

**Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection**  
**Thursday, March 16, 2017**  
**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**MnDOT Office of Aeronautics**  
**222 Plato Blvd, St. Paul MN 55107**

**AGENDA**

<b>Activity</b>		<b>Time</b>
1.	Welcome, agenda review and introductions	9:00
2.	Review and approval of meeting notes	9:10
3.	Updates	9:15
4.	Process review and updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Scope</i></li> <li>• <i>Road map</i></li> <li>• <i>Values statements</i></li> </ul>	9:25
BREAK		10:30
5.	Interaction between Interagency Pollinator Protection Team and Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Committee authorities</i></li> </ul>	10:40
6.	Issues of interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Rusty patched bumble bee update</i></li> <li>• <i>Minnesota Department of Agriculture legislative update</i></li> <li>• <i>Comments or questions and response</i></li> </ul>	11:05
LUNCH		11:45
7.	Minnesota Department of Agriculture Special Registration Review process and findings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Presentation</i></li> <li>• <i>Questions and response</i></li> </ul>	12:30
BREAK		2:00
8.	Future topics for presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ideas worksheet</i></li> </ul>	2:15
9.	Public comments	2:40
10.	Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Next meeting – April 27, 2017</i></li> </ul>	2:55
11.	ADJOURN	3:00

**THANK YOU!**

# GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON POLLINATOR PROTECTION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 8 2017  
Rm 116C Administration Building  
50 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul  
Meeting broadcast via WebEx

**Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection Members present:** Erika Bailey-Johnson (via WebEx), Jim Calkins, Steve Ellis, Caydee Savinelli (proxy for Dave Flakne), Sarah Foltz Jordan, Lex Horan, Bob Koch, Dan MacSwain, Kevin Paap, Erin Rupp, Dan Schutte, Marla Spivak, Ted Suss, Brian Thalmann, Yao Yang

## **I. Welcome, agenda review and introductions**

## **II. Review and approval of meeting notes**

## **III. Process updates**

Charlie Petersen (Management Analysis and Development) went through the scope of the Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection as defined in Executive Order 16-07, discussed ground rules, and revisited the topic of Committee leadership.

Members of the Committee agreed on a tri-chair leadership structure. Tri-chairs were elected by secret ballot, with the top three vote-getters overall becoming tri-chairs. After a runoff ballot for the third chair, the Committee voted for Marla Spivak, Ted Suss, and Lex Horan to be the tri-chairs.

## **IV. Environmental Congress update**

The members who had attended the session about pollinators, "Pollinator Policy: Opening the Door to Wider Participation," shared their impressions of the presentations and small group discussions that took place there.

## **V. Discussion of Committee purpose, Committee values, and pollinator protection interests**

Charlie Petersen led the group through an interactive exercise to identify purpose, values, and interests for the Committee. The group identified the following interests:

- Land stewards are part of the solution
- Economic benefits of producers and eaters are distributed equally and not concentrated
- Protect and sustain biodiversity (including humans)
- Recognize and protect pollinators as a resource
- Pollinator protection policies that can be supported by all interest groups
- Catalyze people
- Science-delivered policy

The key values identified were:

- Integrity – *Be ethical; honest; trusted.*
- Equity – *Treat constituents fairly and in a consistent manner.*
- Accountability – *Inform the profession of statutes, rules and standards and provide clarity and transparency as to their application.*
- Collaboration – *Work together as Board Members, along with other stakeholders, to provide quality services to protect the public.*
- Responsiveness – *Meet the needs of the public and practitioners effectively and efficiently.*

A subgroup consisting of Steve Ellis, Dave Flakne, Dan Schutte, and Yao Yang agreed to take these words and develop value statements to discuss at the next meeting.

#### **VI. Department of Agriculture presentation on current pollinator protection initiatives**

Jamison Scholer, a research scientist with the Department of Agriculture, presented on pollinator initiatives, the neonicotinoid special registration review, and the action steps that came out of that report. He then responded to questions from the Committee.

#### **VII. Review of the Interagency Pollinator Protection Team draft report**

Claudia Hochstein, the pollinator coordinator with the Environmental Quality Board, asked Committee members for fatal-flaws feedback on the Interagency Pollinator Protection Team's draft report. As a result, the Committee discussed potential changes for the indicator used to track progress toward Goal 2.

#### **VIII. Next steps and adjournment**

The Committee will meet again on March 16, 2017.

## Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection – Wednesday, February 8, 2017

**Identify Pollinator Protection interests:** *What are the key interests for you in addressing the pollinator protection issue?*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Land stewards are part of the solution</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Economic benefits of producers and eaters are distributed equally and not concentrated</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Protect and sustain biodiversity (including humans)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recognize and protect pollinators as a resource</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pollinator protection policies that can be supported by all interest groups</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Catalyze people</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Science delivered policy</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Pesticide reform, use of cover crops, establish or maintain habitat, cropping practices, BMPs</li> <li>•Some are over-focused that agriculture is part of the threat when agriculture is a key part of the solutions</li> <li>•Actively managed habitat</li> <li>•Maintain productions ag compatibility with pollinator health</li> <li>•Balanced agriculture productions; allow growers to protect yields, reduce risk to /promote pollinators</li> <li>•Sustainable pest control</li> <li>•Infrastructure sustainability; so much of our infrastructure, including agr., has been built unsustainably</li> <li>•Thriving food system; we need pollinators in our food system, food system should work for farmers, beekeepers, consumers, rural communities, workers and that is possible</li> <li>•Pesticide regulation does not have considerations on all ecosystems</li> <li>•Engage landowners; it won't get done or at least will be less successful without landowner help; landowners have the land and the habitat</li> <li>•Cropping systems compatibility with pollinator protection – rebalancing</li> <li>•Healthy food for everyone forever! - affordable</li> <li>•No ones' (including env.) health or livelihood should be harmed by pesticides</li> <li>•Our impacts are irreversible</li> <li>•Integrated approach to pollinator protection; address multiple interacting stressors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Profit driven interests continue to move pollinator protection backwards</li> <li>•Beekeepers and farmers need healthy bees for livelihood</li> <li>•Reshaping ag economics in a way that builds a sustainable future; ecosystem complexity, we depend on food systems, sustainable stewardship, diversity, support farmers and eaters and pollinators ecosystems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Protect earth; we have a responsibility to protect Mother Earth; we need Mother Earth, but the earth doesn't need us.</li> <li>•Bee decline is a warning light</li> <li>•Undeniable intrinsic value, and recognized tool for promoting environmental stewardship; emotional touchstone for many growing up and/or being outdoors, monarch butterflies, beekeeping, citizen science projects, all avenues for fostering long-term environmental stewardship.</li> <li>•No ones' (including env.) health or livelihood should be harmed by pesticides</li> <li>•Our impacts are irreversible</li> <li>•Memengwe (Butterfly Woman)</li> <li>•Dramatically improved landscape diversity, national, ag, urban, rural</li> <li>•Solutions with multiple benefits: water quality, soil health, human health</li> <li>•Increase valuable habitat and forage; great habitat, not just habitat – right habitat and right locations</li> <li>•Landscape level change</li> <li>•extinction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Viable – pollinator lead to increased – populations</li> <li>•measurable improvement in pollinator health and populations</li> <li>•cornerstone of livelihoods and necessary for any alternative or small scale ag endeavors; pollinators existing as healthy populations provide opportunity to make a living in a number of ways, and are also necessarily present to support any sort of alternative agriculture that is proven to be more productive and more nutritious per acre than conventional ag.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Continued or exacerbated polarization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Catalyze youth; young people need to understand and embrace the challenges of improving pollinator health</li> <li>•Education</li> <li>•Integrated approach to pollinator protection; address multiple interacting stressors</li> <li>•Embrace change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Pollinator protection policies that are justified by science</li> </ul>

# Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection

## DRAFT VALUES DOCUMENT

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Black – Dan Schutte

Green - Dave Flakne

Blue – Charlie Petersen, original notes

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The Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection was established by Governor Mark Dayton's Executive Order 16-07. It is a committee of 15 member appointed by the Governor to do the following:

- i. promote statewide collaboration on pollinator protection efforts;
- ii. raise public awareness of pollinator issues;
- iii. review and comment on agency pollinator programs, reports, and recommendations;
- iv. identify and support opportunities for local and public-private partnerships.

The following values will guide actions and recommendations of the Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection. These are listed in no particular order. The values are intended to be used collectively.

- **Action to reverse pollinator decline – The Pollinator Protection Committee is committed to**
  - Key words noted in meeting: bold, scientific based

**1) Action: Pro-active efforts to immediately reduce pollinator population decline:**

The Committee recognizes the need for immediate, measurable steps to slow and reverse declining pollinator populations. Science-based information will be utilized to inform action-oriented recommendations. Recommendations provided by the Committee will be crafted to result in the most immediate results of protecting the greatest numbers of pollinators.

- **Precedent/Leadership**

- Key words: novel solutions, forward looking, strategic, meaningful

**2) Leadership: The Committee will provide precedent-setting leadership in pollinator protection efforts:** As the first of its kind in the country, this Governor-appointed Committee strives to create a strategic, forward-looking model for others to follow in their pollinator protection efforts. The Committee recognizes our responsibility of ensuring meaningful, tangible, and significant results towards pollinator protection.

Dave Flakne: The purpose of the Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection is to work towards the improvement of pollinator health by utilizing scientific based and novel solutions. It will show that Minnesota is a leader in pollinator health with solutions that are meaningful, forward looking and beneficial for all.

*[The following were combined by the end of this discussion. There was earlier discussion they should be two separate values. I have tried to include the words under each term that were most common to that term. However, there is and maybe more overlap. There are a lot of words here so I do not have a problem if you want to split them into two values.]*

- **Responsibility**

- Key words: bring actions to larger audience, collaborative, alliances, sustainability, understanding

**3) Responsibility: The Committee holds diverse set of responsibilities:** While charged explicitly with pollinator protection, the Committee is also responsible for bringing our actions to a larger audience, engaging in collaborative discussions, and forging sustainable alliances that will result in the greatest degree of pollinator protection.

- **Respect**

- Openness, consider all, inclusive, shared values, respect for all life, honesty to objective, understanding, sustainability, diversity, equity between livelihoods, balance

**4) Respect: The Committee understands the need for respect in all aspects of our work:** Committee actions and recommendations will reflect an acknowledgment of and respect for our mutual objective of pollinator protection, diversity of

opinions, creating sustainable solutions, reaching shared understandings, and ensuring balance and equity in our conversations and actions.

Dave Flakne: The members of the committee have the responsibility to collaborate and find places of understanding rather than dwell on the differences. In order to achieve effective collaboration and solution driven outcomes. The committee members will be open and honest as well as respectful of differences and seek to listen and build understanding and sustainable solutions which respect equity between livelihoods and a healthy respect for life and the environment.

### Guidance notes from Charlie Petersen:

**Develop Committee values** – *What do we (the Committee) stand for? What are our (the Committee's) operating beliefs?*

## Values

Values outline what an organization stands for and/or believes in. They operate as a set of beliefs on which an organization can premise its policies and actions. The key values the Board identified are:

- Integrity – *Be ethical; honest; trusted.*
- Equity – *Treat constituents fairly and in a consistent manner.*
- Accountability – *Inform the profession of statutes, rules and standards and provide clarity and transparency as to their application.*
- Collaboration – *Work together as Board Members, along with other stakeholders, to provide quality services to protect the public.*
- Responsiveness – *Meet the needs of the public and practitioners effectively and efficiently.*

## Environmental Congress Feedback Notes

### What brought you here today?

- Passion for connection between food justice and the relationship to pollinators
- Learn about pollinators and understand the roles of pollinators and pesticides
- Advocate as an entomologist
- To listen
- DNR employee wants to learn about needed connections to solve pollinator issues
- Family connections to pollinators
- Volunteers with many conservation organizations
- Master Gardeners have made pollinators a priority this year
- Looking for ways to increase enthusiasm, develop partnerships, and recruit volunteers
- Protecting and preserving the environment is directly linked with pollinator health
- To find new ways to talk about the issue and engage people
- I'm concerned about the effect of pesticide use on honey and we don't think enough about our food chain
- Understand how pollinator issues relate to politics and how to connect with legislators and executive branch
- Collaborate on pollinator health; connect with people beyond my bubble
- Passionate about pollinators
- Arts can be a bridge in the education of the public and youth overcoming a fear of bees
- Learning about stakeholders to help move policy
- How can we engage new sectors?
- Personal business depends on pollinators
- Bring information back to my own community
- Part of a seed saving initiative, and wants to protect other plants and animals
- Working to find a balance between farming, productivity, and protecting our resources
- Connect faces with names of people working on pollinator issues
- Learn new messaging and broaden the scope of the message I communicate
- Discuss how STEM can be more inclusive and involve more people

### How do you and the people you know want to be involved?

- Talk to legislators (Pollinators day on the Hill?)
- Change local ordinances to be more tolerant of/friendly to native plant landscaping
- Distribute information or seeds at farmers' markets and other community events on free/reduced cost opportunities to implement pollinator protection practices
- Work at community level to plant more pollinator habitat/ Blooming boulevards
- Honey CSAs
- More communication with farmers themselves (as opposed to farm interest organizations) to generate buy-in and interest in protecting resources
- Education on organic farming and other farm conservation practices
- Programs for landowners: cost-shares
  - Green patches
  - More community gardens



- Visibility of art in public spaces like parks or the Capitol grounds
- Connect contractors/landscapers to education on seed mixes, other landscape choices

### **Who else should be involved?**

- Outreach to farm interest groups
- Artists
- Youth
- Corporate groups
- Faith-based organizations
- DEED
- Involvement of groups
  - Citizen Conservation Corps
  - Future Farmers of America
  - Master Gardeners/Naturalists
  - Extension
  - Crop retailers/associations
  - Great River Greening
  - Blue Thumb Phase II
  - Neighborhood groups/local government committees
  - Growing Good
  - Schoolyard gardens/outdoor ed groups
- STEM students
- Horticultural centers/hardware stores/nurseries
- Grocery stores
- Restaurants
- Hunters and anglers
- Libraries
- Landscape Arboretum
- County historical societies
- Realtors- promote habitat as an amenity
- Township/county/city governments and road managers

### **Needs**

- More educational and learning opportunities
  - Distribute factsheets
  - curricula
  - Seed packets and other giveaways
  - Generate other tools that organizations can use
  - Pollinators worked into K-12 STEM curriculum
- more events like this
- connections for volunteers
- response to citizen needs rather than political agendas
- bilingual displays at events like county fairs
- more outreach to different communities
- dual purpose practical solutions (e.g., water quality and pollinator health intersect)
- research and information on farm production and pollinators
- pollinators need to be connected to market issues

- build a larger community of bee/pollinator supporters including landowners and legislators
- list of what agencies are doing and who to contact about these actions
- Financial incentives for row crop farmers to create pollinator-friendly habitat or change farming practices
- Resources for renters who want to do something/urban homeowners with small spaces
- We need training for youth and adults
- Research on alternatives to neonicotinoids and pesticides in general
- Multi-level Federal-State-Local collaborations

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