PPDC Pollinator Protection Plan Metrics WG - Meeting Minutes

9/13/2017

Attendees:
(in person) Mike Goodis, Lead, Meredith Laws, Tom Steeger, Dee Colby;
(call-in) Riley Titus (for Aaron Hobbs), Ray Brinkmeyer, Michele Colopy, Richard Crespin, David Epstein, Jim Fredericks, Peg Perrault, Caydee Savinelli, Julie Shapiro, Robin Shepard, Al Summers, Tony Cofer (invited guest), Liza Fleeson-Trossbach (invited guest), Cary Giguere (invited guest)

Agenda (attached)

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review – Mike/Dee

Mike welcomed callers, including invited representatives from State Lead Agencies (SLA).

Review of Meeting Minutes from August 10, 2017 - Dee

Meeting minutes were finalized from the August meeting and are posted on the PPDC website.

MP3 Metrics Workgroup Evaluation Questionnaire – Richard Crespin and Michele Colopy

Refer to the Presentation/Questionnaire attached.
The WG attempted to keep the questions that came from SLA input intact.
The WG would like to have certain questions on the Questionnaire scored. Scores would not be made public.
Each question was reviewed/assessed for value, wording, etc. Edits and discussion for specific questions were as follows:

1a. What qualifies for an "increase"…maybe a graded scale, but more than "yes, no, and somewhat". Possibly reword to ask, "Is there a method in place?" and, "Is the method effective?"
2. There was some discussion about the wording of these questions. SLA developed this question to see if states have a "plan" without specifying that the plan be an MP3.
2c. 2c seems larger than 2a and 2b, maybe 2c should be a stand-alone question.
3. Possibly rearrange these questions.
6. There was discussion over the wording of Q6 and that it may not be practical in all states to measure direct pesticide exposure to bees. Even though that may be the case, measuring direct exposure is an issue in every state due to funding, but it is still important to collect the data. SLA commented that they are trying to get states to think about how to handle exposure data in an appropriate way. Some states are surveying and collecting data on exposure; Q6 is an attempt to capture those efforts.
9a. Change to, "Check any that apply."

There was also a comment made about looking into Survey Monkey for scoring options.

These questions are what the WG intends to recommend to the full PPDC. SLA agreed that the language/wording of questions is appropriate for the groups that will be receiving the Questionnaire in each state. SFIREG/AAPCO agreed to administer the survey. SLA confirmed that the survey-type metric was agreeable to the states. SFIREG would provide the WG with feedback from the upcoming SFIREG POM/EQI JOINT WORKING COMMITTEE on 9/18/2017 since the survey will be discussed during the meeting.

Wrap Up – Meredith/Dee

The Workgroup decided to have a call-in meeting in early October, as well as, an in-person meeting on October 31 prior to presentation of the proposed metric to the full PPDC on November 1-2, 2017. The final call-in meeting would be 1.5 hours.

PPDC Pollinator Protection Plans Metrics Workgroup

Call-In Meeting 9/13/2017 1:30 – 2:30 pm
1-866-299-3188; 703-347-8657
Adobe connect:
http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/r7mpvdk3d98/

The objective of this 1-hour meeting is to discuss modifications/improvements to the proposed metric based on input from state lead agencies.

Agenda:

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, Agenda Review – Meredith/Dee (5 min)
Workgroup members and participants will introduce themselves.

Review of Meeting Minutes from August 10, 2017 - Dee (5 min)
Finalize meeting minutes from the August meeting. August Meeting Minutes are attached.

MP3 Metrics Workgroup Evaluation Questionnaire – Richard Crespin and Michele Colopy (40 min)
Workgroup members will discuss their efforts to modify the proposed metric into a survey questionnaire based on feedback from state lead agencies.

Wrap Up and October Meeting(s) – Meredith (10 min)
The full PPDC meets on November 1-2, 2017. Does the Workgroup want to have a call-in meeting in early October in addition to the in-person meeting on October 31 to prepare for the final presentation of the metric to the full PPDC? Should the call-in meeting be 1 ½ hours?

MP3 Metrics Workgroup Pollinator Plan Measures: Survey Questions Review & Next Steps

September 13, 2017

MP3 Metrics PPDC Workgroup – Key Points

- **Points System**
  - States will not be scored on the individual surveys
  - EPA can use the information, especially with the questions that have list of answers to devise a national score.
- **Survey Tool – MP3 Metrics Group Agrees Proposal**
  - "AAPCO is offering to utilize SFIREG to facilitate the distribution and return of the survey. One option discussed would be for SFIREG to electronically distribute the survey (via Survey Monkey) to the 10 Regional SFIREG Representatives. The Regional Representatives would in turn work with the States in their respective regions to complete the survey. Survey results would them be forwarded to EPA. In addition, AAPCO's Pollinator Workgroup may be able to help with data analysis and presentation."

MP3 Metrics PPDC Workgroup – Key Points

- MP3 Metrics Subgroup reviewed the questions
  - Survey Questions fit in the overall MP3 assessment categories
    - Stakeholder, Education, Communication, Best Management Practices, Progress Measures or Behavior Changes
  - Overall content of proposed questions remain intact.
  - Some tweaks & additions were made to the questions.
  - Review of the questions and discussion to follow in this presentation.
- Next Steps Discussion

Assessment Categories & Survey Questions

- Stakeholders – Q.3
- Education – Qs.3, 8
- Communication – Q.1
- Best Management Practices – Q.2
- Progress Measures or Behavior Changes – Qs.4, 5, 6, 7, 9

Communication – Q.1

- **1a. Does your state have a method to increase communication between pesticide users and beekeepers?**
  - Yes, No, Somewhat
  - Comments____
- **1b. If you answered "yes" or "somewhat", how has an increase in communication been achieved?** (Please check all that apply)
  - Pesticide users and beekeeper developed SOPs or BMPs
  - FieldWatch or similar mapping program
  - Flags
  - Meetings
  - Website
  - Other____

Communication – Q.1

- **1c. Has there been a yearly stakeholder meeting?**
  - Yes, No
  - Comments____

Best Management Practices – Q.2

- **2a. Have Best Management Practices (BMPs) or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) been developed to reduce pollinator exposure to pesticides?**
  - Yes, No, Somewhat
  - Please give examples of what has been shared

Best Management Practices – Q.2

- **2b. If you answered "yes" or somewhat for BMPs or SOPs,** please check all that apply.
  - Communication between beekeepers and pesticide applicators
  - Pesticide Risk to Pollinators
  - Stakeholder Engagement
  - Crop Producers
  - Beekeepers
  - Landscape / Nursery Industry
  - Urban / Homeowners
  - Pollinator Forage and Habitat
  - Other____

Best Management Practices – Q.2

- **2c. Have you or another stakeholder party conducted a formal evaluation of the MP3 plan?**
  - Yes, No, N/A
  - If yes, what were some of the key learnings as related to the MP3 process and utilization?
  - Comments____

Stakeholder, Education – Q.3

- **3a. Has there been outreach on how honey bees are exposed to pesticides, proper product selection and pesticide label comprehension?**
  - Yes, No, Somewhat
  - Number of people reached: ____
- **3b. What methods were used for outreach?** (Please check all that apply)
  - Websites
  - Webinars
  - Educational Materials
  - Training Sessions – Extension etc.
  - Radio
  - Farm shows, county fairs, beekeeper meetings etc.
  - Other____

Stakeholder, Education – Q.3

- **3c. Groups reached:** (Please check all that apply)
  - Agricultural
    - Certified applicators
    - Noncertified applicators
    - Crop Consultants
    - University Extension
    - State Apiarists
    - Others____
  - Non-agricultural/Urban
    - Certified applicators
    - Noncertified applicators
    - Homeowners
    - Mosquito Control
    - Others___
  - Comments _____

Progress Measures or Behavior Changes – Q.4

- **4. How is your state documenting the impact of changes in behavior on reducing pesticide exposure?** (Please check all that apply)
  - Changes in pesticide incident reporting
  - Participation of stakeholders in relevant training/webinar/other
  - Incorporation of MP3 content into continuing education
  - Downloading of materials from the website
  - Others____
  - N/A
- Comments____

Progress Measures or Behavior Changes – Qs.5-7

- **5. Has there been a reduction in pesticide-related verified bee kills?**
  - Yes, No, Do not know
  - Comments____
- **6. Is your state (SLA or university) attempting to measure direct pesticide exposure to bees, by collecting data documenting the frequency or level of pesticides detected in pollen or other substrate; or by some other means?**
  - Yes, No, Do not know
  - Comments____
- **7. If applicable, please comment on any innovative methods to assess pesticide exposure, increase communication or educational efforts.**
  - Comments____

Education – Q.8

- **8. Are you coordinating activities or trainings with other agencies, university-extension or NGOs within your state?**
  - Yes, No, Somewhat
  - Comments____

Progress Measures or Behavior Change – Q.9

- **9a. Which of the following measurements of success does your state actively utilize to track success?** Check all that apply.
  - Relying on the results of existing and currently collected honey bee data by federal agencies and national organizations. Such as data from, the USDA-NASS report and the Bee Informed Partnership report.
  - Relying on the results of state initiated pollinator health surveys.
  - Increased adopted of BMPs and SOPs by pesticide applicators and beekeepers.
  - Increase in communication between pesticide applicators and beekeepers
  - An increased level of understanding of how bees are exposed to pesticides, product selection and pesticide label comprehension by pesticide users
  - Reduction in pesticide-related verified bee kills
  - Reduction in the frequency and level of pesticides detected in pollen or other substrates.
  - Other____

Progress Measures or Behavior Change – Q.9

- 9b. Please describe funding sources for any of the above checked categories.
  - Comments____

Next Steps

- Review and finalize questions with state representatives (AAPCO, SFIREG etc.)
- Discuss in more detail with key stakeholders regarding survey proposal & mechanics
- National score – how to measure based on survey results
- Additional requirements?