

**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON POLLINATOR PROTECTION
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, March 16 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, Bob Koch, Dan MacSwain, Kevin Paap, Erin Rupp, Dan Schutte, Marla Spivak, Ted Suss, Yao Yang

I. Welcome, agenda review and introductions

II. Review and approval of meeting notes

III. Process updates

Charlie Petersen (Management Analysis and Development) continued the discussion of the Committee's scope as written in Executive Order 16-07.

Mr. Petersen also presented a road map for the Committee's activities, which includes spending the next few months establishing a common base of knowledge on how agencies are working on the pollinator issue.

Finally, Mr. Petersen and Mr. Schutte went over the final draft of the values statement, which incorporated elements of Mr. Flakne's contributions.

IV. Interaction between the Interagency Pollinator Protection Team and the Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection

Mr. Petersen led a discussion on how the Committee envisions its relationship to the Interagency Pollinator Protection Team (Interagency Team). The Committee wishes to zero in on building partnerships and promoting pollinator protection in the state.

The Committee hopes that state agencies will reach out to them with ideas and program plans, as well as opportunities to leverage partnerships that Committee members may be able to develop. Additionally, members hope that the Interagency Team might start with larger associations and work with them to engage individual farmers on pollinator issues. Many members also discussed how to engage with pollinator groups and make the Committee a presence at pollinator events.

Will Seuffert, Executive Director of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) noted that the Interagency Team would like to involve the Governor's Committee more in future goal-setting exercises.

With one member voicing disapproval, the Committee decided that a 60% supermajority (or 9 votes) would result in the Committee's ability to make statements on behalf of all members, with additional comments from dissenting voters.

V. Issues of interest

Claudia Hochstein (EQB) notified the Committee of a request to stay the listing of the rusty patched bumble bee as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Ms. Hochstein used this opportunity to discuss how the Committee might respond to issues of interest that arise. It was suggested that the Committee's structure works best as a proactive (e.g., helping agencies' shape their Legislative proposals) rather than a reactive advisory group. The Committee determined that they will use a supermajority vote to determine whether they take any given action.

Assistant Commissioner Susan Stokes of the Department of Agriculture provided a Legislative update on HF1717 and SF1674, which are bills that affect the Department of Agriculture. The Committee was interested in sending a letter to the Legislature with a position on this bill, but a question arose about the Committee's role in advising any entities beyond state agencies and the Governor. Ms. Hochstein will follow up on the Committee's authorities.

VI. Department of Agriculture presentation on the Special Registration Review process and findings

Raj Mann, supervisor of MDA's Pesticide Technical Unit, presented on how MDA scoped and performed the Special Registration Review and some of the results. He then responded to questions from the Committee.

Following Mr. Mann's presentation, the Committee voted to send a letter of support for the MDA's original proposed language on the Pollinator Protection Account and the Treated Seed Program to the Governor, the Interagency Pollinator Protection Team, and Commissioner Frederickson.

- Voting yes: Bailey-Johnson, Ellis, Foltz Jordan, Horan, MacSwain, Rupp, Schutte, Suss, Yang
- Voting no: Calkins, Flakne, Koch, Paap
- Abstaining: Spivak

VII. Future topics for presentations

Mr. Petersen gave Committee members time to fill out suggestions for future presentations.

VIII. Public comments.

Ms. Hochstein read a comment submitted via email by Patricia Hauser with suggestions for presentations and a question about how Committee members were selected.

Lynn Marcus, a member of the public, commented on the need to include other pollinators beyond bees.

IX. Next steps and adjournment

The Committee will meet again on April 27, 2017.