

VERMONT PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL (VPAC)

March 26, 2015 MEETING MINUES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Darrow, Casey

GUESTS

Michael Bald
Patti Casey
Alan Graham
Sylvia Knight
Bob Wright
Eliza Woulp

Meeting Called to Order

1:12 pm EDT

Meeting Adjourned

4:39 pm EDT

Announcements

- Minutes from the February 25, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved with correction of a typo (C. Giguere moved, R. Levey seconded; S. Bosworth and E. Palmer abstained as absent from 2/25 meeting). Final minutes will be posted to the VPAC SharePoint site.
- Cary announced that Ann Hazelrigg of the UVM Experimental Station will soon join the Council. The Vermont Agency of Transportation and UVM Medical School seats remain open. Sylvia Knight suggested it may be helpful to broaden the requirement so that the latter may be a member of the “medical community” not specifically from the UVM Medical School.
- Razelle reported on exploratory conversations with Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security regarding potential use of the VT ALERT all-hazards and notification web-based portal as a tool for public notification regarding pesticide treatment in rights of way. The Council supported continued investigation. Razelle and Cary will meet with DEMHS to pursue further and report back to the Council. VT Alert home page <http://www.vtalert.gov/Public/SiteText/SiteTextDisplay.aspx?text=AboutSite>
- Razelle shared the March 20, 2015 International Agency for Research on Cancer’s (IARC) classification of the herbicide glyphosate as Group 2A *probably carcinogenic to humans* based on animal data. Details of the evaluation will be published as part of Volume 112 of the IARC monographs. A 1993 Reregistration Eligibility Decision by EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs notes glyphosate as Class E; evidence of non-carcinogenicity in humans.
- Status of Council inquiry regarding efficacy of Natular G®- As agreed, Razelle had provided the Council with draft language describing the concern, proposed course of action and proposed amendment of the 2013 recommendation. Alan Graham, state entomologist, reported that the registrant has not yet provided sufficient information to address questions regarding efficacy that the Council has raised. With a minor text edit, the Council agreed that the statement outlining the Council’s concerns and revised recommendation be provided to Cary Giguere for discussion with the Secretary of AAFM.
- Razelle noted the request from Alan Graham for the addition of the mosquito larvicide product Aquabac® (200G) to the Mosquito Larvicide Permit Application Procedure. Alan reported that this product contains the same active ingredient (*Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis*) as Vectobac G® (currently in the Procedure) but has competitive pricing. Rick reported good information is available on non-target impacts. Razelle noted that a confidential statement of formulation would need to be provided to Dr. Sarah Vose, State Toxicologist, for a review of inerts prior to inclusion.
- VPAC SharePoint site continues to evolve. Rights of Way permit applications are being uploaded as received. Please send any suggestions for improvement or documents for posting to Razelle.

Business

Mosquito Control – Continuation of Discussion from February 25, 2015 meeting

The Council explored the idea of establishing a permit program for adulticiding. Key questions to be addressed include, but are not limited to, determining what activities and entities would be regulated, what the process would entail, products that might be considered, notification and record keeping requirements and if an Integrated Pest Management component would be included. A general discussion regarding treatment criteria (thresholds), monitoring requirements and best management practices and modes of application ensued. Rick will send the American Mosquito Control Association’s Best Management Practices guide to Razelle for distribution to the Council. Cary noted that one issue that’s recently been identified is the lack of assistance for citizens with concerns/complaints regarding adulticiding practices. Lené described the approach currently used in Austin Texas. Alan described the reasons that different chemistry/products are chosen for adulticiding including temperature requirements for application and efficacy that varies between chemicals and the goal of preventing development of resistance. The Council unanimously supported pursuing development of a permit process related to adulticiding. What the program would look like needs to be developed. Cary was asked to develop a rough sketch for future discussion. Cary, Razelle, Lené, Rick, Patti Casey and Alan Graham agreed to be on a subcommittee devoted to this topic. Eric Palmer exited the meeting upon conclusion of this discussion at 2:30 pm.

Pollinator Protection

Cary led the Council through a detailed review of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets report *Neonicotinoid Pesticides; Safety and Use* dated January 27, 2015. There was detailed discussion of the graphics presented; actions taken in Oregon and the European Union; potential legislation that would allow Vermont to have authority over treated articles including corn seed treated with neonicotinoids outside of Vermont but used within and treated telephone poles as well as many other aspects. If treated article legislation is enacted, Vermont would be the first state to obtain such authority. Razelle advised the Council that the information presented in *A Preliminary Investigation of Pesticides in Vermont Pollen: 2012* by AAFM is included in the January 2015 document.

Public Comment

Sylvia Knight made a presentation about potential watershed management in Vermont and described her vision for VPAC's role. Ms. Knight also summarized her research on the herbicide glyphosate and shared her concerns including the potential for phosphorous loading in Lake Champlain and the recent IARC weight of evidence classification. She would like to see more consideration given to the use of this chemical in rights of way that are near water. Rick offered statistics about other sources of phosphorous, including fertilizer and manure, that illustrate use of glyphosate is a very small contribution to the overall phosphorous load on the Lake. This led to a general discussion with the Council regarding homeowner use, how to monitor such and how to estimate the sales of pesticides for homeowner use in general. Sid suggested that glyphosate use is not of great concern near water if there is organic matter that that this chemical can immediately bind to, such as soil or railroad ballast.

Next Meeting: April 28, 2015 10 am EDT Montpelier National Life Building Catamount Room

Agenda: Review of 2015 Permit Applications to Conduct Treatments within Rights of Way