



DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION PESTICIDE REGISTRATION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2005

Committee Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Lynn Baker, Air Resources Board (ARB)
Dave Rice, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
Syed Ali, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
Charlie Goodman, Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Bryan Eya, Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC)
Rebecca Sisco, University of California IR-4 Program
Tobi Jones, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

Visitors in Attendance:

John Hooper, CDFA
Mark Novak, Department of Health Services (DHS)
Ben Sun, DHS
Frank Carl, Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner
John Pearson, Compliance Service
Eileen Mahoney, DPR
Rachel Kubiak, DPR

1. Introductions and Committee Business – Tobi Jones, Chairperson
 - a. About 14 people attended the meeting.
 - b. Corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting held on August 19, 2005 were identified, and the minutes will be amended.
2. Update on West Nile Virus – Mark Novak, Supervising Public Health Biologist, Ben Sun Acting Chief, Veterinary Public Health Section

Mark Novak and Ben Sun, DHS/DCDC, provided an overview of West Nile virus (WNV) activity in the U.S. and California. WNV is transmitted principally between various species of mosquitoes and birds. Occasionally, infected mosquitoes feed on non-avian species and can transmit the virus to these incidental hosts. Many infected animals show no apparent signs of infection. However, in humans and horses, WNV infection can cause significant disease and death. After first appearing in New York City in 1999, WNV spread rapidly across the U.S. The highest number of human disease cases was recorded in 2003, when more than 9,800 cases were recorded from 44 states. In 2003, WNV was detected in six counties in southern California. By September of 2004, WNV had spread to all 58 counties.



This year, California leads the nation in human WNV cases (548 reported to CDC as of 9/13/05), but ranks fourth in incidence of illness (1.8 cases per 100,000). Based on virus activity in 2004, it was anticipated the Central Valley would be a focus of activity in 2005. As of September 13, more than 70% of the human cases in California have been reported from Central Valley counties. Human case reports peaked in late August in 2004 and the epidemic appears to be following a similar seasonal pattern in 2005. It is anticipated that although the number of disease cases may decrease in subsequent years, WNV is established throughout California and transmission will continue to occur. WNV has also impacted wild birds and horses in California. As of September 13, 2,252 WNV infected dead birds and 364 infected horses were reported in California. The corvid species of birds (crows, jays, magpies) are very susceptible to the virus and that is why the WNV surveillance program uses dead bird reports to detect and monitor WNV activity. Horses are also very susceptible to WNV with approximately 40% of the reported equine cases being fatal. A vaccine is available to protect horses. Other animals may become infected with WNV, but most species don't become ill or die. It appears that tree squirrels and some wild rabbits may also be susceptible to WNV. Pet dogs and cats are very rarely infected. More than 80% of California's population is covered by mosquito control services. Control agencies are focusing their disease prevention efforts on three species of mosquitoes that are efficient vectors (i.e., transmitters) of WNV: *Culex quinquefasciatus* (southern house mosquito), *Cx. pipiens* (northern house mosquito), and *Cx. tarsalis* (encephalitis mosquito).

Mosquito control in California is based on the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and includes physical, cultural, biological, and chemical control measures. Chemical controls are targeted at both the immature and adult life stages. Larvacides registered for mosquito control in California include bacteria (*Bacillus Thuringiensis israelensis* or BTI, and *Bacillus sphaericus*), surface films (e.g., monomolecular film or petroleum oil), growth regulators (e.g., methoprene) and an organophosphate (temephos). Registered adulticides include various pyrethrin, pyrethroid and organophosphate products. One of the hotspots of human disease cases and publicity about mosquito control occurred this summer in Sacramento County. In response, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District implemented an IPM approach to mosquito control and systematically increased their control activities in response to their surveillance indicators of vector populations and virus activity. In comparison to annual totals from 2004, their surveillance and control (i.e., biological, larval and adult control) efforts were significantly increased in 2005, in response to the increased WNV activity. Their control efforts followed the District's previously established response plan, which was modeled on the state arbovirus response plan. Yet, the District's implementation of ground and, particularly, aerial adulticiding in urban and suburban areas generated some vocal criticism and a great deal of media attention. Both ground and aerial control used an ultra low volume application of a pyrethrin/piperonyl butoxide formulation (application rate of 0.64 oz active ingredient per acre). Post-treatment surveillance indicated a decrease in mosquito populations and virus activity in the treated areas. For more information on West Nile virus, please visit www.westnile.ca.gov.

3. Addressing Asian Long-horned Beetle in California – John Hooper, CDFA

John provided background on this exotic pest and the kinds of damage it can cause to hardwood trees. It has been a problem in other parts of the U.S. and Canada for several years. Its first appearance in California was in a warehouse in Sacramento arriving in wooden crates from China. Crates were subsequently fumigated and an area surrounding the facility was surveyed. The pest was identified by a concerned warehouse manager. CDFA is developing an action plan and is working closely with the U.S. Forest Service. John discussed possible treatment strategies including insecticide treatment of soil around trees, but indicated that engaging the public to look for infestations will be an important tool. There was discussion of other long-horned beetles that are native to the state.

4. Pest Management in the 21st Century Project- Mark Rentz, Deputy Director, DPR

Mark provided background to the committee on DPR's Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) and the direction provided by Director Warmerdam. Mark discussed the Pest Management in the 21st Century project being undertaken by a working group of the PMAC. The working group will provide recommendations to the PMAC about how departmental resources can best be used to further promote integrated pest management in agricultural and urban settings. The full PMAC will review the working group's recommendations and forward final PMAC recommendations to the Director. Mark indicated that the working group's recommendations would be discussed at the next meeting of the PMAC on November 10. Tobi Jones will provide these recommendations to committee members.

Action Item: Provide PMAC recommendations to PREC members.

5. Agenda Items for Next Meeting– Tobi Jones, DPR

Committee members requested a status report on the methyl iodide registration and proposed regulations.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, November 18, 2005 in the Sierra Hearing Room located on the second floor of the Cal/EPA building.

6. Closing Comments – Tobi Jones

The meeting was adjourned.