

Pesticide Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 20, 2012  
Gordon Guyer Conference Room, MDARD Geagley Laboratory  
1615 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI

Present: Abby Schwartz, Bob England, Michael Schiffer, Kara Moberg, Joe Bondra, Brian Rowe, John Stone, Russ Ives, Amy Frankmann, Elaine Clapp, Jeff Fischer, Sue Tangora and Mark Sargent (for Roger Mech), Tina Reynolds, Mark Varner, and Sandy Silsby. A quorum was present.

Committee Chair Brian Rowe welcomed attendees to the meeting. Introductions were made and the agenda was reviewed. Minutes from the January 20, 2012 meeting were reviewed with one minor edit proposed. A motion was made by Joe Bondra to approve the minutes (second by John Stone). Motion carried.

Remaining meeting dates for 2012, July 20, and Oct. 19. All meetings will be held in the Guyer Conference Room, at the Geagley Lab (address listed above) from 9:30 am to noon. Meetings are open to the public.

Brian announced that Kara Moberg's appointment to represent Farm Employees was approved by the director. Kara's appointment is for three years.

The committee welcomed Jeff Fischer as a new member representing the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Jeff's nomination by MDEQ is accepted by the director and his appointment is for three years. Jeff provided the following information regarding his experience with MDEQ:

- Jeff has a B.S. degree in Geological Science from MSU.
- His primary role at MDEQ is working with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program related to industrial and municipal water discharge. He has also led the work on general NPDES permits for pesticide use in water.
- Jeff provided a general overview of the MDEQ NPDES permit program.

The committee welcomed Mark Sargent and Sue Tangora who were representing Roger Mech as a new member from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Roger Mech's nomination by MDNR is accepted by the director and his appointment is for three years. Mark and Sue provided the following information relative to MDNR programs:

- MDEQ manages 4.5 million acres of public lands.
- Pesticide use does fit within management activities such as conservation and wildlife habitat programs, maintenance of recreational areas, and control of invasive species.
- MDEQ provides technical and financial assistance for forestry projects on private lands.
- As new chemistries are developed, MDEQ assesses their potential use on state land.
- MDEQ is developing best control practice fact sheets relative to invasive species. Sue and Mark offered MDARD the opportunity to review and comment on the fact sheets.

The committee welcomed Mark Varner of Bayer Crop Services and Sandy Silsby of Dove Ag Services, Inc. representing the Agricultural Chemical Industry. Mark and Sandy were nominated for appointment by the Michigan Agri-Business Association. Mark is the primary nominee but Sandy was also nominated as a backup to Mark in the event he is unable to attend a meeting.

Mark provided the following information:

- He grew up on a farm near Breckenridge, Michigan and graduated from MSU with a B.S. degree in Crop and Soil Sciences.
- Mark worked for several agricultural chemical businesses including Ciba-Geigy Corporation, DuPont Agricultural Products, and Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company which became Aventis Crop Science in 1999. Aventis was purchased by Bayer Crop Science in 2002. Mark's current position with Bayer Crop Science is Senior Technical Sales Specialist.
- Mark has been a Certified Crop Advisor since 1994.
- Mark has served on several committees for Michigan Agri-Business Association.

Sandy provided the following information:

- She and her husband Jon own Dove Ag Services, Inc., an agribusiness serving the needs of agricultural producers with inputs such as seed, fertilizer, and pesticides and commercial pesticide application services.
- Dove Ag Services also hosts producer meetings that provide training on pesticide use, worker protection standards, new federal pesticide container regulations, and various crop production practices.
- She is concerned that producers use pesticides safely and legally to assure a safe food supply.

The committee welcomed Elaine Clapp, Safety and Health Manager, for the General Industry Safety and Health Administration, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA). Elaine provided the following information relative to her experience working with MIOSHA:

- She has field industrial hygienist experience in all areas of the state conducting investigations related to employee exposures to pesticides.
- She has been the Safety and Health Manager for 9 years.
- She is currently the manager responsible for oversight of agricultural enforcement issues, including occupational exposures to agricultural pesticides.
- She represents MIOSHA on the Interagency Migrant Services Committee and the State Agency Directors Committee for MSFW.
- She coordinates MIOSHA activities with MSU, Department of Occupational Medicine related to occupational safety and health concerns, including referrals for employee exposures to pesticides in all types of workplaces.

After a brief recess, Mike Schiffer made a motion that the committee recommend to the director that Mark Varner/Sandy Silsby and Elaine Clapp be appointed to the committee (second by Joe Bondra). Motion carried.

**Action Item:** Brian will advise the director of the committee motion to recommend Mark Varner/Sandy Silsby and Elaine Clapp for appointment to the committee.

Brian shared a copy of the committee member list with proposed term expiration dates for long standing members that have been serving on the committee. According to committee business rules, reappointments may occur. Russ Ives moved to adopt the proposed committee member expiration dates (seconded by Bob England). Motion Carried.

The committee discussed the issue of shared responsibility for commercial application of pesticides. The issue centers on general practices in several sectors of the pesticide industry where commercial applicators accept work contracts without direct contact with the customer. This may produce a misapplication to the wrong application site or to properties where residents object to the application of pesticides. The committee discussed MIOSHA's policy document for enforcement activities relative to multi-employer work sites. The desire is to compile a committee recommendation to the department relative to enforcement activities associated with pesticide violations involving multiple parties. The committee recommended a subcommittee be formed to develop a proposal for review by the full committee. Subcommittee volunteers include Brian Rowe, Mike Schiffer, Bob England, Sandy Silsby, Gary King, and Tina Reynolds.

Reports from MDCH, MSU and MDARD included the following:

- Abby Schwartz (MDCH) reported that they are up to date on occupational exposure data entry, and reviewed the quarterly report. She described a case referred to MDARD that involved the use of a bug bomb in a vehicle.
- John Stone (MSU-PSEP) provided details on a number of pesticide applicator training programs he has or will be holding. He mentioned that several MSU extension offices are being closing making certification manuals less available at the local level. John noted that since the national core manual is available on-line, applicators are requesting to purchase only the core supplement.
- Gary reviewed the quarterly enforcement report and shared information on field activities related to pesticide producing establishment inspections and road patrol inspections. Gary announced the upcoming agricultural aviation operation SAFE (Self-regulating Applicator Flight Efficiency) clinic where aircraft are inspected and equipment is calibrated and characterized over a flight line.

Gina Alessandri provided the following Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division updates:

- Exported commodities may be affected by importing countries imposing maximum residue levels (MRL) that may be below established EPA residue tolerances. Growers need to understand the situation and may need to change operations to further reduce residues.
- The division is shifting the focus on animal feed monitoring from protein, fat, and fiber content to contaminants such as salmonella.

- The division responded to a small infestation of hemlock woolly adelgid in Berrien County. Some trees were removed and others were treated.
- Final revisions to Act 189 (Nursery Law) have been completed and the bill should be presented to the governor for signature.
- For the first time since 2002 there are no proposed cuts to the division budget. No additional funding is anticipated.

The meeting adjourned. The meeting scheduled for July 20, 2012 was cancelled. The next meeting will be October 19, 2012 at the Geagly Laboratory from 9:30 to noon.