



# Department of Pesticide Regulation



Chris Reardon  
Acting Director

## AGRICULTURAL PEST CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

May 5, 2011

9:30-12:30

CalEPA Building  
First Floor Training Room

### MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** (11) Ronald Berg- Pest Control Dealers, Linda LaVanne- Agricultural Pest Control Advisers, Mary Louise Flint-UCIPM, and Glen Foth – Commercial Applicator Certificate Holders, Phil Mullins– alternate for Pest Control Businesses, James Farrar -California State University System, Wayne J. Steele – Registrants, Francisca Johnson General Public Member, Ken Nichols - Pest Control Businesses, Timothy Smith - Board of Governors of the California Community College System, and Tim Stone - alternate for Commercial applicators,

**Department Staff:** (6) David Duncan- Chair of Committee (Ch), Margie Read, Cynthia Ray, and Rayven Jenkins

**Guests:** (3) Mary Bianchi, Horticulture Farm Advisor (UC Davis), Joyce Basan- The California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA), and Judy Letterman – (PAPA)

**Members Absent:** (3) Dick Stoltz - Pest Control Aircraft Pilots, Scott Hudson- County Agricultural Commissioner Association, and Kenneth Oneto- Producer

#### I. Introduction and Administrative Topics - David Duncan, Committee Chair

Minutes from February Meeting were reviewed and approved by the committee. It was announced that Cynthia Ray has assumed the roll of Supervising Program Technician in the Pest Management and Licensing (PM&L) Licensing unit.

#### II. Licensing Update – Cynthia Ray, Licensing Program Supervisor

##### PCA requirement web page update

The final list of PCA core requirement classes was distributed at the meeting and will be posted to website. The list provides examples of courses that are acceptable for each core study area, but is not all-inclusive. The list is intended to be guidance, and not to be considered complete.

Some suggestions were made by the meeting attendees and David said that suggestions will be incorporated.

##### Fumigant label changes – letter to licensees

A letter regarding the fumigation label changes will be going out to licensed applicators next week. The fact sheet that is currently being used by the Enforcement Branch was distributed to meeting attendees. Judy Letterman requested permission (granted) to distribute the contents from fact sheet in her association newsletter. Interested parties may also visit the DPR Fumigant Resource center website for a list of California-registered fumigant pesticide products impacted by labeling changes, and other information at the following link:

[http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/methbrom/mb\\_main.htm](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/methbrom/mb_main.htm)

##### Maintenance Gardener Workshop Summary



The Maintenance Gardener Workshop pilot program has proven very effective. Of the 176 exams given, 149 passed, with an average pass rate of 86%. As a reminder, Maintenance Gardener Study Material is available on-line at the UCIPM website. The material can be copied and used for study, although not for re-sale or profit.

#### Online renewal schedule update

It was announced that DPR is not able to implement the 'online renewal' for licensees this fall as previously hoped. Due to issues related to the continued education submittals, the online renewal for individual trade licenses may take two yrs. to implement. DPR may be able to implement the online renewal for businesses this year, however.

#### Laws and Regulations Study Guide update

The Laws and Regulations 2011 Study Guide has been completed, and is at the office of Department of Water resources, which is responsible for print layout. Due to contract issues, printing is delayed, although it should be soon. Additional examination questions will be added to the laws and regulations exam pool that are taken from this revised study guide.

#### Departmental Travel

Due to the State budget crisis, departmental travel is being allowed on a 'mission critical' basis only. Giving exams is considered mission critical and thus staff will be able to travel and give exams, at least through June. However, attending out-of-town meetings and conferences is considered low priority, and will rarely be approved.

### **III. Maintenance Gardener IPM Alliance Grant - Mary Bianchi, UC Extension Horticulture Farm Advisor**

Mary Bianchi reported on MG IPM Alliance Grant progress and outcomes for the project that has taken place in San Luis Obispo County. The Maintenance Gardener Project is an IPM education and outreach program that delivers conventional IPM training. The training is offered to Maintenance Gardeners (MGs) and retail store employees. The training meets DPRs accredited Continued Education guidelines, and provides MGs with information to improve pest management decisions about pest management, safe working conditions, and reduction in pesticide use/misuse. The courses covered a wide range of information to meet the multiple ranges of abilities of those who participated.

Topics covered in the training classes included weed identification, mower care, herbicide applications, and specialized local problems. The trainers encouraged participation with the objective that the participants will then be able to provide their clientele with explanations regarding specific problems. The workshops turned out to be very effective. MGs, in general, showed a positive change in their confidence levels, and had more confidence in topics regarding their business.

The program now faces many questions. For example, what will need to take place to continue to meet MG educational needs? Should a year-round program be offered? Is it possible to use an existing program? Can a training program workshop be offered to employees at big box stores?

Some big box stores in the bay area hold information tents to offer consultation regarding pesticide use. However, because there is a great turn over of employees at big box stores, MGs do not always have the opportunity to speak with an employee who has IPM knowledge.

At this time an 'Introduction to Pesticides' online training course is available for retail and garden center employees and others who advise residents about home and garden pesticides. It gives basic information about types of pesticides, selecting pesticides, and pesticide safety.

Mary ended the discussion by stating that participation in this program was truly fun and it was a great project to be involved with.

#### **IV. UC IPM update - Mary Louise Flint, Statewide UC IPM**

A position vacancy announcement had been posted on the University of California Integrated Pest Management (IPM) website for a Pesticide Education Coordinator. So far, three applicants have been interviewed. UC IPM would like to see the position filled and in place by this summer.

UC IPM is working with County Agricultural Commissioners to determine interest in, and to work on dates to sponsor, up to 8 train-the-trainer sessions this year. These sessions have been developed to provide pesticide safety training to those who train pesticide handlers and farm workers. San Joaquin County Agricultural office sponsored an event in March to train pesticide handlers and the County Agricultural Commissioner, Scott Hudson, felt that it was very effective

#### **V. Online CE Reporting Tool - Ken Ketsdever, DPR Program Manager; Mike Wanser, IT Program Supervisor**

In order to provide an understanding of the internet tool that is being developed for reporting attendance in continuing education (CE) classes, a demonstration was given to the APCAC members. The demonstration gave a background regarding the need for development of the system, and how it could be implemented.

There were questions regarding who has the responsibility to enter the information, and if it had to be the CE sponsor and only the CE sponsor. Would it be possible to use a third party to help? Glen Foth expressed that there needs to be a way for third party, like CAPCA, to assist in the process. David Duncan clarified that there was no reason why sponsors could not use a third party to help them upload information to the DPR website. However, the sponsors would be required to make sure that the reporting for their classes did take place, and also for maintaining the records for three years.

Glen also indicated that many sponsors have stated that they will not want to track attendance and may opt to drop out from giving classes. Margie Read offered the suggestion that many were forming their opinions about the proposed reporting requirement in the absence of attending any of the informational workshops about the reporting tool. Thus, they are basing their opinion on

misinformation and that sort of reaction is to be expected. She suggested that apprehension should diminish once the system is better understood.

This on-line reporting tool is being developed to provide the best service possible. Sponsors that have attended the demonstration workshops have been very complementary about the tool. One sponsor reflected at the workshop that the DPR system appears to be much easier than the one that has been used in Arizona for the past several years, for example. Additionally, there have been many good suggestions coming from sponsors that have attended the demonstrations, and many of these are being incorporated into the system.

APCAC members and guests were asked to provide suggestions or ideas during and after the demo. Once it is finalized, DPR will conduct training workshops in different locations to show the easy upload features.

**VI. PI subcommittee update** – Mary Louise Flint, PhD; Statewide UC IPM

Members are discussing ways to evaluate ‘quality’ for CE courses, as well as differentiation of acceptable criteria for correspondence courses. Thus far these criteria have not been decided upon. There was some discussion about measuring CE course quality, and the types of problems associated with each alternative. Questions and suggestions will be taken up by the subcommittee at their next meeting.

**VII. Next agenda – date and topics**

Next meeting date: Friday, August 19, 2011

Possible topics may include:

- Update on the CE regulation
- UC IPM update
- Performance Indicator subcommittee status report

Public comment on any agenda item is welcome. Questions about this agenda should be directed to David Duncan at (916) 445-3870 or [dduncan@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:dduncan@cdpr.ca.gov).