



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

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BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL

July 10, 2026

9:00 AM Board Meeting

Join the meeting in person in Room 101, Deering Building, 90 Blossom Lane, Augusta
Or

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/276753929830876?p=8oKN8SBRc5PoJif8qT>

Meeting ID: 276 753 929 830 876

Passcode: Qj3Qk2mY

Dial in by phone

[+1 207-209-4724](tel:+12072094724), [679137039#](tel:+1207679137039) United States, Portland

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 679 137 039#

MINUTES

1. Introductions of Board and Staff

- Board Members: Bohlen, Adams, Carlton, Fanning, Gray
- Staff Members: Boyd, Gayoso, Gustanski, Johnston-Fennell, Leibowitz, Richard, Steinman, Vacchiano, Van Hoewyk

2. Stakeholder Input Gathering Session Regarding L.D. 1323, Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Evaluate the Impact of Neonicotinoids on pollinators, Humans, and the Environment

A provision in section 2 of L.D. 1323 requires that the Board seek stakeholder input regarding the seven research topics outlined in Section 1 of the resolve. This is the first of two planned stakeholder input gathering sessions.

Presentation by: Alexander Peacock, Director

ALEXANDER PEACOCK, DIRECTOR
90 BLOSSOM LANE, DEERING BUILDING



PHONE: (207) 287-2731
WWW.THINKFIRSTSPRAYLAST.ORG

Action Needed: None, Informational

Recording:

https://stateofmaine-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/r/personal/alexander_r_peacock_maine_gov/Documents/Recordings/BPC%20Board%20Meeting,%20July%2010,%202026-20260710_090826-Meeting%20Recording.mp4?d=wa37d778ec5744995a0fd172041100e00&csf=1&web=1&e=mXuV6l&nav=eyJyZWZlcnJhbEluZm8iOnsicmVmZXJyYWxBcHAIOiJTdHJlYW1XZWJBcHAIcCJyZWZlcnJhbFZpZXciOiJTdGFyZURpYWxvZy1MaW5rliwicmVmZXJyYWxBcHBQbGF0Zm9ybSI6IldlYilsInJlZmVycmFsTW9kZSI6InZpZXcifX0%3D

3. Minutes of June 5, 2026, Board Meetings

Presentation By: Alexander Peacock, Director

Action Needed: Amend and/or Adopt

Bohlen/Carlton: Moved and seconded to adopt June 5, 2026, meeting minutes

In favor: Unanimous

4. Consideration of proposed policy framework for 25(b) Citronella Candle Registration and soft claims

The BPC pesticide registrar seeks to establish a standardized regulatory policy to improve the review and registration process for citronella candles that qualify for an exemption from FIFRA under Section 25(b).

Presentations By: Julia Vacchiano, Pesticide Registrar & Water Quality Specialist

Action Needed: Discussion, Approve/Disapprove

- Vacchiano brought to the Board's attention the current registration process for citronella candles, some of which fall under FIFRA 25(b). The EPA does not require registration of 25(b) products, but Maine requires 25(b) registration and requires minimum-risk products that claim to mitigate public health pests (mosquitoes, ticks, and bed bugs) to meet efficacy standards set by the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO.)
- Vacchiano stated that currently, any company that sells citronella candles must provide evidence that their candle meets these standards, even if the candle label makes no claims to be a repellent.
- Vacchiano proposed a policy where citronella candles are still required to be registered as 25(b) products, but do not need to meet efficacy standards if they are not making any explicit pesticidal claims.
- Vacchiano's proposed policy defines a soft claim, like the colloquial understanding of how citronella candles are used, and exempts products with no claims or only soft claims from efficacy requirements.
- Adams said he didn't have a problem with the proposed policy, but that most people associate citronella candles with mosquito repellent

- Vacchiano agreed and explained how that association is the soft claim.
- Bohlen asked what the EPA's standard was for registering citronella candles.
- Vacchiano said that candles with more than 3% citronella could be considered pesticides and registered.
- Fanning asked for clarification on the efficacy standard requirements.
- Vacchiano explained that topical pesticides need to have a 90% efficacy rate, and spatial pesticides need a 75% efficacy rate.

Carlton/ Gray: Moved and seconded to accept proposed policy
In Favor: Unanimous

5. Overview of Board member composition and establishment

An overview of the composition of the Board as outlined in M.R.S. Title 22 §1471-B. Board of Pesticides Control, current Board member vacancies, and upcoming term expirations.

Presentation By: Alexander Peacock, Director
 Action Needed: None, Informational

- Peacock informed the Board that it is possible the Governor will seek to fill the empty and expired seats of boards and commissions before the end of the administration.
- Peacock explained the make-up of the Board and the restrictions around who can be a part of it.
- Carlton asked if there were any chances of seats being filled this year.
- Peacock said indications leaned towards yes and that if there was any interest in applying, now would be the time.

6. Other Old and New Business

- a. Variance Permit for CMR01-026, Damariscotta Mills Consulting, Inc.
- b. Municipal Ordinance, Belgrade, ME
- c. Press release regarding rulemaking adoption for Chapter 40: Restricted and Limited Use Pesticides
 - Peacock updated the Board on the status of the rulemaking adoption to restrict certain rodenticides. Businesses have been contacted, and products should have been taken off the shelf by now. Emails are continuing to be sent, and inspection staff are visiting stores to ensure compliance. If an inspector finds a product that needs to be removed, they issue a notice of warning. If, when they return a couple of weeks later, the product is still being sold, they will pursue further actions.
 - Boyd pointed out that the list of products affected by this change is on the front page of the BPCs website.

7. Schedule of Future Meetings

The next scheduled Board meeting date is August 21, 2026, at the Deering Building, Room 101, Augusta

Future Meetings: October 2, 2026, November 13, 2026, and December 18, 2026

Adjustments and/or Additional Dates?

8. Adjourn
Carlton/Fanning: Moved and seconded to adjourn at 9:54 am
In favor: Unanimous

NOTES

- The Board Meeting Agenda and most supporting documents are posted one week before the meeting on the Board website at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org.
- Any person wishing to receive notices and agendas for meetings of the Board, Medical Advisory Committee, or Environmental Risk Advisory Committee must submit a request in writing to the Board's office. Any person with technical expertise who would like to volunteer for service on either committee is invited to submit their resume for future consideration.
- On November 16, 2007, the Board adopted the following policy for submission and distribution of comments and information when conducting routine business (product registration, variances, enforcement actions, etc.):
 - *For regular, non-rulemaking business*, the Board will accept pesticide-related letters, reports, and articles. Reports and articles must be from peer-reviewed journals. E-mail, hard copy, or fax should be sent to the Board's office or pesticides@maine.gov. In order for the Board to receive this information in time for distribution and consideration at its next meeting, all communications must be received by 8:00 AM, three days prior to the Board meeting date (e.g., if the meeting is on a Friday, the deadline would be Tuesday at 8:00 AM). Any information received after the deadline will be held over for the next meeting.
- During rulemaking, when proposing new or amending old regulations, the Board is subject to the requirements of the APA (Administrative Procedures Act), and comments must be taken according to the rules established by the Legislature.