



Pesticide Advisory Committee

2023 Annual Report

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Kevin M. Atticks
Secretary of Agriculture

Steven A. Connelly
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 November 17, 2003. The Committee is comprised of up to fifteen members. Seven are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, after consultation with the Governor's Office, who represent public health, the environmental community, general public, 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 serve ex officio and represent the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Natural Resources, The Secretary of the Department of the Environment, and the Secretary of the Department of Health. The Secretary of Agriculture names the Chair of the Pesticide Advisory Committee (PAC).

This document was prepared as an introduction to the committee, its mission and membership. Questions about the PAC can be directed to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) or the Chairperson of the PAC. The PAC 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, as needed, normally on the fourth Wednesday of the month either virtually or in Room 114 at the MDA Headquarters building, located at, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401. Meetings begin promptly at 10 am and adjourn at 12 pm. The meetings are open to the public and the last thirty minutes of the meeting agenda is devoted to public input.

Mission

The primary mission of the PAC is to advise the 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 outline specifically in the Executive Order (01.01.2003.49 Section D (1) – (4) include:

- The 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. The 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 up to fifteen (15) members with seven (7) members appointed by the Secretary after consultation with the Governor's office. These Seven (7) members have subject matter interest or expertise on pesticide use, pest control, public health or environmental protection. Eight (8) members are specifically listed in Executive Order:

- The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, or a designee.
- The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or a designee.
- The Secretary of the Department of the Environment (MDE) or a designee.
- The Secretary of the Department of Health (MDOH), 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 PAC. 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

The Maryland Department of Agriculture provides principal staff support to the PAC. Staff is responsible for scheduling and announcing the meetings, recording minutes and distributing appropriate information to the PAC members.

Meetings

The PAC may meet bi-monthly or when a meeting is needed. Proceedings start at 10:00 am and are normally completed by 12:00 pm. An agenda and the minutes of the last meeting are provided to the Committee members. The members are also provided with copies of news articles regarding pesticides. In the event of inclement weather, the Committee follows the Anne Arundel County Public School System's school delay or cancellation schedule. If School is delayed by two hours or is canceled, the Committee meeting is cancelled until the next scheduled date.

Prior to the end of each PAC meeting a total of thirty (30) minutes is set aside for members of the public or other interested parties, to make a presentation to the PAC. Presentations must be limited to a five (5) minute period 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 or studies referenced in their presentations or provide re-prints of the study.

Any Committee member who fails to maintain a fifty (50) percent attendance of 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 their position. The 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 the member is interested in remaining on the PAC and through extenuating circumstances that prevented attendance of the meetings, a request may be made to excuse the absence and the dismissal from the PAC.

Reports

The Secretary of Agriculture is required to report annually to the governor on the activities of the PAC.

2023 Activities and Accomplishments

During 2023 the following items were discussed.

1. Maryland Department of Health

Dr. Sin Urban, Division Chief, MDH Division of Environmental Sciences, Laboratories Administration provided an update on MDH's analytical capabilities regarding pesticide in various settings and media.

2. Plant Protection & Weed Management; Mosquito Control; Forest Pest

Program Managers, Kim Rice, Brian Prendergast and Craig Kuhn provide updates on each of their respective programs.

3. Pesticide Policy/Q&A Session

Saif Ratul, Deputy Legislative Officer, Office of the Governor, provided an update on some of the important environmental policies that Governor Moore's Office will be focusing on. He also fielded questions from the group on pesticides and their importance in not only agriculture but across many industries (turf, ornamental, vector control, etc.) and the general public. As well as questions regarding PFOA's and climate change initiatives.

4. Introduction of MDA Secretary Kevin Atticks

Secretary Atticks addressed the group and provided an update on his priorities for MDA.

5. Pesticide Regulation Section Updates

Pesticide Regulation Section Program Manager provided updates on Section activities including status updates on Section personnel, Certification and Training, Pesticide Container Recycling and Disposal. In addition, updates were provided on USEPA activities including new mitigation measures for the use of rodenticides, Endangered Species Act and Bulletins Live Two as well as federal updates involving the Worker Protection Standard and the new PRIA 5 (Pesticide Registration Improvement Act).

2023 Pesticide Advisory Committee Members

Dr. Frederick Kutz - Chair

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

Delegate Charles Otto – Representing the Maryland House of Delegates

Michael J. Calkins – Representing the Maryland Department of Agriculture

John Backus – Representing the Maryland Department of the Environment

Logan Freeman – Represents Turf and Golf Course Industries

Marcie Hardin – Representing Maryland Public Schools

Dr. 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

Matthew Hurd – Representing the Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Lindsay Thompson – Representing the Maryland Agricultural Industry

Michelle Chesnik – Representing the Maryland Agricultural Commission