

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Pesticide Fee Regulatory Advisory Panel

Draft Minutes

Thursday, November 30, 2023

The meeting of the Pesticide Fee Regulatory Advisory Panel convened at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2023. The meeting was held at the Oliver Hill Building located at 102 Governor Street, Richmond, Virginia.

Regulatory Advisory Panel Members Participating in Person:

Neil Houff - Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Shelley Barlow - Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Charles Church – Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Martha Moore - Virginia Farm Bureau Federation
Brad Copenhaver - Virginia Agribusiness Council
Ron Gaskill – Virginia Pest Management Association

Regulatory Advisory Panel Members Participating by Remote Participation:

Kristen Spotz - Responsible Industry for Sound Environment (RISE)

Ms. Spotz participated from her office in Arlington by remote participation due to the following reason:

- the member's principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location identified in the required notice for such meeting.

Staff Present:

Joe Guthrie – Commissioner, VDACS
Charles Green – Deputy Commissioner, VDACS
Larry Nichols – Director, Division of Consumer Protection, VDACS
Joel Maddux – Deputy Director, Division of Consumer Protection, VDACS
Liza Trossbach – Program Manager, Office of Pesticide Services, VDACS
Dewey Jennings – Director, Administrative and Financial Services, VDACS
Ashley Reed – Deputy Director, Administrative and Financial Services, VDACS
Rick Byrne – Director, Budget Office, Administrative and Financial Services, VDACS

Larry Nichols called the meeting to order. Commissioner Joe Guthrie welcomed the workgroup members to the meeting.

Liza Trossbach gave a presentation that included background information on the Pesticide Control Fund, previous and current pesticide fees and expenses, monthly cash balance, and projected cash balance for fiscal year (FY) 2024. Larry Nichols provided an overview of the budget, including impacts from reductions of specific fees, and projected cash balance through FY 2029.

The Regulatory Advisory Panel discussed various options related to changing the existing fee structure, with a goal of reducing fees while ensuring that the cash balance did not decrease below \$2.5 - \$3.5 million and ensuring that the Office of Pesticide Services (OPS) had the necessary resources to meet possible increasing expenditures.

Motion: Mr. Church moved that the Regulatory Advisory Panel recommend to the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services that (i) fees for new pesticide business licenses remain \$150 and renewal fees

for pesticide businesses be eliminated and (ii) fees for commercial applicator fees be reduced to \$50 for new applicators. Mr. Houff seconded the motion. The Panel voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Motion: Mr. Church moved that the Regulatory Advisory Panel recommend that VDACS provide an update on the Pesticide Control Fund fiscal year end cash balance and progress made toward reducing this cash balance to the target of \$2.5 - \$3.5 million when providing the annual Pesticide Control Fund update to the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Mr. Gaskill seconded the motion. The Panel voted unanimously to approve the motion.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

DRAFT