

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Work Group on Pollinator Protection

Minutes

Meeting Date: September 8, 2011

This was the initial meeting of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Work Group on Pollinator Production (PPDC WG on Pollinators). This group was formed in response to a recommendation by the full PPDC at the April, 2011 meeting.

Donald Brady and Rick Keigwin co-chaired the meeting. The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) discussed the ground rules for PPDC work groups, administrative points for the function of the work group, and called roll of those on participating in the conference call (Attachment A). Materials including the agenda were prepared in advance of the WG conference call and were posted to the Environmental Science Connector portal. However, access to the portal was not necessary to participate in the conference call.

OPP provided a brief overview of previously identified PPDC WG objectives and then invited members of the PPDC WG to provide additional issues/concerns regarding the focus of the WG. Initial objectives identified by the PPDC included:

- 1) Initial, science-based risk management approaches including appropriate label restrictions and training;
- 2) Development of information on State approaches and authorities
- 3) Transfer of lesson learned by various stakeholders to improve existing management practices [across multiple factors affecting pollinator declines]
- 4) Continuing international communication; and,
- 5) Other issues the Agency wishes to bring to the WG's attention

WG members mentioned a range of areas that OPP should consider including: the need for better label language, consideration of non-managed bee species; technical information on the toxicity and behavior of pesticides and inert compounds to bees, issues related to incident reporting, training, enforcement and communication.

Everyone on the call seemed to recognize the importance of communication, education and cooperation to meet the group's goals. To tackle the plethora of issues raised by group members, OPP suggested that the comments be loosely grouped into four broad themes (see below). The four themes could be addressed by different subgroups to be formed from the WG. These subgroups would make recommendations to the WG, which in turn reports to the PPDC.

The group also expressed an interest in an update and description of the "state of the science" of pollinator protection at EPA.

OPP suggested a set of next steps, (see below) and encouraged that certain of these steps be taken in advance of the next meeting of the full PPDC on October 12. Therefore, the WG decided to meet on the 11th of October; the conference call will again be scheduled from 1:00 – 3:00 pm Eastern Time.

Four Suggested Themes of PPDC WG on Pollinator Protection

1) Management Strategies

- Label language vs. Best Management Practices [extending beyond the label].

- Adaptive management techniques
- Application directions
- Terms (*e.g.*, “visiting”)
- Agricultural vs. Non-Ag scenarios
- Alternative labeling techniques

2) Communication

- Reporting Incidents
- Local Communication: Between Beekeepers / Growers and Advisor
- International Communication: Partnerships and Resources

3) Data and Databases

- Ecotox database- *Apis* and non-*Apis*
- Toxicity of Residues on Foliage (temperature, humidity, other environmental conditions)
- Bee-Crop Relationships
- Innovations, Research and Development.
 - Repellants or Synergism information

4) Enforcement and Certification

- State Roles and Needs: Training and Education
- Investigations: individual vs. colony level incidents

Next Steps:

- i) Members of the PPDC WG on Pollinator Protection indicate their first and second preference of the four themes they wish to work on. **OPP asks that WG members complete this by September 15th. See spread sheet attachment.**
- ii) OPP will divide and select from WG member volunteers among the four themes to ensure balance in numbers and sectors. **OPP will complete this, and post it to the Portal by September 19th.**
- iii) Once subgroup members have been identified, OPP will then ask that two co-leads self identify from within each subgroup. **OPP requests that this be completed by September 26th.**
- iv) OPP representatives will work with the co-leaders of each group to further define and develop the scope, objectives and timelines for each area.
- v) The next meeting is October 11, from 1-5 PM at EPA’s Potomac Yard building (South Potomac Yard, rooms 4370-80). Meeting participants can also call in on 1-866-299-3188, Code: 703-305-5035. At the October 11 meeting, one of the goals will be to prepare a presentation of the 4 areas of focus including subtasks within each area and co-chairs to the full PPDC. An update of the state of the science may also be presented.

Attachments

- A. Member Attendance at 9/8/11 Meeting

Attachment A

Attendees at PPDC PPWG Meeting September 8, 2011		
Name	Group	Affiliation
Laurie Davies-Adams	NGO	NAPPC/Pollinator Partnership
Bret Adee	Beekeeper	Adee Honey
Joe Bagdon	Government	USDA-NRCS
David Bell	Grower	Maine Blueberries
Lori Berger	Grower	California Specialty Crops
Dave Biddinger	Academic	Penn State
Rich Bireley	Government	California DPR
Zac Browning	Beekeeper	Browning's Honey
Wayne Buhler	Academic+PPDC Member	NC State
Cheryl Cleveland	Industry	Dow Agrosiences
Darren Cox	Beekeeper+PPDC Member	Cox Honey
Peter Egan	Government	Dept of Defense
Dave Epstein	Government	USDA-OPMP
Michael Fry	NGO	American Bird Conservancy
Barbara Glenn	Industry	CropLife America (for Ray McAllister)
David Hackenburg	Beekeeper	Hackenburg Apiaries
Christi Heintz	Beekeeper	Project Apis M
Tony Jadcak	Government	Maine State Apiarist
Erik Johansen	Government	Washington Ag
Susan Kegley	NGO	Pesticide Research
Iain Kelly	Industry	Bayer
John Kepner	NGO	Beyond Pesticides
Vince Kramer	Industry	Dow Agrosiences
Gabriele Ludwig	Grower+PPDC Member	Almond Board of California
Ken Nye	Industry	Michigan Farm Bureau
Don Parker	Grower	Cotton Council
Jeff Pettis	Government	USDA-ARS
Jennifer Sass	NGO	NRDC
Julie Schlekau	Industry	Valent
John Scott	Government	Colorado Dept of Ag.
Rick Smith	Beekeeper	Smith Honey
Mace Vaughan	NGO	Xerces Society
Marylou Verder-Carlos	Government+PPDC Member	California DPR
Tim Wilson	Industry	Syngenta
Joseph Wisk	Industry	BASF
EPA Folks		
Don Brady	Division Director	Environmental Fate and Effects Division/OPP
Rick Keigwin	Division Director	Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division/OPP
Anita Pease	Associate Division Director	Environmental Fate and Effects Division/OPP
Tom Moriarty	Team Leader	Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division/OPP
Kimberly Nesci	Special Assistant	Registration Division/OPP
Mary Clock-Rust	Biologist	Environmental Fate and Effects Division/OPP