



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary
Julianne A. Oberg, Deputy Secretary

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September 30, 2020

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates
State House, H-101
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President
Maryland Senate
State House, H-107
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Reports Required by EX ORD 01.01.2003.49 E – MSAR - # 9015

Dear Governor Hogan, Speaker Jones and President Ferguson:

EX ORD 01.01.2006.06 states, “E. Reports. The Secretary [Department of Agriculture] shall report annually to the Governor on the activities of the [Pesticide Advisory] Committee.”

I have included the 2019 annual report. I hope you find the information contained in this report useful. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Government Affairs, at cassie.shirk@maryland.gov or 410-841-5889.

Sincerely,

Joseph Bartenfelder
Secretary, Department of Agriculture



Pesticide Advisory Committee

2019 Annual Report

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Larry Hogan
Governor

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Deputy Secretary

Introduction

The Maryland Pesticide Advisory Committee (PAC) was established by Executive Order (.01.01.2003.49) signed by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. on Nov. 17, 2003. The committee has 15 members. Seven members are appointed by the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and represent public health, the environmental community, the general public, the pesticide industry, local government, and the agricultural community. One member is appointed by the Senate President, one by the House Speaker, and one by the chancellor of the University System of Maryland. Four members serve ex officio and represent Maryland's Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Natural Resources, Secretary of the Environment, and Secretary of Health. The Secretary of Agriculture is responsible for naming the committee's chair.

This document was prepared as an introduction to the committee, its mission, and its membership. Questions about PAC can be directed to MDA or PAC's chairperson. The committee provides a forum for the public and other interested parties to provide input on pesticide regulatory issues and to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on matters relating to pesticides.

The committee meets bi-monthly, typically on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at MDA's headquarters in Annapolis. Meetings begin promptly at 9 a.m. and adjourn at noon. The meetings are open to the public and the last 30 minutes of every meeting are devoted to public input.

Mission

The primary mission of PAC is to advise MDA, based on sound science, on the proper use, management, and control of pesticides with particular emphasis on employing integrated pest management (IPM) techniques.

Duties and responsibilities outlined specifically in the Executive Order (01.01.2003.49 Section D (1) – (4) include:

- Making recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture for changes in law or regulation to improve pesticide management in the State of Maryland.
- Providing advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on issues concerning the registration, sale, use, storage, and disposal of pesticides. PAC also advises the Secretary of Agriculture on the certification and training of pesticide applicators, the licensing of pest control businesses, and the protection of farm workers, endangered species, and water resources.
- Serving in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of Agriculture, department officials, and other state agencies on pesticide related matters.

Membership

The committee consists of 15 members, seven who are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture

after consultation with the Governor's Office. These seven members have subject matter interest or expertise on pesticide use, pest control, public health, or environmental protection. The following eight members are specifically listed in the Executive Order:

- The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, or a designee.
- The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources or a designee.
- The Secretary of the Department of the Environment or a designee.
- The Secretary of the Department of Health, or a designee.
- One representative of the University System of Maryland with expertise in pesticides, designated by the chancellor.
- One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate.
- One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House.
- One member of the Maryland Agricultural Commission selected by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Secretary of Agriculture names the chair of the committee. The seven members with expertise in pesticides and the members representing the Maryland Agricultural Commission serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of Agriculture. Members may not receive any compensation for their services but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, in accordance with the standard state travel regulations as provided in the state budget.

Procedures

MDA provides principal staff support to the committee. Staff is responsible for scheduling and announcing the meetings, recording minutes, and distributing appropriate information to committee members.

Meetings

PAC meets bi-monthly or when needed. Proceedings start at 9 a.m. and adjourn by noon. An agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting are provided to committee members. The members also receive copies of news articles regarding pesticides. In the event of inclement weather, the committee follows the Anne Arundel County Public School System's delay or cancellation schedule. If school is delayed by two hours or is canceled, the committee meeting is cancelled until the next scheduled date.

At the end of every PAC meeting, 30 minutes are set aside for members of the public or other interested parties to make a presentation to the committee. Presentations are limited to five minutes or less depending on the number of individuals signed up to speak. When possible, a written statement should be submitted before the meeting and an abstract of the presentation should be given to the committee at the meeting. It is suggested that members of the public provide scientific citations, studies referenced in their presentations, or reprints of the study.

Any committee member who fails to maintain a 50% attendance record for all the meetings may forfeit their appointment by the committee. By law, an appointed committee member who fails to maintain an attendance record is considered to have resigned from their position. A member may

send an approved alternate to the meeting; however, that person will not count for the member's attendance record, nor will they be permitted to vote. If a member is interested in staying on the committee and through extenuating circumstances was unable to attend 50% of the meetings, a request may be made to excuse the absences and to remain a committee member.

Reports

The Secretary of Agriculture is required to report annually to the Governor on the activities of the committee.

2019 Activities

During the 2019 committee meetings, MDA's Pesticide Regulation Section Program Manager Dennis Howard discussed the following five items.

1. Push for Ban on Chlorpyrifos

Legislation was reintroduced during the 2019 legislative session to ban the insecticide chlorpyrifos.

2. Bayer Releases All of Its Glyphosate Study

Bayer released all of their reports on the safety of Monsanto's herbicide glyphosate. Bayer released 300 study summaries on the herbicide in December 2018 that have been submitted for the review. Bayer says releasing their reports delivers on their commitment to increased transparency.

3. Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018

In March 2019, the President signed the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018. The five-year reauthorization is reported to strengthen and improve pesticide registration through 2023.

4. DriftWatch and BeeCheck

MDA joined a number of other states in promoting stewardship in agriculture by implementing DriftWatch and BeeCheck. These are online registries that use precision mapping tools to help commercial applicators know where beehives and specialty crops are located, thus showing which areas are more sensitive to pesticides.

5. Paraquat Dichloride Training for Certified Applicators

In March 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new certified applicator training module for paraquat dichloride. The training was developed by paraquat manufacturers as part of EPA's 2016 risk mitigation requirements and approved by EPA.

According to the EPA, paraquat is one of the most widely used herbicides in the U.S. for the control of weeds in many agricultural and non-agricultural settings and is also used as a defoliant on crops such as cotton prior to harvest. Paraquat is a restricted use pesticide for use only by a certified applicator. The restriction applies to mixing, loading, and applying paraquat, as well as other pesticide handling activities.

2019 Pesticide Advisory Committee Members:

State Senator J.B. Jennings – Representing the Maryland Senate

Delegate Charles Otto – Representing the Maryland House of Delegates

Dennis Howard (*Retired*) – Representing the Maryland Department of Agriculture

John Bacus – Representing the Maryland Department of the Environment

Dean Graves – Representing Turf and Golf Course Businesses

Marcie Hardin – Representing Maryland Public Schools

Richard Kramer – Representing Maryland Structural Pest Control Businesses

Dr. Clifford Mitchell – Representing the Maryland Health Department

David Myers – Representing the University of Maryland Extension Service

Donald VanHassent – Representing the Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Lindsay Thompson – Representing the Maryland Agricultural Industry

Tom Pheiffer – Representing Maryland Groundwater Issues

Henry Schmidt – Representing the Maryland Agricultural Commission