

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

The sixth 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 seventeenth day of December, 2010.

**Members Present:**

Gabrielle Sakolsky	Cape Cod Mosquito Control
Steve Spear	USDA-NRCS
Laura Kelley	Landscape Professionals
Michael McClean	MA Department of Agriculture Resources
Lee Corte-Real	MA Department of Agriculture Resources
Sue Phelan	Green Cape
Dennis Galvam	NSTAR
Kevin McCune	NSTAR
Bill Clark	Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
Sheila Lyons	Barnstable County Commissioner
Charles Passios	Golf Course of Cape Cod
Leo Cakounes	Cape & Island Farm Bureau
Mark Begley	Environmental Management Commission

**Members Absent:**

Jared Collins	Cape Cod for a Truly Green NSTAR
Sarah Peake	State Representative
Dottie Smith	Office of State Representative Sarah Peake
Andrew Gottlieb	Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative
Patty Daley	Cape Cod Commission
Allison Rescigno	MA Department of Environmental Protection

**Others Present:**

Hotze Wijnja	MA Department of Agricultural Resources
Scott Michaud	Cape Cod Commission
Tom Cambareri	Cape Cod Commission
Sandra Larsen	Town of Eastham
Brianna Larsen	Town of Eastham
Terry Dayian	MA DEP
Paul Sellers	NStar
Sue Rohrback	Senator O'Leary

**I. Presentation by Tim Simmons, MA Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program**

Tim Simmons presented on the regulatory process with utility companies that covered the following topics:

- Penalties and MA law
- Exemptions
- Conservation Goals
- Examine common ground and conflicts
- Preference of using herbicides over mowing to reduce mortality.

Sheila Lyons gave a review on Committee's goals and her perspective going forward.

Mark Begley shared his previous experience on a community working group that established guiding principles and suggested this committee consider doing the same.

## **II. Presentation on "Fate of herbicides in a Carver Soil: Evaluation for Utilities Rights-of-Way Herbicide Applications on Cape Cod, Massachusetts" by Hotze Wijnja, MA Department of Agricultural Resources.**

Hotze Wijnja presented on the following:

- Herbicides and methods used
- Herbicide rate
- Low volume foliage applications
- Dissipation pathways
- Carver Soil profile
- Important properties for fate of herbicides in carver soil
- Modeling of pesticide fate in soils
- Model input
- Model output
- Review of scientific slides
- Five chemicals
- Comparison with health based standards
- Simulated groundwater concentrations
- Calibration of sci-grow model
- Surface water evaluation
- Simulated surface water concentrations
- Further reduction of exposure

Leo Cakounes prepared four motions for discussion.

Motion #1 made by Leo Cakounes

It has been concluded that NSTAR is acting within the rules, regulations and guidelines put forth by the Mass. Pesticide Review Board, EPA, Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources and other governing agencies in regards to their application of herbicides on the rite of ways of power lines described in the integrated pest management plan. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Clark.

Mark Begley amended to add, "as so presented" at the end of the motion. Approved as amended, 10-2-1. Sue Phelan abstained as she objected to the use of certain chemicals.

Motion #2 made by Leo Cakounes

This Committee ask the County Commissioners to send a letter to the EPA respectfully asking that the materials use within the NSTAR herbicide application plan be reviewed and updated as to their migration in soil conditions which exist on Cape Cod and the effects of the inert ingredients not specifically listed. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Clark.

Steve Spear amended to change the word inert to other. Approved as amended, 11-0-2.

Motion #3 made by Leo Cakounes

This Committee ask the County Commissioners to establish a sub-committee to continue research and follow any applications and studies performed pertaining to this matter. The Sub-committee shall repost directly to the County Commissioners and follow up with reports to this committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlie Passios. Approved 10-0-3.

Motion #4

This committee recommends that the County conduct local studies and testing of materials used by NSTAR with in the rite of way. These studies shall be performed in conjunction with Cape Cod Commission, County Health Dept, MDAR, and other related agencies. The use of existing test wells and site specific testing is recommended. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gabrielle Sadosky. Approved 10-0-2.

Motion to adjourn at 11:27 a.m. made by Leo Cakounes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennis Galvam