



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
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Memorandum

To: Board of Pesticides Control

From: Megan Patterson | Director | Maine Board of Pesticides Control

Subject: Board Planning Sessions

Date: December 2, 2022

Request

In recent years, staff have been tasked with numerous competing directives. Historically, the Board held planning sessions to assist staff with prioritizing projects and the allocation of resources. Staff would like the Board to discuss the possible reintroduction of this process and topics for review.

Background

Prior to 2014, the Board periodically held informal planning sessions with the entire staff to review Board concerns, issues and priorities. Board members or staff submitted topics for potential discussion at the planning session. The Board then prioritized the proposed topics and discussed them in order of priority as time permitted. In 2013, the following topics were proposed by Board members or staff for potential discussion at the annual planning session.

- Collaboration with Integrated Pest Management Council
 - Grants for IPM
- 25' setback exemption for invasive plant control
- Staff issuance of variances
 - Chapter 22 variances for identifying Sensitive Areas
 - Guidelines/BMPs for variances to control invasive plants near surface water
- Certification for people who make pesticide recommendations
- Policy on posting personal information from comments that are received
- Policy on complaints/sampling and responding to applicators
- Enforcement case turnaround time
- Consent agreement fine structure
- Other rulemaking? Licensing chapters?
- Enforceability of pesticide laws
- Educational outreach priorities
- Reducing reliance on pesticides
 - Staff involvement in the YardScaping program

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- Retail sign and BPC slogan
- Awareness and operation of the notification provisions contained in Chapter 28
- Board meeting during the Maine Agricultural Trades Show?
- Update on the GMO labeling law
- More exam training for growers
- Better online recertification options
- Streamlining of the licensing process