

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
PESTICIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Geagley Laboratory, Gordon Guyer Room  
1615 S. Harrison Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 19, 2013**

**PRESENT:**

Brian Rowe, Chairperson, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, PPPM  
Mark Varner, Agricultural Chemical Industry, Bayer Crop Science  
Larry Olsen, Pesticide Safety Education Program, Michigan State University Extension  
(for John Stone)  
Joe Bondra, Michigan Aquatic Managers Association  
Martha Stanbury, Michigan Department of Community Health. Environmental Health  
(for Abby Schwartz)  
Bob England, Licensed Outdoor Commercial Applicators, Eradico Services  
Amy Frankmann, Producers of Agricultural Commodities, Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association  
Tina Reynolds, Non-governmental Organizations for Environmental Preservation, Michigan Environmental  
Council  
Bill Welsh, Michigan Pest Control Association, Rose Pest Solutions  
(for Russ Ives)  
Jenna Neumann, Farmworker Legal Services Representing Farm Employees  
(for Kara Moberg)  
Amanda Whitesell, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Division  
Elaine Clapp, Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Association  
Gary King, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, PPPM Enforcement

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Brian Rowe called the Pesticide Advisory Committee meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on July 19, 2013.

**TOUR OF LABORATORY:**

Michelle Bognar, USDA Pesticide Data Program Manager at the Geagley Lab, gave us a tour of the lab and explained exactly what occurs from the point of inspectors gathering samples through getting the results.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 19, 2013 MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion: Mark Varner moved to approve the April 19, 2013 meeting minutes. Seconded by Bob England. Motion Carried.

**SHARED RESPONSIBILITY:**

Brian Rowe reviewed the need for shared responsibility, written contract and the changes that were made after the last PAC meeting. Discussion centered on which companies' (company A or company B) responsibility it would be to give the paperwork required to the end customer. Should a written contract be required to clearly identify who accepts the responsibility and who is the authorized agent?

Bill Welsh, Rose Pest Solutions, posed a question regarding how this written contract would apply to contracts written outside of the state. Brian Rowe explained the law and how this contract simply expounds on the current law.

The shared responsibility contract is meant to address the unlicensed business subcontracting with licensed applicators/businesses. Let it be understood that the contract is to address:

- Consent for services transferred
- Customer is aware that the services are being subcontracted
- Paperwork is being left for the end customer

The main groups of licensed applicators that this contract will affect are lawn care companies and aerial applicators. A copy of the draft contract will be provided to the Michigan Agricultural Aviation Association for review.

Elaine Clapp commented that this will be an excellent small company friendly tool. For those large companies with written contracts already in place, a paragraph can be added to address the concerns listed previously.

Specific issues regarding the contract as written:

- #6- Clearly define that the customer is the person or company receiving the application.
- #6- Have a statement that Company A is authorized to do the application for Company B.

Brian Rowe will clean up the wording on item #6 and email to the committee for review so that a final draft may be approved at the October PAC meeting.

Brian Rowe called for additional concerns or questions; Bill Welsh stated that the contract doesn't clearly identify which company is responsible. Brian stated that MDA isn't concerned with whom takes responsibility as long as it is clearly outlined.

The final draft will be shared with the pesticide specialists, deputy director and director before obtaining the final approval from the committee.

### **BED BUG HEAT TREATMENTS:**

Bob England addressed the rising problem of bed bugs within Michigan. Early detection is important as well as having everyone involved: resident, building manager, and pest management company. Canine inspections can be extremely helpful to locate bed bugs and determine which treatments may be needed; one of those treatments being heat treatments.

With the explosion of bed bugs within Michigan, companies are holding themselves out as experts in the business who have no previous experience or knowledge with pest control. These companies/individuals are giving suggestions on how to treat without having any background on how to control and dispensing bad advice to people who are desperate for help.

The canine detection is a valuable resource; however, it is in danger of losing all credibility due to unlicensed people holding themselves out as experts. There is a concern regarding the adverse effect on the integrity of the legitimate, experienced businessman.

Bill Welsh stated that there is a set of national standards for dogs and their handlers that the industry would like to see applied in Michigan. Maryland did currently pass laws regarding bed bug detecting dogs. The industry feels there should be some oversight, probably by Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), by having dogs and their handlers and applicators using heat treatments being certified under a set of standards.

MIOSHA has been receiving numerous complaints regarding bed bugs and heat treatments as well. Elaine Clapp indicated that in the last six months, MIOSHA has received 30 complaints with the biggest problems being in senior centers and call centers. Are there any guidelines on how to choose a reliable company that can be distributed to the general public? MDARD, Michigan Pest Management Association (MPMA), and Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) have been addressing this issue working together to provide bed bug training. However, MDARD can only confirm a company is licensed and cannot make recommendations on which company to choose. Bob England, Bill Welsh, Brian Rowe and Gary King have met once to discuss this issue. The questions were addressed if there should be a sub-committee assigned to discuss the issues at greater length and put together some recommendations for the next PAC meeting. The recommendations should center on Bed Bug teams, heat treatments, and consumer education.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES:**

There are currently two vacancies for the committee; Brian Rowe has received a recommendation for each position.

Medical or Science Professional with Pesticide Experience: Dr. Ken Rosenman

Non-governmental Organizations Representing Human Health Interests: Dr. Greene

Brian will contact both recommendations to gauge their interest.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Pesticide Use Investigations: Gary King provided a report in regards to the 2013 pesticide use investigations. He also gave the committee a brief overview regarding the Gallagher's pesticide use case. The criminal actions against Gallaghers have been completed and we are currently moving forward with civil action. The committee will receive a full briefing when all actions are complete.

MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program: Larry Olson provided the committee with a draft of the third quarter report. The program recently completed a bed bug training including a heat treatment demo. Currently, the program is focusing on IPM plan training for schools. The EPA is really pushing training and will be providing three grants for which MSU extension will compete.

Gary King questioned if the industry helps schools create an IPM plan? The MPMA does run IPM trainings at their meetings. A certificate is presented; however, it is not tracked. If a school contracts with a pesticide application company, though, an IPM is created by the business for the school.

Michigan Department of Community Health: The quarter report was presented to the committee. At the last meeting, we discussed pool chemicals. Since then, there was a press release regarding an alert for pool chemical usage as well as emailing the alert to multiple places and posting to websites. MDCH will be looking for feedback as to who received the information and if it was used and/or helpful.

Gary King suggested that the back of the alert should have a statement that reads: You are required by law to apply pesticides according to label directions.

Elaine Clapp stated there have been several complaints from YMCA's because the staff are mixing pool chemicals in small spaces and mixing improperly. Mark Varner suggested that the notice be distributed as well where pool chemicals are sold.

Formaldehyde has also been an issue too. The formaldehyde is being used off-label in poultry housing as a sanitizer. An email (from Elaine) should be sent to Brian Rowe regarding places where formaldehyde is being sold as a pesticide so a marketplace inspection can be conducted.

#### **OTHER ISSUES:**

Jenna Neumann asked what the chain of command is regarding the proximity of migrant camps to the fields. Antonio Castro-Escobar (MDARD) takes the complaints but they also go to MIOSHA and get taken to the migrant services committee with Mark Schwartz of MDARD, Environmental Stewardship Division.

Jenna discussed the recommendations for migrant workers and pesticides that have been posted to farmworkerjustice.org. Those recommendations will be emailed to Brian Rowe for distribution to the committee.

#### **SCHEDULED MEETING:**

The next scheduled meeting will be held on October 18, 2013 at the Geagley Laboratory, Gordon Guyer Room, East Lansing, MI.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.