

## **PAC Meeting Minutes**

October 16, 2024 – 10 am – 12 pm

### **Committee Members in Attendance:**

Dr. Frederick Kutz – Chair - PRESENT  
Logan Freeman – Representing Turf and Golf Course Industries - PRESENT  
Marcie Hardin – Maryland Public Schools - PRESENT  
Dr. Richard Kramer – Maryland Structural Pest Control Businesses - PRESENT  
Dr. Clifford Mitchell – Maryland Health Department - PRESENT  
David Myers - University of Maryland Extension Services - PRESENT  
Matthew Hurd – Maryland Department of Natural Resources - PRESENT

### **Committee Members Absent:**

State Senator J.B. Jennings – Maryland Senate  
Delegate Charles Otto – Maryland House of Delegates  
Michael J. Calkins – Maryland Department of Agriculture  
John Backus – Maryland Department of the Environment  
Michelle Chesnik – Maryland Agricultural Commission

### **Staff:**

Robert Hofstetter – MDA, PRS, Program Manager  
Kelly Love – MDA, PRS, Enforcement  
Jessi Koontz – MDA, PRS, Administration  
Alexander Lehmann – MDA, PRS, Certification and Licensing – IPM Coordinator

### **Guests:**

Deborah Roy  
Veronika Carella  
Tom Phillips

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Dr. Frederick W. Kutz at 10:00 am.

### **Rick Kutz – Chairman**

- Introduction

### **Kelly Love – MDA – Pesticide Regulation Section**

- Roll Call

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### Alex Lehmann – MDA – Pesticide Regulation Section

- **IPM in Schools Update**

- We will be having a meeting with all the IPM coordinators throughout the state for each county. A questionnaire was sent out where everybody had to answer questions about topics with highlights that they would like to cover during the meeting.
- We would like to have some guest speakers attend the meetings to give their expertise. We do have an updated list of all the coordinators on our website. If you have any questions, you can contact them.
- We've had over 20 people respond to the questionnaire. We are hoping to get some other counties involved as well. We also have EPA joining us in the meeting as well.
  - Kelly Love notes all 23 counties, in addition to Baltimore City were inspected in FY24. So, we went to every school district. So, every school has a plan. We are in the process of getting some of the plans updated as some are old. Most of the counties use sub-contractors, so they are using a company that comes in and does them. We've cited some minor technical difficulties. There were no major violations and there is always going to be sanitation issues. We have not had any complaints coming to the office received here directly from any parents or through our complaint process here at MDA. If and when we do, we will inspect and investigate from there.
  - Marcie Harding suggests that it would be a good idea to include the sub-contractors in these meetings. They have a lot of information that maybe the coordinator doesn't follow as closely, and they should have a representative in the meeting just for information for them.
    - Veronika Carella inquires if CPAC members can be invited to this meeting as well.
      - Rob Hofstetter notes that the meeting is not and has never been open to the public that there would have to be a separate meeting scheduled.
    - Richard Kramer suggests the possibility of the state coming up with a school IPM plan that applies to all 23 counties and just have one plan.
      - Rob Hofstetter noted that a rough draft has been created, and it is on the agenda to take a look at the old plan and see what we can do.

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- **Marcie Harding – Maryland Public Schools**
  - Presented PowerPoint Presentation on “Integrated Pest Management Custodial Training HCPSS”
    - The presentation was sent to each member of the committee.
  
- **Rob Hofstetter – MDA – Pesticide Regulation Section**
  - Pesticide Regulation Section Updates
    - PRS does not receive any “General Funds” from the State. PRS receives a small federal grant to run our federal programs and the rest of the funds come from licensing fees which is why we have put legislation forth to raise all fees. Fees have not been raised since 2003. Only exception is new fee for Registered employees in 2006.
    - The pesticide use survey for 2024 is going out. Should go out early January.
    - We have a full inspection staff for the first time in a long time.
    - There's been a lot of movement on EPA, endangered species. A new herbicide strategy came out and has been published. Go to the website and look up EPA, endangered species, and all come up. We're working with the regulated community on what needs to be done in order to continue to apply those products that might have a reference to the endangered species on the pesticide label.
  
- **Rick Kutz – Chairman**
  - **Committee – New Business:**
    - Recommendations for guests/speakers at future meetings.
    - Discussion regarding mosquito control and chemical sensitivity.
    - Suggestion for future meeting to include legislative updates on any of the department's bills or any other pesticide or PFOS related legislation.
  
  - **Public Input.**
    - **Deborah Roy:**
      - Suggestion for the Maryland Department of Agriculture to consider moving to using an app on the phone called Code Red to inform the public when emergency Mosquito spraying and/or Gypsy Moth Control spraying is being done.
      - Suggestion for the Marland Department of Agriculture to consider enforcing using only organic lawn care for those that are the neighbors of chemically sensitive individuals.
  
    - **Veronica Carella:**
      - Presentation on behalf of The Maryland Children's Environmental Coalition.

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- (The presentation was forwarded via email to each member of the committee)

### **Closing comments:**

- The next meeting is scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10 to noon.

Meeting adjourned by Dr. Kutz 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
...Jessi Koontz

***If Anne Arundel County schools are 2 hours late the meeting will be canceled. Also, the Department's number is 410-841-5710 if closing or liberal leave is enforced. If either is recorded the meeting will be canceled.***