

MINUTES

Pesticide Advisory Committee January 30, 2006

Present: Scott Armbrust, Gerry Cummins, Leonard Felix, Byron Kunugi, Sandra McDonald, Hal Pearce, Dale Tanda, Tom Tolkacz, Larry Walker, and Angela Medbery, Patricia Medige of Colorado Legal Services – Migrant Division, and Mitch Yergert, Dave Joeris, Laura Quakenbush, John Scott and Jeannine Coppage of the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA).

Tom Tolkacz called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Pesticide Advisory Committee (PAC) Member Reappointments: At the January 2006 meeting of the Colorado Agriculture Commission, the following three PAC members were reappointed to three-year terms, which will end in February 2009: Byron Kunugi, representing General Public, Ag Sector; Sandra McDonald, representing Colorado State University Extension; and Dale Tanda, representing the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Pesticide Applicators' Act (PAA) Sunset Bill Update: John Scott reported that the Sunset bill had its first hearing on January 18. Several amendments were proposed. One is to clarify regulation of certain devices. Another is to reinstate individual pesticide applicators' licenses up to six months' from their expiration date, eliminating the applicator's need to retest if they have earned all their continuing education credits. The amendment to allow civil penalties to remain in the pesticide applicator fund was passed. An amendment not to limit PAC members' term lengths was passed.

The bill will be formally introduced on February 1, with opportunities for additional testimony the week of February 13. Senator Jim Isgar and Representative Diane Hoppe are the sponsors of the bill.

Private Applicator Bill Update: John reported that the sponsors of this bill are Senator Lewis Entz and Representative Mary Hodge. If passed, the private applicator bill would take effect January 1, 2007, whereas the sunset bill would take effect July 1, 2006. The only difference between CDA's licensing private applicators and EPA's current licensing of them would be in the license fee amounts, which should be set in Rules and Regulations as opposed to Statute, so that they can be changed later if need be.

Part of the private applicator bill is the combining of registration funds with applicator funds. If this doesn't happen, the bill probably will not pass. If the private applicator bill appears to be in danger of not passing, an amendment will still be sought to combine the two funds.

John said that a possible amendment to the bill concerns the Rural Electric Association (REA)'s desire to have commercial applicators post notice of all applications. The posting expense would far outweigh the cost of the REA providing their employees with personal protective equipment (PPE).

Diquat Issue in the San Luis Valley: Following complaints of drift problems with the use of Diquat in the San Luis Valley, several CDA inspectors conducted intensive monitoring of applications within a 15-20 mile radius of the town of Center, Colorado. This monitoring was done between August 15-30, 2005. Of 49 applications monitored, the majority involved Diquat and none with drift problems were found. Chemical analyses are still being conducted on the samples taken. A meeting between CDA and representatives of Syngenta was held on January 23, with Syngenta agreeing to focus more on education and outreach issues.

Additional Agenda Items: Sandra McDonald reported that the Ornamental Category Exam Item-Writing Committee has held one meeting, with three more scheduled for January 31, February 14 and February 28.

John reported that CDA has been working with the Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center (RMPCC) to implement an occupational exposure tracking system as a grant requirement for EPA. RMPCC believes this could be accomplished for <\$10,000. It could then later be used as a national template.

The next PAC meeting will be Monday, April 24.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.