

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## PPDC Pollinator Protection Workgroup

\*\*\*\*\*Draft Notes from meeting on May 22, 2012\*\*\*\*\*

### Members on the call:

Bret Adee, Joe Bagdon, Rich Bireley, Darren Cox, Steven Coy, Dave Epstein, Richard Gupton, Dave Hackenburg, Tony Jadcak, Erik Johansen, Iain Kelly, Vince Kramer, Ray McAllister, Tim McPherson, Cynthia Palmer, Don Parker, Brian Rowe, Julie Schlekau, John Scott, Mark Seetin, Rick Smith, Marylou Verder-Carlos, Scott Black, John Abbott, Joseph Wisk.

### EPA staff present:

Richard Keigwin, Anita Pease, Mary Clock-Rust.

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The purpose of this meeting was to start the subgroups (BMP's, Training/Education, Labeling and Enforcement) working on the priority items that would be appropriate to pursue immediately and to determine next steps for those activities.

The meeting was run as a discussion around the top priorities by subgroup. Below are some of the important ideas and action items.

### Top Priorities of Subgroups Following PPDC meeting on May 3-4, 2012

#### *Best Management Practices*

- Document and disseminate best management practices including elements of local success stories
- Focus on local solutions and work with USDA, county- and state-level partners to develop and disseminate BMPs

#### *Training/Education*

- Place greater emphasis on pollinator protection and “standardize” all applicator/handler training materials
- Communicate pollinator protection via EPA outreach materials and opportunities for collaboration with key organizations, such as the Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP), the State-FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG), National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), the Association of American Pest Control Officials (AAPCO), etc.

#### *Labeling*

- Revise the Label Review Manual as it pertains to pollinator label requirements and associated guidance

#### *Enforcement*

- Develop specialized training materials for state lead agencies to address investigate beekill incidents Improve the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) website more user-friendly for beekill reporting
- Include beekill investigation guidance in the FIFRA Enforcement Manual (currently under revision), which is used by some states as a template for investigations.

Next Steps and Action Items:

- At the next meeting, the training subgroup will report out about state efforts.
- SFIREG will have a meeting in June, and labeling is on the agenda.
- A draft pesticide regulation notice (PRN) from 2000 was sent out following the meeting. The PRN, which was never finalized, contained language proposed for labels for bee-toxic chemicals. The PRN might be helpful to see what it was, what EPA proposed for labels, maybe uncover some kernels of value in it.
- Scott Black asked if someone could pull together all the available training materials in one place. Marylou Verder-Carlos said she would check into this with her contact at AAPCO.
- Marylou Verder-Carlos also asked that the people on the labeling subgroup please comment on Erik Johansen's comments on the Label Review Manual (his comments included guidance and terms, consistency checking and improving the clarity of the LRM).
- Ray McAllister said that the LRM is not the place to establish new policy, but instead it is a repository of information.
- Some felt that BMPs should be developed for beekeepers as well as growers/applicators.
- Darren Cox said that the beekeeping industry wants consistency between states on enforcement of fines for beekeepers and growers. For example, fines should be the same for beekeepers using illegal pesticides as those for growers using illegal pesticides.
- Brian Rowe said that the state of Michigan found only one misuse of amitraz but since there is no tolerance for honey, there was no fine.
- Susan Kegley said she has heard that beekeepers have a difficult time using the bee kill reporting tool on the NPIC website. Asked that the tool be fixed (Mary is working with the people in OPP and NPIC to make it easier to report bee kills to NPIC).
- Susan Kegley said her survey of beekeepers is almost done (closes May 31?)