

Agricultural Innovation Board (AIB) Meeting Transcript

March 25, 2024, 5:01PM

□ **Griffith, Morgan** started transcription

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 0:13

Hi everyone.

It's about 1:00 o'clock on March 25th.

And we are officially calling this meeting of the aggravation board to order as a reminder, this meeting is being recorded as public record and that participation in a recorded meeting will be deemed as consent to be recorded, including statements both written and oral public records, including this recording, can be requested at anytime in accordance with the Vermont Public Records Act.

□ **Wendy Sue Harper** joined the meeting

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 0:44

So welcome everybody.

Let's see.

I'm just gonna mark who got.

Jonathan.

Hi, Wendy, sue.

And hi, Ryan.

So let some I guess just so we can get going, we'll start with our introductions and we can start with our Members that are online.

So Wendy's too.

I see you.

Why don't you go right ahead?

WH **Wendy Sue Harper** 1:20

Hi.

I'm Wendy Sue Harper.

I'm a soil scientist and I fill the soil biology position.

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Thanks Jonathan.

Umm, we'll come back in, Ryan.

RR Ryan Rebozo 1:44

Ryan Rebozo with the Vermont Center for Eco Studies.

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Trying other Jonathan.

John, who wanted just do a quick introduction.

Ohh, we can't hear you John.

Yeah, that's fine.

JC Jonathan Chamberlin 2:10

Can you hear me now?

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Yes, we can. Yep.

JC Jonathan Chamberlin 2:13

OK.

Jonathan, crop consultant.

Thank you.

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Thank you.

I alright, I guess official members in the room.

I'm still going out, director.

Or you said you had good marks.

And I'm Morgan Griffith.

Also in the farm division of the Agency of Agriculture.

And I guess we'll keep going around the room with introductions.

Go ahead, Joe.

Joe Goss Agency that farm and market.

Stephanie Smith, but the Agency of Agriculture Deputy director of the Public Health and Resource Management Division Pam Grier, the firm also.

Great.

And then see who else we have on the call.

If I see Brooke.

DB Decker, Brooke 3:05

Hey everybody.

I'm Brooke Decker with the Agency of Agriculture in the Farm Division.

2 27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4 3:14

Think villain.

□ **Bruce Young** joined the meeting

DG Dillon Gabbert 3:21

Hello, I'm Dylan gabbert.

I'm with bear crop science.

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I think Clark.

PC Parmelee, Clark 3:30

Hello, Clark Parmley with Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

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That.

SZ Szczukowski, Zach 3:39

It's actually kowski also with the HTK article culture.

2 27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4 3:45

And looks like we have Bruce Young.

We're just doing a quick introduction.

BY **Bruce Young** 3:51

Yes, Bruce, young bear crop signs.

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 4:00

Thank you.

So we're pretty light on members today.

I know that some are going to join us a little bit later.

But I guess I will still ask about the meeting minutes that were shared for our February meeting.

I didn't hear.

I know Sarah Owen said that she accepted them.

Does anybody else have any other edits that need to be done or anything?

Or do we accept the Minutes that were shared for February?

JC **Jonathan Chamberlin** 4:48

I accept the minutes.

I didn't have any edits or comments.

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 4:53

Thanks John.

On. OK.

And then just the only other thing that I wanted to say before we kind of got into the meat of things is that you should have seen some calendar readjustments.

□ **Wendy Sue Harper** left the meeting

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 5:15

Thank you for those of you who filled out the poll for availability.

So between April and May, so are typical 4th Monday of the month was gonna fall on Memorial Day for May.

And so we decided to split the difference and do one meeting for April and May together.

So the day that we had the most people available for.

Was the 20th of May, so we will not have a meeting at the end of April and then the

Memorial Day meeting up moved a week earlier to May 20th.

So our next meeting will be May 20th, but same.

Place here if you come in person in Williston and it should be the same sign in.

As the previous as our whole series of Microsoft Teams.

So other than that, we were going to just give a few any if we have any agency updates or legislative updates, Steve, go right ahead.

Yes.

OK.

Hello everybody.

Umm, yeah, so we have a few updates and I apologize.

I think I missed the last meeting so, but at that meeting, I think you were told about 3 pieces of legislation that were being considered, one dealing with rodenticides, one dealing with PFAS, specializing PFAS, and the third dealing with neonicotinoid treated seeds.

□ **Wendy Sue Harper** joined the meeting

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 6:59

So the the status of those is the the rodenticide bill or the the the proposed legislation dealing with the rodenticide.

□ **Wendy Sue Harper** left the meeting

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 7:08

Scott extensively modified and essentially I got reduced to a requirement that.

All the second generation anticoagulants be registered as restricted.

Use pesticide state restricted use of the 68 products that are already registered.

2nd generations that are already registered in Vermont, all the 12 of them are already state restricted use, so this the actual the effect 12 products and we'll just reregister those as a restricted use state restricted use.

So you know, and we actually did a, the field agents went out and did a quick survey of how prevalent those products were in the marketplace and they only they found, I think six of them that were actually on shelves and very small numbers.

So it's not going to have much of an impact, I don't think on road and control of the state of Vermont.

So anyway, so that's that.

The second is the there was legislation dealing with PCOS and Pam.

Do you want to just sort of update people over the current status of that?

□ **Wendy Sue Harper** joined the meeting

□ **Fantelli, Lisa** joined the meeting

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 8:17

Yeah, I pulled up the modified bill.

And again, this is a bill that really changed.

It had called for a ban on.

School towns in the state from purchasing anything that contained app fast and now it is a research project that is mainly focused in EC and I have.

I pulled open the bill so I wouldn't forget any of the seven things that have to be included.

For what's gonna happen next, where is your seven?

Keep going.

Yeah.

Yeah, go.

Keep going.

Keep going.

Keep going at all.

So they took out a lot of text, but see if he needs to with cooperation of our agency, identify consumer products that could have an impact on public health that could contain PFAS, figure out if mechanism.

So this number 2 is actually a really interesting one.

Manufacturers have to figure out how they know if their product contains feedback, and that's because it's just really hard to render a teddy bear and test it for AP fast or a cheese package or a table like this is a really broad, sweeping bill where they want to prevent all feedbacks from coming into every consumer product.

But you simply can't test all consumer products that easily for feedback.

So that's one of the research aspects is to figure out how to keep the fast out meaningfully.

And how at one point the committee wanted really or they're just to be warning

labels on things when they did have feedback in them or not.

So trying to understand if you can just require manufacturers to put a label saying that contains PFAS, that's #3 #4 is figuring out who's gonna do all this work, so they're going to be a pest registry.

□ **Ann Hazelrigg** joined the meeting

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 10:12

So what staff member at the state is gonna be responsible for tallying?

What makes that call and what is the fast and what is not?

What products are in which products are not in?

And #5 said also addresses some of the feedback the committee heard.

Where other states are working on this also.

So let's learn from the other states what has worked in other States and what has not.

As part of the research project #6 is let's come up with some clear definitions.

Even something like intentionally added or consumer product need clarification but also what is going to be a few fast and what is not going to be a few fast.

So that definition of PFAS is part of the ongoing conversation.

The committee at one point was really pushing for public service announcement from the Department of Health to warn people about drinking water from their private well from public wells, but also just the concept of PFAS exposure globally.

So by November of the upcoming this year, the SEC has a report due to the legislature that covers all of these aspects, and that's where we are right now.

No, and has joined in history.

Yeah.

Welcome, Ann.

AH **Ann Hazelrigg** 11:46

Sorry, I had trouble getting on.

I don't know why but.

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 11:51

Sorry.

AH Ann Hazelrigg 11:51

I'm here.

2 27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4 11:52

Great.

Welcome.

Better late than never.

So any questions I guess for Pam about that?

Piece of legislation and it it's, it's as it did it pass the Senate passed the Senate.

So that's yeah.

OK.

And then the the last piece we'll talk about is.

The House Bill 706, which is a bill to restrict the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

That bill also went through some significant changes, but the verb there is a version that passed the House last week and has moved over to the Senate.

And I'm not gonna pull it up or go through any provisions, just sort of summarize it real briefly.

One is the the two main components of it are that it would restrict the sale or use of neonicotinoid treated seeds as of January 1st, 2029.

So there's a like a five year or four year period, I guess 4 1/2 year period to implement it.

The other main provision it does restrict the use of neonicotinoid insecticides, period, for a number of situations, including torfin ornamentals, any blooming crop, any vegetable crop that's harvested before blue or prior to blue. No.

□ **Amanda St.Pierre** joined the meeting

2 27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4 13:24

Excuse me, postman.

Sorry, not prior to post Blue.

And also well and then I guess I should have mentioned this the it's the provision of the existing law that charges the AIB with developing BMPS was modified to include adding BMP's for the use of neonicotinoid insecticides.

So whereas you know the what the board considered over the last year and a half

was uh, best management practice for neonicotinoid treated seeds.

If the bill gets passed and signed by the governor, then the AB's gonna have to develop BMP's for develop recommendations for VIP for the use of neonicotinoid insecticides, period.

So there will be expanded task.

So anyway, that that's where that bill is.

It did pass the house.

It is on its way to the Senate, so I guess if anybody has any questions about that, but to answer this.

Is is the?

I don't know if we know that.

So the BNP's for all new Knicks, is it still?

Focus somewhat on the uses that would be restricted.

And for it's just gonna show off for all the obvious.

For use of the noise.

So it's pretty broad.

So we get another 17 meetings coming up.

Yes, Karen.

And we did have Amanda join.

Hi, Amanda.

AS **Amanda St.Pierre** 15:22

Hi.

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 15:26

Yeah, for the for well, yeah.

So Amanda, we just complete, we just reviewed the existing legislation that's.

Umm.

That has been considered so far.

The three bills over there and they.

Yeah, they've all made crossover and are on. Right. Right.

Right in their modified forms, right?

So Speaking of BMP is, yeah, so you I can pull that up.

That's a good segue.

Yeah, go to 1.03.

I think it's on page 2.

OK, OK. So.

As ohh required by the legislation that was it working under the agency.

Or the secretary was required to submit.

Best management practice is for the use of of you know, next toy treated seeds by March 1st.

Uh, and which we did.

We, the Secretary, approved, providing the set of BMP's that you everyone will send a copy of last week.

We provide it to the House and the Senate ad committees on March 1st.

And these BMP's were based on the recommendations of the AIB in the sense that the AIB recommended additional research and education and so these be appeased were put together in a way to allow that to still happen.

So the the.

I guess one of the key points here is 1.03 and I'll just read it says the following BMP's are established for appropriate use of insecticide treated article seeds.

These practices are recommended best practices to be used whenever reasonable and practical.

Additional or modified BMP's may be adopted as Vermont based research evolves and provides more guidance, so that was very deliberate language to allow the research that we've that the board has identified as needed to be done and that we're in the process of developing with UPM and the prices are recommended they're not.

Mandatory because when when the board considered all the different aspects of the use of seeds and all the information that was received, the recommendations were to continue to develop information and provide guidance and training to growers on how to properly use these materials but not establish specific.

It forceable requirements on their use because we're just not there yet.

I mean that's, that's where we're at.

So these BMP's were developed to meet the requirement of the law, but also accommodate the recommendations of the AIB.

So that's why there are in the form they're at.

They are in right now.

So I guess I'll just stop there and see if people have any questions or discussions about that.

Where can this be found?

This document.

OK, so right now this document is on our teams or SharePoint site.

So umm, where all of our agenda and meeting meeting minutes are held.

So it's umm, under the our topic of new next and T treatment.

And then there's a BMP folder and it says under the draft BMP's and so we have this.

The PDF is what was submitted on March 1st, so that's what I'm sharing right now

and the public can gain access to this document that was submitted via the

legislative web via the legislative website because it being shared right now, I will put it for today's meeting materials as well as well.

Alright.

And I'll just note too that I've been asked to testify about this on this coming Thursday, the House.

Going over them with them on Thursday morning.

And anybody from the AP that wants to come with me as well.

I mean, I said in jest.

But what's that?

Everybody.

But you're serious.

You're mean?

Anybody.

Everybody wants testing about the DMPS.

That'd be great.

Remember, wants to come and so I don't know if you wanted to.

Do you wanna go?

I mean, I did.

We did send this out.

Yeah, I mean I'm I, you know, I'll tell you.

Well, let's just talk about some of the general provisions.

I mean 1.03, that's the key thing about this whole thing.

So I think you know one, you know we had the potential to propose BMP's that were regulatory, but our thinking was because of the discussions at the AIB and all the information and the and the the sense that we weren't ready yet to prescribe specific things we didn't do that.

We proposed these as recommended best practices to be used whenever

reasonable, practical.

The other thing to keep in mind is this is intended to be rulemaking.

OK, so rulemaking is a long process with a lot of public input.

Uh.

And so there's a lot of potential as we go through rulemaking to change a pretty much everything in here.

Umm and that's, you know, something to be aware of.

The other thing is, if the legislation passes as written, we're going to have to go back and basically start over anyway because they've expanded the.

The scope of them to include neonicotinoid use of neonicotinoids, period.

So depending on what happens, you know how the how, what the house had committee.

You know what their comments are and what they're, you know and any potential changes in legislation.

You know, this is sort of a starting point, but it's the final forms probably going to look very different.

So I say, well, before we go through it, does anybody have any comments or questions about this?

I just in general or?

OK.

Well, we'll just start again.

I'm.

I'm not going to go through the.

Definitions.

If we can start on Page 3 at 3.01, yeah.

So one of the things to point out about this is that in general, all the languages should as opposed to shall, shall being, you know, enforceable, should being a recommendation or a you know best practice.

So.

I guess the 1st.

Section 3.013, point 02.

Deal with label language that's on the label of the treated sea.

Umm.

And basically just says that you know, you should follow the label language.

Regarding, you know proper proper handling, storage and disposal, recommended

rate, depth of planning and hazard statements related to Paul later, which I believe is through the hazard statements.

Really.

The plumber come right off.

The pesticide itself is used to treat this correct.

Uh, I think that there might be on seed labels themselves, right?

But they transfer, right?

Yeah, that's OK.

Yeah, but you're saying you had to go back one label?

No, it doesn't copy whatever is on the label of the product.

So.

So that's that's, you know, the first part of it then the and there was can I say when they the reason like label was first on purpose right?

Because some things are kind of duplicative later on, but, but you know, just like with pesticides, the label can come first.

That's your first source of information, and so that was first on purpose, right?

And then section 3.03 deals with the whole issue of dust.

So person using it oht let me back up to I'm sorry the we wrote this to cover all insecticide treated not just neonicotinoid.

And that was because of, well, two reasons.

One is, if you recall back in February, we made a decision not to issue or not to recommend BMP's on non neonicotinoid insecticide treated seeds because we were going to develop them for neonicotinoid treated seeds.

So what we've done is combined both responsibilities for the BMP's.

The other thing is that looks like what's happened in Canada and is likely to happen in New York is that the sea treatments will transition from neonicotinoid insecticides to dynamite insecticides.

And so we want the whatever BMP's, we develop.

Ultimately, in the rule to apply to both pyramides and neonicotinoids.

So that's that.

So that's why we use the word insecticide treated article instead of neonicotinoid treated article.

So the recommended BMP is that a person using an insecticide treated article should minimize dust generation of potential drift as follows.

Avoid planting during windy conditions.

Handle seed bags.

Carefully use dust reducing seed lubricants and avoid using lubricants and increased dust.

Ensure the planners calibrated avoided reduce releasing excess dust from the seed bag, including by loading planters.

At least 10 yards inside field borders.

Clean planting equipment without using compressed air.

Clean planting equipment without contaminating surface water and pollinator tractive habitats.

Dispose of excess.

Rinse water from cleaning within the proper field and without causing surface bonding.

Do not broadcast plant.

You have broadcast planned or scatter seeds to soil surfaces.

Numbers.

They have to be incorporated in soil.

Umm.

Ensure all planet seats are thoroughly incorporated during planting, and evaluate whether additional incorporation is necessary.

The thoroughly cover any exposed seeds collect any seeds, spill during loading or planting, and store them for subsequent planting or dispose of any seeds.

Uh, it weren't for section 3.07. So yeah.

And and Morgan, a lot of these come from other sets of recommendations.

Right in other states.

So these are from.

If you guys remember, we had a big Excel sheet of kind of all best management practices and there were pulled from the Corn Dust Research Consortium, Minnesota's best management practices.

Connecticut has best management practices.

Asta has guidance.

Umm.

Which I don't know what it says recently.

Thank you.

See Trade Association and I'm trying to think if there is another big one in there, but so basically they were kind of all pulled together and then we talked about them as

Members and we talked about ones that meant a lot to us.

And if you remember those discussions and so these were kind of ones that crept out of that big list that we had to as far as importance and then also kind of bang for your buck and not being redundant with other best management practices.

But right and I should also point out that I believe this is true.

There are no.

All the best management practices.

Other states are recommended voluntary best management practices.

Not a regulatory enforceable practices.

The only one is is Canada and their seed lubricant right requirement is forcible right, right of requirement. Right?

OK, so that's section 3.03 dealing with dust.

And then I guess I'm just, I'm sorry to keep hopping around.

But the other thing that we're actually in the process of developing a research project with the VM on dust and the dust generated from planting.

Uh, and we've got a series of meetings coming up about doing that.

So section 3.04 deals with integrated pest management.

So a person using insecticide treated article seat should implement integrated pest management practice to include learn which crop production practices increase or reduce risk.

Choosing appropriate rate of insecticide treatment that can effectively manage pests that our application.

And utilize multiple pest management methods to avoid or reduce pestering wherever feasible.

It's pretty straightforward.

What's not in this section is requirement for scouting prior to.

Using the seat and that's specifically because the decision to use a treated see is made prior to the time at which planting is going to occur, and scouting the field at the time or shortly before the final planning doesn't give you the option.

Well, it's too late.

You've already decided to use a.

Insecticide treated.

See at that point you've already purchased it.

The well, sorry, but that's that's the reason it does not include scouting.

As as of you know, typically would be an integrated pest management program.

You would, you know, you would survey or scout the field to see what the pest pressure was and then make your management decision based on that.

But that doesn't apply.

Then with the pass and the cropping system are using which does apply.

What does apply is decisions about what crop production practice you're going to use, whether you're doing no till or minimum tillage, or incorporating a cover crop.

All those factors go into whether or not you're going to increase your pest risk, and so those are factors you can manage prior to the decision to use insecticide treated.

In the next section is communication continuous education.

Any person using insecticide treated article seed should provide at least 48 hours advance notice to all apiculture who established a period on the premise that through similar to our existing rule regarding insecticide applications.

And then a person using a second side trader card key should attend the reasonably available education and outreach programs.

Including those provided by University Extension Service, receipt, industry, and this goes back to the AIB recommendation for I'm in increased education of growers regarding the use of neonicotinoid treated seeds section.

3.06 is storage return insecticide treated article sees are spilled during loading the original seed block container and store insecticide treated art and seats away from food or feed stuff and protect us.

Here the unauthorized access and then lastly the session on disposal.

Unless being used for storage, dispose of insecticide treated articles seeds in of course of the seed bag, Babel, or by returning to the manufacturer and do not recycle insecticide treated article compost and the insecticide trade article, seed burn or otherwise incinerate.

Use treated seed for fuel or ethanol production purposes, so those are.

Again, because the whole thing is a recommendation, it's not enforceable.

Uh, those those are the recommended practices for.

Managing excess seed.

So that's that's, that's the set of BMP's that will uh be using as I guess the initial start of the rulemaking pending any additional legislation that happens by the end of the session.

So any comments or questions?

OK.

Well, thank you.

Thank you.

So.

The net.

Thing on our agenda is we talked a little bit February about.

Our.

Strategy for a survey for 2024 and we made some good progress.

So we had agreed as a board on a shorter.

Version of the survey this year.

So instead of the longer, more detailed questions, we came up with just three, one being what county are you from?

So we could get an idea of where we were and then to that we're trying to gauge where farmers concerns were basically so that I could help guide us with what we might tackle next in addition to or taking into account what might come to us from legislature as well.

So we.

Took advantage.

So there's two things.

So I went Royce, some set us up with some great opportunities.

So one is with Margaret Skinner has a survey that's coming up.

I don't have an exact date of when that's going to be.

Uh.

Disseminated, but her main audience is people who have large greenhouse who's house, that type of operation.

And so we modified the questions slightly just to include things like plastic pots or greenhouse covers for plastic, just to give them specific examples that might be more relevant to their farming.

And so that's coming up.

And so we will be able to include our questions in with hers for that.

But in the meantime, we had a training for.

But what was it specifically called agricultural pest?

It was the 1A training and private applicator training last, can you get day?

Yeah, which is run through UVM.

Umm, Saturday safety education program.

And sorry, Sarah Kingsley Richards is the point person for that UVM.

And so she often it's a virtual training.

And so she was able to do our poll as of are questions as a virtual poll during the training.

And so we quickly kind of as a great opportunity got 55 responses.

So I summarize them for us, which is I believe more than we got last year.

So this was this was about two days work, not even.

And we got more than we got last year.

Umm, which is wonderful.

So ohh gosh, I see something crazy, but I think you guys are seeing right thing.

So we got 55 answers.

We did not get all counties represented, so you can see here we did Miss Caledonia, Washington and Windsor County didn't have anybody.

Ohh in Essex County didn't have anybody attending this meeting.

Umm.

And then so the first question we asked is what environmental impacts are you concerned about when using agricultural inputs, they could pick any or all of these?

One thing that was to specific because it was a zoom pull.

The other choice they couldn't explain, so they could only choose other they they had no ability to enter free text.

So we asked.

We listed Pfaff, microplastics, and then nontarget pollinator exposure.

They did not see the examples in parentheses, partly just because it's a poll that's on your it's on a very small window, so we wanted to keep the choices on to the kind of minimum number of words, so they just saw nontarget pollinator exposure, nontarget, beneficials exposure, nontarget rodenticide exposure, and then disposable disposal of farm materials.

This one they did see the print parenthetical choices, and then other so received.

All 55 people responded to this question.

And.

I so they could select more than one right?

So I only just did straight numbers per choice.

Right now I didn't kind of massage the data in any other way, but so you can see non target pollinators exposure and disposable farm materials that are no longer useful kind of came to the top.

And then the next, uh, two biggest concerns is nontarget beneficial exposure and pizza.

Maybe microplastics is more than FIFA.

Yep, microplastic edge out pizza.

And then the second and last question.

That they received is what challenges do you face and reducing use of those agricultural inputs that cause view environmental concerns?

I not everybody responded to this one.

We only received 51 responses I and then their choices were cost and then availability of alternatives.

Knowing about the alternatives, the effectiveness of the alternatives, convenience of the alternatives, and then others.

So.

With this one, the two most popular answers were availability and effectiveness of alternatives.

With then cost and then just knowing about the alternative came to the top.

I have a question, yeah.

When you say effectiveness of the alternatives, do you think people are thinking it's a separate pesticide product?

Is it as effective?

Or is the efficacy on reducing the impact of pollinator?

You know, I mean like.

How do you?

Yeah, I don't know how to.

Yes, we can dig into that or we could reword their question for Margaret Skinners to do you think that it needs I I could be off clarification.

So I'm just going to repeat to make sure I'm understanding your question.

So is it whether the alternative is as effective as your original?

Yeah.

Or whether the alternative is effective at decreasing your concern, yeah.

That's a good question.

I don't know how people would have interpreted, but could have interpreted in a way.

Yeah, yeah.

But that's all I had, but at least the as far as what we learned.

Ohh Wednesday Margaret Skinner.

I don't know how the exact date yet.

Umm, not yet and not next week.

OK, OK.

Uh, but does anybody have any thoughts or edits to the questions where we get a second go at it?

I kind of.

Took advantage of that opportunity because I knew that it was going to be on us next week, but if we have a chance before Margaret.

Survey gets shared if members think or want to have different choices or I.

I'm not sure we're going to have, umm, more questions that I mean maybe one more, but if there's Members think that we should be digging into something else or. And open to suggestions.

To look at those answers, though, it was all about exploring the alternatives.

So people have concerns.

They showed you what the concerns were, that they were concerned about what are my alternatives and will they work, you know, when you think about coming up with education campaigns in response to change that that's the real hurdle, right?

What is?

What is a realistic alternative going to be?

And what are the impacts of the alternative?

Like, which isn't something that we asked in the I don't think we asked in the survey, but so row cover versus pesticide application or you know.

But however, will cover has other benefits like I think related to heat, but they're, you know, they're right.

But still yeah, like that's plastic.

And how do you manage that plastic?

So our our next item on the agenda and this is in we have until.

So we are being joined by Doctor Eric Roy and his colleagues Sarah Porterfield to talk about.

They're microplastics research in Vermont. They.

He works for University of Vermont and is doing microplastics research and I won't feel it's under too much.

But I just thought that it would be nice for us to hear about some local research into a potential topic for us.

And so he's coming.

But however, he wasn't available until 3:15, so no matter what you guys are here until

3:15.

So I know you guys are being really quiet today, but we have to umm yeah you sometime until Doctor Roy can join us.

So yeah, so we can take a break, but maybe because we're having these surveys, perhaps we can.

Talk about what we think. What?

Microplastics is a hot topic, but it's definitely emerging and so I was just wondering if I'm any members had something to share their thoughts, what they might want to learn more about.

Yeah, like just basic understanding currently about microplastics and and agriculture.

Umm, we could, Wendy Sue.

I see you shaking your head up and down.

So why don't you come off mute and tell us what you know?

WH **Wendy Sue Harper** 47:16

Oh, I I don't feel like I know that much.

I I have heard lots of reports and seeing on Science News reports of where you can find microplastics, which is pretty much everywhere.

But what that means, I'm not sure about.

I would love us to have, you know, to bring people in, like, like Doctor Roy to tell us more about these topics.

So we can have a deeper understanding of it.

AS **Amanda St.Pierre** 47:53

So I'd like to just jump in.

I also feel like interested in knowing how other industries are handling umm their use on in their businesses and really researching in Vermont because I find like you know, as we try to get into more and more recycling and and getting rid of certain products, is Vermont ready for that?

Because sometimes Vermont isn't ready to handle.

Umm, these kind of switches?

Or the disposal of such and so I I'd like to know more about Vermont's infrastructure and how things can be handled, as well as umm for firms to change over to the from the types of products that we're using.

Umm, the options that are out there and it has to be something that you know again

is practical and umm it can evolve.

I I think that that's gonna be the biggest thing is, how did other industries transition and change and how did they evolve and the timeline in which they did it?

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 49:07

Amanda, you have something.

Do you have a someone in particular that you're thinking of like a specific industry that you're thinking of?

AS **Amanda St.Pierre** 49:14

I I have no, I mean this has been talked about in agricultural circle circles that this is coming, that this is gonna be the next thing.

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 49:16

OK.

AS **Amanda St.Pierre** 49:23

But you know, I'm as interested as it and everybody because I I have not done the research myself.

And again, I don't know what other industries are doing and what other products are out there.

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 49:37

And are you talking specifically to micro plastics or are you are you?

AS **Amanda St.Pierre** 49:40

Yeah.

Yes.

Well, I mean, in anything that we talk about May ID you could say, right?

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 49:46

Yeah. OK.

AS **Amanda St.Pierre** 49:47

Yeah, yeah.

But it definitely on the microplastics, yeah.

2 27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4 49:55

Go ahead when you too.

You there you go.

With this.

WH Wendy Sue Harper 50:17

Sorry, this system seems really slow to respond to things today.

2 27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4 50:17

Sorry.

WH Wendy Sue Harper 50:21

I did want to mention that.

I one of the first papers I saw microplastics was a woman.

I think in Cornell, who was studying cadmium uptake by plants and she ran into micro plastics because they were facilitating the movement of the metal into the plant root and she had some photos of the microplastics, little balls of plastic inside plant roots.

So, you know, I think it's, uh.

Anyways, I just wanted to share that thought.

It's a problem.

2 27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4 51:10

How about some other some just going back to that?

I was gonna put up the concerns answers to ohh people think so.

Are the biggest one.

Is is non target pollinator exposure I'm.

I think that will probably address that if definitely if the new next bill passes and we are tasked with making a recommendation for best management practices for all new Knicks.

Umm, outside of that, if that doesn't pass, how?

Yeah, we should still looking like this should still be a topic that we might need to

address, yeah.

And does anybody have ideas?

Or I mean I'm asking kind of selfishly for planning.

Like who?

Who do we want to hear from?

Who, who?

What do we want to know?

Is Ryan still on?

We might have Ryan for yeah.

RR

Ryan Rebozo 52:24

Right.

Yeah, I'm on here.

Yeah, I mean I think you know when I see that I think of obviously expanding beyond just bees and it's a couple of the tasks up.

We have probably enough information to identify some pollinator species that we might be concerned about their exposure, and that might be a place to start and see what we know about those species and and and their likelihood of visiting or pollinating.

Some of these crop species and then maybe take it from there.

2

27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4 52:56

Right.

And and sort of expand that a little bit.

Ohh, one of the recommendations for the IB was to, you know, improve pollinator habitat.

Umm.

And I think you know, just speaking personally, I think that's something we say agency needs to get a lot more involved in.

We actually have a meeting coming up with the Agency of Transportation.

I think it's next week we'll talk about how they could get involved and I've Ryan and I've been communicating by email about having a meeting about that too.

And right, I haven't responded to your email yet, but I will so.

But I think that's that could be related to this you know.

But you know non, non managed pollinators should be an important topic for the if

you look at both were exposure and also for you know well for all the aspects of it so. But for the first planning goes, we're gonna, I think it would be Ryan and me. To be thinking about what put in there. And Ryan, I know you have to leave soon, so I wanted to just ask and to make sure I heard you right. So you're thinking of using information that's available to narrow our focus to specific to like a few specific pollinator species.

RR **Ryan Rebozo** 54:34

Yes, PC or groups of pollinators, just I guess that's the first thing that comes to mind for maybe focusing the discussion a little bit.

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 54:37

Good.

RR **Ryan Rebozo** 54:41

But in addition to what Steve mentioned, too, pollinator habitat could be should be part of this as well.

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 54:47

Right.

I mean just to just to for the purposes of conversation, I mean that what comes to mind are you know bees that are, you know one one thing we could look at pretty easily I think would be what's happening with bees that pollinate blueberries for example.

You know there.

Right.

Do you know off hand which fees would be the ones to look at there?

RR **Ryan Rebozo** 55:17

I I could pull up a list pretty easily, but not off the top of my head.

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 55:22

Yeah, because that's pretty much, yeah.

RR Ryan Rebozo 55:22

But yeah, I could put something like that together.

2 27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4 55:25

But I mean that's that's that could be a good system to look at because they're, you know, blueberries are a football related most effectively by I think bumblebees and you're a couple different species of bumblebees and we do have a blueberry industry that I think it was growing in Vermont it's expanding.

And it's kind of a good fit.

So that could be a good model.

Look at about what's happening with.

You know, with those insects and lots of affecting them and how to manage them and how to make them, you know, improve their populations and that kind of is that all highbush blueberry? Yeah.

Yeah, I think so.

You too?

Yeah, I mean, that's the normal blueberry future.

It's not rabbit.

Does anyone know if I'm sorry?

I just wanted to know about the blueberry market.

Is it the same as lowbush management?

Because I was just going back to the pesticides used on lowbush, I don't know.

I mean, we can certainly get, you know, people can talk, yeah.

OHS.

Anybody else have any thoughts or further things so about to address this kind of #1 concern that's coming out of this?

It's not survey for pollinator exposure.

It looks like after that it's about disposal, disposal of farm materials that are no longer useful right.

Mail Rep yeah.

I can say on the tires piece they're they're a duplicate build introduced this year.

However, they didn't make it out of committee regarding addressing tire waste in the state of Vermont.

So introduced, kept to the wild.

Didn't make it so, but they were the same bills and one in the house and one in the Senate.

But still, I don't think they're gonna come off the wall this year, but potentially it could be reintroduced next year.

So just sharing that information and they're about tired disposal, yeah.

I think creating an extended producer responsibility program to address tire ways. Yeah.

I I don't know the ask question it it could be a can of worms but do.

Do Members feel that we?

OK, I was in that.

Should we look into the fast second question?

Should we see?

Wait to look into P fast until if this.

If the bill passes, then we have more clearly defined terms, so we're going to be fast after the report.

Well my my suggestion is we're gonna be working on this report.

I mean, it's going to be a joint effort with Barbara L DC and I think we should schedule a report on the report.

Like towards the end of the summer, beginning of the fall, you know, just sort of a check in about where we're at.

And then depending on what's coming out of it, I think there might be things, right.

If you look at so you mean a report to AIB for them to have feedback before the report due to the list?

Yeah, but also just keep everybody informed.

By then you ought to have pretty good idea where you're headed.

That would go and maybe even have DC job, you know?

And yeah, be part of the discussion.

And yes, there is already involved, so yeah.

Good I have.

This is gonna have some good.

Kind of things.

Or absorption?

Yep, take a break for now.

I like that everybody come back at the 3:00 o'clock.

What does that make sense, everybody?

Yep.

So could I get umm some thumbs up?

So we're gonna come back at 3:00, o'clock.

□ **Fantelli, Lisa** left the meeting

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 1:01:13

All right.

Thank you everybody.

□ **Ryan Rebozo** left the meeting

□ **Amanda St.Pierre** left the meeting

□ **Bruce Young** left the meeting

□ **Decker, Brooke** left the meeting

2 **27604a08-19d3-423b-b36d-0dde3076eac4** 1:01:21

It's more.