should be sent directly Razelle or Jenn LaValley as they are working 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](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/pesticide_regulation/vpac) includes a list of meeting dates/times/locations as well as a link to the VPAC Share site <https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/agriculture/vpac> .

**Public Comment**

Sylvia Knight reported on a recent site visit to the Charlotte Substation by several stakeholders including representatives from the community, Department of Environmental Conservation and VELCO. A description of discussions regarding timing of reports related to the Public Service Board order and plant species inventory effort was provided.

**Business**

**Alternative Railroad Vegetation Management – Past, Present and Future**

In response to the large stakeholder turnout at the May 6, 2014 meeting and desire expressed by many to investigate the potential for alternative, non-chemical means of control on an approximately 3 mile stretch of track that runs through Montpelier, the balance of the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting was devoted to this topic including a review of past efforts, current practices and discussion of potential paths forward with interested parties. Razelle provided a brief description of concerns and efforts that had occurred in the 1990s, including the now defunct Infra-Red Weed Burner. Lené Gary provided an overview of the VPAC Railroad Vegetation Management Workgroup convened in 2004, of she was chair, and the resulting Integrated Vegetation Management Plan produced for the Vermont Rail Systems effective 2006-2011. Cary assisted describing the history of these efforts, problems encountered, potential advancements and current options that may be of interest. After much discussion, agreed that Cary would arrange for a meeting with representatives from the Vermont Rail Systems, himself, John Snell and Razelle to discuss potential options for managing vegetation along the stretch of current interest. Razelle emphasized the need to keep a tight focus on such discussions and any pilot projects. If a pilot is conducted and deemed successful and potentially sustainable, at that time a larger scale discussion could occur. This approach seemed agreeable to all present and Cary will move forward to set up such a meeting in the near future. It was recommended that Andy Shively AOT and former VPAC member be included in such discussions.

Next VPAC meeting: October 1, 2014 1 pm National Life Building Winooski Room M240