

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON POLLINATOR PROTECTION MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, April 27, 2017
MnDOT Office of Aeronautics
222 Plato Blvd, St. Paul MN 55107**

Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection Members present: Erika Bailey-Johnson, Jim Calkins, Steve Ellis, Dave Flakne, Sarah Foltz Jordan, Lex Horan, Dan MacSwain, Kevin Paap, Erin Rupp, Dan Schutte, Marla Spivak, Ted Suss, Adam Birr (on behalf of Brian Thalmann), Yao Yang

I. Welcome, agenda review and introductions

II. Review and approval of meeting notes

III. Board of Water and Soil Resources pollinators overview

Dan Shaw, Senior Ecologist with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), presented on BWSR's Pollinator Initiative and several other ways that BWSR incorporates pollinator protection into its agency work.

The Committee provided several suggestions as part of the discussion:

- Assemble a list of what different groups (public/private) are doing and how landowners can contact these groups for assistance with pollinator-related projects.
- Provide more guidance for landowners on drift protection and/or how conservation practitioners can deal with difficult situations where landowners are enthusiastic about creating pollinator habitat, but the chosen location may be unsafe in regards to pesticide drift.
- Perform more outreach to soil and water conservation districts about how to use BWSR's Pollinator Toolbox and promote it to landowners and residents.

IV. How agencies develop Legislative proposals

Will Seuffert discussed the timeline and process for agencies to make budget and policy proposals.

V. Public comment

- Lori Cox, who is a member of the public and a specialty crop producer in the southeast Metro, brought up the Green Steps City program as a potential venue for tie-in between BWSR's activities and outreach and local governments.
- Ms. Cox also warned about "beewashing" and mentioned that for many consumers, there can be an information overload that results in consumers giving up instead of taking pollinator protection actions.

VI. Department of Natural Resources pollinators overview

Crystal Boyd, a bee researcher with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), presented on the DNR's internal operational orders for pollinator best management practices, her research on wild bees, and the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

VII. Updates

Charlie Petersen, the Committee's facilitator through the Management Analysis and Development group, led the Committee in a discussion on the finalized values statements and roadmap. Additionally, the Committee mentioned that they would like to make more time to talk amongst themselves, identify their knowledge gaps, and share their expertise rather than hearing presentations for the entire meeting.

VIII. Next steps and adjournment

The Committee will meet again on June 8, 2017. The afternoon portion of the meeting will be a joint meeting with the Environmental Quality Board.