



## Minutes

### Pesticide Advisory Board Meeting

December 1, 2021

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jessica Lenker, Larry Shrawder, Don Eggen, Sally Holbert, Tim McGinty, Lisa Murphy, Bob Williamson, Michael Myers, Tim Haydt, Ken Martin, Betsy Schroeder, Heather Smiles

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:** Ruth Welliver, Don Gilbert, Matt Kohan, Fred Strathmeyer, Destiny Zeiders, Jon Johnson, Sharon Gripp, Ed Crow, Matt Helwig, Gregg Robertson, Julia Loving, Linda Fetzer, Nada Manmiller

A motion to approve the September 15, 2021 minutes was made by Bob Williamson and second by Tim McGinty.

Chairman Shrawder introduce new board members Tim Haydt, PA Game Commission, Habitat Planning and Development and Heather Smiles, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Division of Environmental Services. He also introduced Matt Kohan, the new Pesticide Certification Specialist, Department of Agriculture.

#### **Fertilizer Bill Update:**

Ruth Welliver, Director, Plant Industry gave an update on the Fertilizer Bill that David Dressler presented in the June 16, 2021 meeting. Senate Bill 251 did pass out of the House AG and Rural Affairs Committee on October 27, 2021 with several amendments and the Department expects some more amendments to be considered on the House floor before the final vote is taken. At this time, the second consideration, which is when all the amendments will be voted on by the House of Representatives, is being scheduled. After the second consideration there will be a third consideration, which is the final floor vote for the House of Representatives. The Senate will need to concur on the House amendments so there are several steps for SB251.

#### **Subcommittee Updates:**

*Certification for Spanish Speaking Individuals – Tim McGinty, Chairman*

The subcommittee found that there are many apparent obstacles with many states. They found that many states have provided training in Spanish or have translated the test, but the bottom line is the test is based on the label being in English. EPA has issued a guidance for chemical companies to voluntarily translate labels into Spanish and some chemical companies have done so. Tim stated that he did not see this change happening because of the expense which require resources that many states do not have and the liability for the chemical companies. Chemical companies would be faced with the issues of different dialects of Spanish and the difficulty to translate technical language into Spanish. The subcommittee recommended that The Pennsylvania State University re-active the training program that was started in 2019. Tim felt that some of the responsibility must be placed on the employee to study.

Tim McGinty motioned that the Pesticide Advisory Board recommend the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture look into the possibility of the Pennsylvania State University to restart their bi-lingual training program. Ken Martin second.

Lisa Murphy requested to amend the motion to remove the Pennsylvania State University from the original motion. Sally Holbert second. The amendment was voted on and carries. Motion reads as follows “motion that the Pesticide Advisory Board recommend the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture look into the possibility of a pesticide training program.” Vote was taken on the amended motion and was adopted.

*Funds for Pesticide Drift in Specialty Crops – Sally Holbert, Chairman*

Not much to report, subcommittee is still working on the issues and hopes to meet in January 2022. Sally emailed the people on the subcommittee and asked them to respond with a few concerns that they have according to their perspective in the industry with drift and some solutions. She reviewed some of the concerns such as education, review the knowledge of the trainers, more specialty training, reclassification of new pesticides or changing some chemicals to restricted and general communication among farmers and specialty grower. Mike Myers, subcommittee member, stated that he feels that the best way to handle drift is through education and the science. Currently, there was no recommendation from the subcommittee.

**Board Member Roundtable:**

Sally Holbert questioned who handles the Chemsweep Program. Jessica Lenker replied Jim Cunningham. She questioned whether if collection was at a single site or farm-to-farm. Don Gilbert explained how the program worked.

Larry Shrawder questioned Ruth Welliver about the items that were tabled several months ago when Galen Troxel addressed the board about a few of his concerns. Ruth replied that Jessica could go back and review the issues and make a presentation at the next board meeting since there is the matter of procedure that can not be changed or maybe some misunderstanding that may need to be straightened out.

Jessica Lenker informed the board members that their terms were up for renewal in April and May of 2022. She asked that they start thinking if they wanted to renew or wanted to remove themselves from the board. Doing this would allow for her to start preparing to fill the vacant spots.

Larry questions Tim McGinty if he was satisfied with the bilingual subcommittee work and if he wanted to disband the committee. Tim agreed on disbanding and stated that he would keep an eye on the issue. Larry hereby disbanded the bilingual committee.

**Public Comment Period:**

No public comments.

**2022 Meeting Dates:**

Jessica informed the board that by law they must meet four times a year. She asked the board if meeting in March, June, September and December were good for them in 2022. The meetings would be on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and she was hoping for some person to person meeting and some virtual.

Ken Martin made motion to adjourn and Mike Myers second.