



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL

July 15, 2019

5:00 PM Board Meeting
5:30 PM Listening Session
Resumption of Board Meeting

7 Minden Street, Greenville, Maine

MINUTES

Present: Bohlen, Flewelling, Morrill, Waterman

1. Introductions of Board and Staff

- The Board, Assistant Attorney General Randlett, and Staff introduced themselves
- Staff Present: Patterson, Couture

2. Minutes of the June 7, 2019 Board Meeting

Presentation By: Megan Patterson, Director

Action Needed: Amend and/or Approve

- **Flewelling/Waterman: Moved and seconded to accept minutes**
- **In Favor: Unanimous**

3. Continued Discussion About an Education Campaign Around IPM

At the April 19, 2019 meeting, the Board discussed funding an education campaign on IPM. Staff will provide an update on progress made with this effort.

Presentation by: Megan Patterson, Director

Action Needed: Discussion

- The Board discussed a way to move forward with an education campaign that would appeal to the public.

MEGAN PATTERSON, DIRECTOR
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- Bohlen noted that some groups seem to have become averse to the phrase IPM—not the process, but the term. He added that it seems people are mistrustful about the way industry has been presenting IPM.
- Morrill stated that IPM is who we are as a Board and this issue is an example of how silent we have been about what our mission is.
- Flewelling stated that it is a national term.
- Bohlen asked how we do outreach and education with that term in certain groups and talk about it in a way that people do not shut down. He added that there may be certain audiences where it would be better to explain the steps, rather than using the word.
- Patterson noted that that was what the YardScaping program was all about.
- Randlett advised the Board that IPM is not in their statement of purpose, but it is in policy. He added that the Board could call it something else if they wanted to do so.
- Morrill stated that we need to push forward with the education campaign.
- Bohlen added that we need to recognize that it will take some real resources—in staff time and money. He stated that staff and Board need to think of this as a constant message that gets out repeatedly.
- Morrill directed Patterson to secure a marketing company to work with. He added that one main problem is that the public does not know we exist.
- Waterman commented that browntail moth may be the type of issue where the concepts of IPM can be accepted equally by the public.
- Bohlen noted that he has had several conversations lately with people about organic pesticides and they did not know they were pesticides.
- Patterson commented that staff has experienced recent issues with unlicensed individuals starting businesses and advertising on craigslist and social media. In one case the illegal business published on social media that they did not need to post after applications because they were using organic products. This business made additional false statements regarding pesticides, regulations, and ticks. She added that these companies make misleading statements, give a false sense of protection, and violate numerous regulations.

4. Overview of AAPCO Board of Directors Meeting with the US Forest Service about Aminocyclopyrachlor Damage in Deschutes National Forest

During the annual American Association of Pesticide Control Officials board of directors meeting, the USFS provided a tour of Ponderosa pines impacted by applications of aminocyclopyrachlor. The USFS plans to harvest the standing dead and dying trees to prevent risk of dead trees from falling on roadways. A summary of meeting and the ongoing issue will be provided.

Presentation By: Megan Patterson, Director

Action Needed: None, Informational Only

- Patterson stated that U.S. Forest Service staff, gave a presentation about the 12-mile corridor of dead trees. She added that they also heard a summary from the forest pathologist for the area, who was responsible for determining the health of the affected trees and identifying trees for harvest. The pathologist explained that the area is known for its stand of Ponderosa pines and public meetings were essential for explaining why trees had to be cut and working toward building consensus. In total, 2,100 trees were felled.

- Flewelling asked what Oregon did with the logs.
- The original intent was to turn them into forest products, but there was concern about aminocyclopyrachlor (ACP) herbicide residue in the sawdust. Patterson responded that most modern mills are not capable of handling trees this size, but ultimately the lumber will be milled and the sawdust carefully managed to avoid its use around plants.
- Waterman asked if we know how long aminocyclopyrachlor remains in the biosphere.
- Patterson responded that in Oregon there is concern about the current fate of the trees affected by applications made between 2013 and 2015. She added that Oregon began restricting sites on which the pesticide could be used and have now stopped allowing use in rights of way, natural areas, restoration areas, bogs, swamps, marshes, wetlands, and ditches.
- Patterson told the Board that staff have recently received two ROW variances requesting use of ACP.

5. Request from Integrated Pest Management Program for Funds for Rodent Academy

The Integrated Pest Management Program is requesting funds to assist with a two-day rodent management training event for pest management professionals. Increased rodent pressures result in increased demand for rodent management services. This training offers local applicators an opportunity to learn cutting edge rodent IPM from national experts. Requested funds will help offset the cost of speaker honorariums, space rental, and provision of lunch each day.

Presentation By: Megan Patterson, Director

Action Needed: Discussion and Determination if the Board Wishes to Fund this Request

- Patterson explained that Kathy Murray is planning this event and is attempting to cover most of her costs to keep registration fees lower. Murray has invited Dr. Bobby Corrigan, an internationally respected rodent specialist to speak at the event, as well as other speakers with world-class expertise.
- Morrill asked if there would be better participation at a lower registration fee and if 40 people registering for the meeting is likely.
- Patterson responded that that she did believe the course would be well attended and felt the course was filling a need in the applicator community.
- Morrill suggested the Board fund the event in the amount of \$3,286, which would drop the registration fee to \$150. He added that we would get more of the operator applicators at a lower fee.
- Bohlen stated he agreed. He added that he would love if there was also a solid effort to reach out to University of Southern Maine's building and ground employees and let one of them participate for free and make it a 41-person event.
- Waterman asked who would generally be invited to participate.
- Patterson replied that we would post it on our pesticide recertification calendar and send out notices to applicators who are licensed in the structural general pest control category.
- Morrill said to thank Murray and that this looks like a great program.
 - **Morrill/Flewelling: Moved and seconded to fund Rodent Academy in the amount of \$3,286**

- **In Favor: Unanimous**

6. Other Items of Interest

- a. Chapter 243 Public Law—An Act to Ensure Funding for Certain Essential Functions of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program (LD 1273)
 - Patterson explained to the board that this bill would be funding Kerry Bernard’s position. She added that it requires the program to submit an annual report to the BPC and the legislature by January 15th.
 - Morrill said to make sure to make this an agenda item on or around that date.
- b. Chapter 84 Resolves—Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Work with the Forest Products Industry to Monitor Aerial Herbicide Applications (LD 1691)
 - Patterson stated that the resolve requires staff to find a neutral third-party to observe aerial application. Staff have decided to work with an auditing firm familiar with forestry practices.
 - Flewelling asked what the metrics for this audit were.
 - Patterson replied that normally forestry practices auditing firms look at all sustainability practices, and we need them to hone in on herbicide applications. She added that the Worker Protection Standard may also apply to forestry applications when employees hand plant seedlings.
 - Morrill asked who would be paying for this.
 - Patterson stated that the Maine Forest Products Council had tentatively agreed to cover the costs. She added that herbicide applications began this week and will continue through September on a total area of approximately 15,000 acres.

7. Schedule of Future Meetings

- September 13, 2019 is the next proposed meeting date.
- The Board set November 8, 2019 as an additional proposed meeting date.

8. Adjourn

- **Flewelling/Waterman: Moved and seconded to adjourn at 6:18pm**
- **In Favor: Unanimous**