



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

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL

Emergency Meeting

**August 16, 2021
9:00 AM**

Deering Building, Room 101
90 Blossom Lane, Augusta, Maine

AGENDA

1. Introductions of Board and Staff
 - Adams, Flewelling, Granger, Jemison, Morrill
2. Proposed Remote Meeting Participation Policy

At the July 16, 2021 meeting, the Board discussed the schedule end of the Governor's State of Civil Emergency on July 30, 2021. Also expiring on July 30, 2021 was the allowance to hold public meetings remotely. During the First Session of the 130th Maine Legislature, LD 32, An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Public Proceedings was signed into law as an emergency measure. To continue to hold meetings remotely, LD 32 requires the Board to adopt a policy stating when remote meetings may be held and how the public may attend and participate.

Presentation By: Megan Patterson, Director

Action Needed: Discussion and vote on adoption of the proposed policy

- Patterson told the Board that LD 32 was signed into law and it formalized the process of holding remote meetings. In response staff drafted a policy in order for the Board to meet remotely. She added that there was also a possibility to hold hybrid meetings so that the public could attend, but the Board could not meet remotely until there was a policy in place. Patterson explained that the term significant distance meant any distance greater than 50 miles for this policy.
- Randlett suggested an edit to the policy that would include an elevated risk of public disease, such as COVID-19.

MEGAN PATTERSON, DIRECTOR
90 BLOSSOM LANE, DEERING BUILDING



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- Morrill asked staff to strike out the last sentence of the policy and to strike out sentence one and two under 2(A) in order to leave it broader so that the Board would not be limited to a governor's emergency policy. He added that the issuance of an emergency issue should be determined by the Board or the Board chair.
- Randlett stated that the statute is wide open when it came to what the Board could adopt for policy.
- There was discussion about whether to keep the inclusion of the 50-mile stipulation or to remove it.
- Randlett stated that the statute, in terms of policy, was very broad and wide open however the intent was that these meetings be held in person whenever possible, and the policy should not be so wide open that any member can abstain from a Board meeting.
- Patterson stated that after decline of the Delta variant of COVID-19 Delta, it was the expectation that Board members would be attending meetings in person.
- Morrill responded that he did have concern that the Board would lose the public, in person aspect of the meeting by always attending remotely, and that there was value in meeting face to face.
- Patterson stated that she very much appreciated that the Board convened today on such short notice.
- Morrill asked that staff strike out the meaning of significant distance, which would leave it a bit more up to interpretation. There was further discussion amongst the Board about whether to leave that wording in or not.
- Granger noted that the policy could be changed at any time.
- Patterson stated that she personally saw value in meeting in person as much as possible and that it gave staff the opportunity to have discourse with the Board.
 - **Jemison/Adams: Moved and seconded to adopt the policy, including Section 2(A), but striking sentence one and two after it, and striking the definition of significant distance**
 - **In Favor: Unanimous**
- Jemison stated he would like to formally acknowledge one individual's significant accomplishments in promoting IPM. He stated that Jim Dwyer, UMaine Potato Entomologist, had passed away the previous weekend. He asked if staff could draft a letter of appreciation to his family to acknowledge his contribution to the industry and to the State of Maine. Jemison said he would love to do this, draft a letter, and submit it with a plaque on behalf of the Board.
- Patterson agreed that would be appropriate and noted something similar was done when Carol passed away. The Board also increased the grant to the Maine Mobile Health Program to purchase water bottles and bandanas for migrant workers.
- Flewelling stated that a plaque and letter would be appropriate.

- Morrill also suggested a press release for Jim Dwyer expressing the Board's gratitude for his work.
- Patterson stated that staff would be able to do those things.

3. Adjourn

- **Jemison/Flewelling: Moved and seconded to adjourn at 9:23 AM**
- **In Favor: Unanimous**