

**Pesticide Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

April 17, 2009, 9:30 a.m.

Gordon Guyer Conference Room, MDA Geagley Laboratory

Present: Ken Rauscher, Carolyn Randall, Bob Pigg, William Weil, Joe Bondra, Michelle Bogner, Bob England, Brian Rowe, Bruce Walker, Gary King, Abby Schwartz, Roger Wabeke, Rachel Udow, and John Buchweitz

The meeting opened with introductions and the committee reviewed the agenda. The group agreed to add an item regarding aquatic herbicide applications and national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permits.

Ken Rauscher introduced John Buchweitz, who is the new toxicologist hired in March by the MDA through a federal Food and Drug Administration grant. Dr. Buchweitz is based in the MDA Emergency Management section and will focus on food safety issues. Dr. Buchweitz can be reached by phone at: 517/241-4648. His e-mail address is: buchweitzj@michigan.gov

Ken spoke briefly about budget issues. He indicated the department has a committee that is currently reviewing all MDA programs. The Lt. Governor is also looking at all departments for possible consolidation. State revenues are down approximately 22 percent.

In connection with the reorganization efforts, Ken reminded the committee that the governor's office has now twice recommended that the PAC be eliminated. MDA has responded with information on why the PAC is a valuable part of the effort to review and advise the MDA on pesticide-related issues. Ken said that MDA wants to review the purpose of the committee, how it works, and how can it be a more active player in pesticide issues. Ken has arranged for Michelle Napier-Dunnings, from Pearl Partners, to work with the PAC at its July 17 meeting to look into some of these issues. The meeting will be a group planning and development session facilitated by Ms. Natpier-Dunnings..

Ken said that gypsy moth populations in the state are low. He indicated this is due to the biocontrol organisms that have worked well to control the gypsy moth populations. As a result, there will once again be no statewide suppression program this year. A few counties may run their own suppression programs.

Brian Rowe discussed recruiting new members for the PAC. Previously the appointment process as directed by the governor's office was difficult and time-consuming, and as a result we were not able to add a single member. A decision has been made by the governor to return to the previous process for state committee appointment which means we should be able to fill some committee vacancies much faster. Current openings on the committee are for: licensed outdoor commercial applicators, non-governmental organizations for environmental preservation, and agricultural chemical industry. Brian will send letters to organizations asking for

committee volunteers. If members have any suggestions for members, please notify Brian Rowe as soon as possible.

Abby Schwartz presented the pesticide surveillance update. Her office has added new codes to identify factors contributing to a pesticide exposure (e.g., drift, early re-entry, inadequate ventilation). It will be some time before she has much data with these codes, as there are no plans to assign these codes to previous cases. The data Abby reports comes mostly from the Poison Control Center (80%), meaning information about pesticide exposure incidents is more than likely under-reported because most pesticide exposure cases are never reported to a poison control center. Abby discussed future webinar programs with physicians. Rachel Uden, Farmworker Legal Services, further informed the PAC about information that will be contained in the programs relating to outreach to migrant workers.

Carolyn Randall gave an update on the MSUE Pesticide Education Program. She has been working on major updates of the turfgrass and ornamental pest management manuals. A suggestion was made to add pesticide safety and laws and regulations in these manuals. She is also working on translating the national core manual into Spanish and hopes to have it ready by August for the North American Pesticide Applicator Certification and Safety Education Workshop. Carolyn along with Larry Swain have held a number of comprehensive core training classes. Carolyn distributed a copy of the Second Quarter Report, the Pesticide Safety Education Program Comprehensive Core Training information, Private and Commercial Sprayer Calibration Course Evaluation, and Category 3A/3B Turf and Ornamental Update.

Brian Rowe discussed the pesticide notification registry that is mandated by Regulation 637. He informed the committee about the process for a person to be listed on the registry. The required medical diagnosis is protected under the Freedom of Information Act. The concern is that some doctors may have issues with completing the requested information for MDA. Recently Brian was in contact with a woman who was trying to get on the notification registry and was “dropped” by her doctor before he could sign the form indicating her need to be on the registry. Brian is looking for doctors willing to do pro bono or work at a reduced fee to diagnose people who want or need to be on the pesticide notification registry. Committee members gave him several suggestions (physicians from registry, Michigan Occupational Medical Association in Lansing, clinics at Henry Ford Hospital-Detroit, American Academy of Pediatrics – Michigan Chapter in Ann Arbor, and Michigan State Medical Society-East Lansing) for groups to contact. Brian indicated this is the first time that he is aware that this has happened. The current economic situation may affect an individual’s ability to pay for a medical diagnosis.

Roger Wabeke discussed quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs) and health risks related to them. These compounds were originally designed to be used as liquids, not as aerosols. They are not effective against molds, fungi, and related species, despite ongoing uses by the general public of QACs against these organisms. Roger said he has seen a lot of misuse in terms of foggers, misting, and other aerosolized versions of these products.

Roger presented a proposal he is sponsoring with Abby Schwartz to ban any use of QACs in systems dispensing them as aerosols or mists. Discussion followed

concerning protocol to get proposals out of the committee and to the MDA Director and MDA Commission.

The PAC decided that the most effective way to do this was to have a subcommittee gather more information about this topic, including information about the extent of the use of QACs in Michigan, and what the impacts of losing the use of aerosol forms of QACs might be. The subcommittee is made up of Roger Wabeke, Abby Schwartz, Bob Pigg, Bill Weil, Brian Rowe, John Buchweitz, and others as needed.

Gary King distributed the PPPM enforcement report. He noted that there has been an increase in the number of uncertified pesticide applicators and unlicensed businesses possibly due to the economic situation.

Brian Rowe discussed the misuse of golden malrin fly bait to treat a deer carcass in the Upper Peninsula as bait for wolves resulting in the death of two bald eagles. The referral for this case came from DNR.

Brian discussed the 6th Circuit Court ruling the use of pesticides in or around water. The ruling will require a national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit under the Clean Water Act even though the product use in or near water is allowed by FIFRA. The ruling has been appealed. ***Updated 7-17-09: A two year extension has been granted to the court so EPA can develop a generic NPDES permit for FIFRA registered uses of pesticides in or around water.***

The PAC approved the October 17, 2008 minutes with amendments.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 17 at the Geagley Lab. This will be an all day meeting facilitated by Michelle Napier-Dunnings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.