

**Minutes of the  
Barnstable County Ad-Hoc Committee on  
Risk Analysis Vegetation Management**

The third meeting of the Barnstable County Ad-Hoc Committee on Risk Analysis Vegetation Management was held at the First District Court House in the Assembly of Delegates Chambers on the fifth day of November, 2010.

**Members Present:**

Gabrielle Sakolsky	Cape Cod Mosquito Control
Steve Spear	USDA-NRCS
Cleon Turner	State Representative
Sue Phelan	Green Cape
Michael McClean	MA Department of Agriculture Resources
Kevin McCune	NSTAR
Allison Rescigno	MA Department of Environmental Protection
Dottie Smith	Office of State Representative Sarah Peake
Dennis Galvam	NSTAR
Laura Kelley	Landscape Professionals
Bill Clark	Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
Sheila Lyons	Barnstable County Commissioner
Mark Begley	Environmental Management Commission

**Members Absent:**

Andrew Gottlieb	Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative
Patty Daley	Cape Cod Commission
Leo Cakounes	Cape & Islands Farm Bureau
Lee Corte-Real	MA Department of Agriculture Resources
Jared Collins	Cape Cod for a Truly Green NSTAR

**Others Present:**

Bill Hayes	Senior Arborist, NSTAR-Transmission
Cheryl Osimo	Silent Spring Institute
George Heufelder	Barnstable County Department of Health & Environment
Hotze Wijnja	MA Department of Agricultural Resources
Scott Michaud	Cape Cod Commission
Tom Cambareri	Cape Cod Commission

Chairman Sheila Lyons opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

**I. Approval of the October 22, 2010 Minutes**

Commissioner Lyons asked members if they had any comments or changes to the draft minutes.

- Mark Begley clarified that on page 2, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph he was not the one who suggested that the Committee extend an invitation to George Heufelder.
- Add clarification to page 2, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph that the invitation to George Heufelder was to provide information on the water testing capabilities of the County Lab.
- Add clarification to page 2, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph that Dennis LeBlanc is an expert in the field of hydrology for the Cape area and could provide a presentation on that topic.
- Add clarification to page 2, 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph that Tom Cambareri could provide an update on the monitoring of wells.

Commissioner Lyons asked if all in favor of approving the Minutes as amended.  
Approved 13-0-0.

## II. Review of Meeting Schedule

Committee Members discussed and came to a consensus on the following tentative meeting agendas:

November 19<sup>th</sup>: Presentation by Green Cape

December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Presentation by the U.S. Geological Survey Massachusetts-Rhode Island Water Science Center

December 17<sup>th</sup>: Presentation on Pesticide Board Findings, Department of Agricultural Resources

December 31<sup>st</sup>: No meeting

It was discussed and agreed that the above calendar may change depending upon the availability of those giving the presentation. Mark Begley, Sue Phelan and Michael McClean will work together to coordinate dates and presentations and let the Chair know if the dates of the presentations will be different than listed above.

## III. Presentation by the Department of Agricultural Resources

Hotze Wijnja, Ph.D., Environmental Chemist from the Division of Crops and Pest Services, Department of Agricultural Resources, gave a presentation on the *“Review Process for Addition of Herbicides to the Sensitive Area Materials List”*.

The Committee had a general discussion following the presentation.

Mark Begley left at 10:15 a.m.

Cheryl Osimo from the Silent Springs Institute read the following statement in response to NSTAR's presentation at the October 27, 2010 meeting:

“Silent Spring Institute is studying pesticides, because many are endocrine disruptors with effects on estrogen or androgen activity and some have other biological activity that may influence breast cancer risk. In addition, pesticides are applied in formulations that contain undisclosed “inert” ingredients that also raise health concerns, including possible effects on breast cancer.

The Silent Spring Institute Household Exposure Study detected about two dozen different pesticides in Cape Cod homes, including some compounds banned years ago and others in current use (Rudel 2003). Herbicides, typically used outdoors, were detected indoors, where they degrade very slowly. Cape Cod homes have higher levels of certain pesticides compared with many comparison areas.

The proposed use of herbicides in right-of-way management on Cape Cod raises concerns about groundwater contamination and exposure to animals and to people who pass through a sprayed area, for example during recreational use. The characteristics of the Cape's aquifer (sandy soils, low organic content) promote relatively fast movement of groundwater and limited breakdown of organic contaminants. In our recent study of public drinking water wells on Cape Cod, we tested for five herbicides, including one, triclopyr, that is among the herbicides proposed for use by NStar. We did not detect any of these herbicides in the public wells that we tested. However, these results are of limited relevance to the NStar proposal, because we did not target wells close to sources of herbicides, and we did not include all herbicides proposed by NStar. In addition, public wells are protected from nearby contamination sources by a 400-ft buffer zone, while private wells are less protected and may be more vulnerable to contamination than public wells, and nearby surface water bodies also may be impacted.

In a letter we wrote to the *Cape Cod Times* (August 21, 2009), we noted that scientists lack information about the potential health effects of the herbicides NStar plans to use. In a database compiled from U.S. and European research, Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA) reported no independent expert assessment of whether the active ingredients are endocrine disruptors. In addition, herbicides contain up to 70 percent undisclosed inert ingredients. Though most products haven't been tested, a recent study of products containing glyphosate (the active ingredient in Accord, one of the products proposed for use) showed endocrine effects in human cells at low doses (Gasnier 2009).

Pesticides continue to be among the chemicals that we will consider in our ongoing household exposure and groundwater studies. They raise health concerns and alternatives should be evaluated.”

Commissioner Lyons asked the Committee if anyone had any questions they would like to ask the County staff members present. No questions were asked.

Dottie Smith left at 11:05 a.m.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

R. MacDonald of Harwich Port had a question for Hotze Wijnja following his presentation regarding independent testing and studies.

Adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

*Note: No materials were distributed at this meeting*