

DRAFT MINUTES

Pesticide Control Board
Oliver Hill Building, Richmond, VA
April 18, 2012

The Pesticide Control Board (Board) met at 9:00 a.m. on April 18, 2012 at the Oliver Hill Building, Richmond, VA. Presiding members were William C. Boshier, Jr., Chairman and Liza Fleeson, Executive Secretary.

The following Board members were present: Dr. William Boshier; Dr. George Brown; Dr. Alan Grant (represented by Dr. Michael Weaver); Dona Huang; Richard Nunnally; Robin Rinaca; Anne Barker-Smith; Liz White; and Joe Wilson.

The following staff members were present: Matthew Lohr; Sandy Adams; Andres Alvarez; Liza Fleeson; Doug Edwards; Elaine Lidholm and Rhonda Bates.

Others present: Buck Tharpe and Laurie Coulter, VA Crop Production; Andrea Coron and Kristin Coron, VA Pest Management Association; John Horsley, Terminix; Dr. Wayne Surles, WS Associates; Anne Morrow Donley, East Richmond Beekeepers Association; Roberto Quintero, Telamon; and Susan Terwilliger, Virginia Tech.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Boshier called the meeting to order.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Chairman Boshier announced that a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Anne Morrow Donley, East Richmond Beekeepers Association, expressed concerns over the use of neonicotinoid insecticides. She said that at the first Mid-Atlantic Organic Beekeepers Conference (beekeepers from around Virginia) conversation centered on bee colonies that have died or degenerated. It's not known if these negative findings are related to the use of neonicotinoid insecticides or not, however do parallel the findings of scientist in the two studies from *Science Magazine* (previously forwarded to PCB members). Those studies of bumble bees and honey bees revealed that while the neonicotinoids may not immediately kill the pollinators, they reduce the ability of the queen to reproduce, impact the fertility of drones, shorten the lives of honey bees, and interfere with the foraging ability of honey bees and the memory of bees for locations of nectar and pollen. In addition, the foragers bring back to the colony the nectar and pollen contaminated by the neonicotinoid insecticides which contaminates the entire colony including the honey and wax. A ban was placed on neonicotinoid insecticides in Italy. Bees and colonies were dying. After the ban, the health of the honeybees began to improve. Recently, the decision was made to continue the ban. Ms. Donley urged the Board on behalf of all those who depend upon

the pollinators for food, fruit, flowers, honey, and beauty, to act now to suspend, and end the use of the neonicotinoid insecticides.

Mr. Wilson voiced concern that a status report on the project "*Impact of Pesticides on Honeybees in Virginia*" would not be presented at this meeting. Ms. Fleeson stated that a written report from VA Tech would be forwarded to board members once received.

Donna Pugh Johnson, VA Agribusiness Council, thanked the board for serving Virginia so well and for its open discussions and interactions with the agribusiness industry. She will retire at the end of June 2012.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunnally moved to adopt the minutes of the January 18, 2012, Board meeting. Dr. Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES FOR THE QUARTER

Mr. Edwards provided a summary of enforcement activities for the quarter.

STATUS OF PESTICIDE APPLICATOR SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

Dr. Weaver and Ms. Terwilliger provided updates on the pesticide applicator training and manual development.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wilson opened discussion regarding the budget by directing attention to the budget section of the board book noting a 4 million dollar surplus. He stated that in his opinion the board hasn't done an adequate job in funding research and education. He asked what exactly happens from this point forward and wanted to know from the board what potential use for this surplus do they see. Ms. White asked how ongoing funds and ongoing grants would be handled by the VDACS Board. Commissioner Lohr responded that this was not discussed at the last VDACS meeting, but hopefully by the August meeting the two new members will be in place to begin transition. He assured all that the issues will not change and will be addressed by the VDACS board, making the merger effective, even though the details have not been discussed yet. He stated that administration doesn't view this as an elimination of a board but as a consolidation bringing two boards together.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ms. Fleeson reported on personnel in the Office of Pesticide Services. She also provided a brief overview of the Virginia Crop Production Associations final report of its board funded project *Pesticide Applicator Training and Recertification Provided Through Educational Efforts*.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lohr thanked all the members for their service, especially their commitment and passion for the issues that came before them. He stated how much he enjoyed Dr. Boshers' leadership. He reiterated that the issues important to the board will continue to be issues the VDACS board will take very seriously.

As an aside, he stated that a beehive grant for \$125,000 was passed by the General Assembly. Individuals can apply for a minimum of \$200 to \$2,400 maximum per hive to encourage new folks to pursue this endeavor which will be beneficial to the Commonwealth. This agency will administer the grant.

The meeting concluded as Commissioner Lohr awarded service plaques to individual members of the Pesticide Control Board. Elaine Lidholm photographed the proceedings.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

(For further detail, an audio recording of the meeting is on file at VDACS and can be accessed by calling 804.225-2223.)