

MINUTES

Pesticide Advisory Committee April 30, 2007

Present: Leonard Felix, Kelly Gouge, Gordon Hankins, Eric Jessen, Byron Kunugi, Hal Pearce, Robert Talley, Dale Tanda, Larry Walker, and Richard Dykstra, Gary Gillenwater, Angela Medbery, Claude Oleyar, Peg Perreault, Katy Walker of Colorado Legal Services – Migrant Division, Danelle Morgan of the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, and Steve Blunt, Dave Joeris, Laura Quakenbush, John Scott and Jeannine Coppage of the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA).

John Scott called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Pesticide Advisory Committee (PAC) Appointments: John announced that Scott Armbrust and Leonard Felix were reappointed to their positions on the PAC (representing structural commercial applicators and agricultural commercial applicators, respectively). New appointments to the PAC are: Kelly Gouge (representing turf and ornamental commercial applicators), Eric Jessen (representing the general public), and Robert Talley (representing limited commercial applicators). All appointments are for three-year terms.

The Committee elected Leonard Felix Chairman and Gordon Hankins Co-Chairman.

Pesticide Use Survey Update: Rob Wawrzynski, CDA Groundwater Program Coordinator, reported that as of February they had received 30 to 40 surveys back out of @ 900 sent out. The website has proven too cumbersome as a survey tool. Suggestions for future surveys included changing the data collection dates and targeting audiences at pesticide applicator workshops and conferences.

Pesticide Registration and Endangered Species Update: Laura Quakenbush discussed current Section 18 permits. Regarding management of prairie dog populations, a link on the website for prairie dog problems was suggested. EPA is continuing their Endangered Species Protection Program and making available electronic labels, which can be downloaded from websites.

Enforcement Update: Steve Blunt, Enforcement Specialist, reported that a “blitz” was recently conducted in the Denver and Colorado Springs metro areas to identify unlicensed applicators. Four cease and desist orders were issued, as well as several violation notices.

Unlicensed applicators continue to spray for mountain pine beetles in mountain counties like Summit and Grand. It is difficult to conduct a “blitz” in these outlying areas.

John stated that the public needs to be made aware of these unlicensed applicators through press releases.

Steve reported that all outstanding enforcement cases will be brought up-to-date in the near future.

Upcoming Rules Discussion: John said that CDA will put out an official issue paper on each of the below items:

One goal is to be able to post notification for multi-housing units the same way as for commercial sites (i.e., putting the information on a yellow flag), if there is no on-site management available.

The experience verification requirements for qualified supervisor (QS) licensure need to be clarified. Currently, 4 months to 2 years experience is required but it is not tied to the number of hours or the number of applications. For example, an applicator would qualify for experience if he/she had worked for a company for eight months, but he/she might have only done one or two applications a month. After preliminary discussion with the PAC, there will be significantly more discussion needed before this issue can be addressed through Rule.

Adequate supervision by qualified supervisors needs to be clarified. Historically, the QS needed to be within 60 miles or 60 minutes of those supervised; the advent of cell phones has changed this. Historically, at least one QS was needed for every certified operator (CO) or technician. CDA's recommendation is to have one QS for every 7-10 COs or technicians. Dave Joeris pointed out that the word "adequate" is ambiguous.

Private Applicator Program Update: John reported that since CDA assumed responsibility for the private applicator program from EPA on January 1, 2007, there have been seven WPS (Worker Protection Standard) inspections and 147 contacts. This is approximately five times the number of inspections and contacts EPA did in the past. Peg Perreault said that EPA will be publishing the final notice of CDA's assumption of the program in the Federal Registry in the next couple of weeks.

Introduction of Commissioner John R. Stulp: The new Commissioner of CDA, John Stulp, stopped in to introduce himself and thank the Committee for its hard work, and commitment and service to the industry.

The next meeting of the PAC will be Monday, July 30.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.