



## Minutes

### Pesticide Advisory Board Meeting December 14, 2022

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jessica Lenker, Larry Shrawder, Joe Demko, Don Eggen, Beth Gugino, Tim McGinty, Lisa Murphy, Bob Williamson, Michael Myers, Tim Haydt, Ken Martin, Heather Smiles and Matthew Persons

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:** Don Gilbert, Daniel Duer, Ruth Welliver, Joni Davis, Jon Johnson, Ed Crow, Sharon Gripp, Matt Helwig, Gregg Robertson, and Christine Widener.

A motion to approve the September 14, 2022, minutes was made by Joe Demko and second by Ken Martin.

**Araneocidal Properties of the Herbicide Mesotrione Research:**

Matthew Persons from Susquehanna University gave a presentation on Mesotrione usage and its effect on spiders. Matthew provided information that mesotrione is an araneocide but glyphosate, atrazine and S-metolachlor can mitigate some of the toxicity. Herbicides that appear beneficial at one life stage can incur fitness cost at another. Some mortality effects aren't apparent until three or more weeks. Mortality differences vary by species but are not necessarily generalizable by taxon. Bacterial degradation was minimal for most herbicides tested; herbicides 69 day aged can have negative fitness on spiders. Mesotrione is a potent araneocide and should not be used where spiders are important biocontrol agent in integrated pest management systems or should at least be used in conjunction. Presentation is attached for more details.

**PAB Committee Updates:** No updates from the advisory board members

**Board Member Roundtable:**

Don Eggen from DCNR will be retiring in March of 2023, a replacement will be appointed in his position and as a member of the advisory board. DCNR has a 290,000 acre spongy moth suppression program proposed. The program is totally on DCNR State Parks and State Forest land. The PA Game Commission is conducting their own separate spray program in 2023. The PGC has 110,000 acres proposed.

Jessica Lenker Division Chief for BPI gave an update that Chemsweep has gone electronic for inventory submission on the website, mail in submissions will still be accepted. EPA has a new proposal on their website for 11 different rodenticides that should be reviewed if using any of the products.

**Public Comment Period:**

Christine Widener asked Matthew Persons if he was researching if mesotrione has effect on the human beings or if he knows of anyone doing the research. Matthew stated his research is only on spiders.

**Board members introductions:**

Larry Shrawder - Chair of the Pesticide Advisory Committee, he represents a producer of Ag crops and has 45 years in the agriculture industry. Larry farms corn, soybeans, wheat, rye, and barley, mostly heirloom grains. He also has about 50 acres of grapes.

Joseph Demko - representing Dept of Transportation, Bureau of Maintenance & Operations, overseeing vegetation roadside management. Joe's been in the industry for over 35 years.

Donald Eggen - representing DCNR, Chief of Division of Forest Health serving 21 years in his position, with 43 years of experience with spongy moth. The Forest Health Division also does pesticide treatments for hemlock and ash in key areas. The Forest Health Division does a lot of pest and specialty surveys as well.

Beth Gugino - representing Penn State as a Vegetable Extension Pathologist, working with commercial vegetable producers.

Timothy Haydt - representing the PA Game Commission, Bureau of Wildlife Habitat and Management. He is the Chief of the Public Land section and oversees the management of the State Game Land System.

Jessica Lenker - representing the Dept of Agriculture. She is the Health and Safety Division Chief for the Bureau of Plant Industry overseeing pesticide, hemp, and noxious weeds programs.

Ken Martin - representing Furmano Foods as the Director of Ag Operations. Ken is in charge of sourcing tomatoes, snap beans and on the growing side Furmano Farms produces about 500-600 acres of processing tomatoes and 200-300 acres of snap beans.

Timothy McGinty - the General Manager of North Creek Nurseries, representing the nursery and landscaping industry. North Creek is a young plant grower predominately growing native plants.

Lisa Murphy - representing University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. She is a veterinarian and toxicologist overseeing the diagnostic toxicology lab.

Heather Smiles - representing PA Fish and Boat Commission, she is the Division Chief of Environmental Services Division in the Bureau of Fisheries. She oversees 3 sections in her division.

Michael Myers - representing FMC Corporation covering area of PA, MD and VA. He oversees the safety and handling of pesticides.

Matthew Persons - representing Susquehanna University as a Professor of Biology and coordinator for the Ecology major. He is primarily a Behavioral Ecologist, studying the behavior of spiders. Also involved in Susquehanna University's Freshwater Research Institute where they do stream restoration monitoring and assessment activities.

Bob Williamson manages a lawn and tree care business in Southeastern Pennsylvania taking care of about 11,000 residential and a couple thousand commercial properties. He also has a significant pest control business in SE Pennsylvania.

### **Selections of 2023 meeting dates**

Jessica Lenker will email 2023 advisory meeting dates.

Larry Shrawder adjourned the meeting without objection.