LANDCARE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LMAC)
AGENDA - Monday, June 7, 2021
5-6:30PM – recorded virtual Zoom meeting (see below for details)

1. Introductions / Welcome

2. Karen Coluzzi, Maine DACF Entomologist, on emerging invasive forest insect pests

3. Review/amend/approve 5/3/21 PMAC meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)

4. Kate Burch, Sustainability Intern, on outreach & education efforts to promote ordinance implementation

5. Final edits on revised 2020 PMAC Report to Council (ATTACHMENT)
   • Last chance for recommendations to Council on ordinance considerations

6. Update on status of Fertilizer Education & Outreach Plan
   • CCSWCD retailer outreach scope finalized and moving forward
   • GHSP webpage updates – any feedback from LMAC in comparison to Portland’s approach?

7. Draft Tree Ordinance status

8. Suggested agenda topics for next month

9. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING (in person or virtual?): 7/12/21 from 5-6:30 PM

ZOOM MEETING LINK

https://zoom.us/j/97497346232?pwd=a0I1SDBjL2gxMWFZeEJKbHlzZlhHQT09

Meeting ID: 974 9734 6232
Passcode: 125305
1. Colleen Teerling, Maine Forest Service Entomologist, on invasive forest insect pests
   - Winter moth: success story using biological controls – parasitic fly results in ~40% mortality
     o Synthetic lawn/ground treatments will kill parasitic fly and reduce effectiveness of winter moth control
     o Not many predators for the fly but it’s completely dependent on winter moth; with no moths flies can’t survive
   - Emerald Ash Borer: expanding quickly in southern Maine (not so much up north); massive front from the south
     o Most recently found in Portland, Scarborough, Westbrook and Saco
     o Woodpecker feeding damage is most obvious and early symptom but they’ve been there for ~4-5 years
     o EAB forms galleries
     o Girdled trap trees can be pretty successful treatments to help identify where and when EAB arrives (trees have to be sacrificed)
     o Biological control – parasitic wasps that need EAB to survive; woodpeckers can control but they can cause over 90% mortality and can’t keep up with larger EAB infestations
       ▪ Most biological control sites found with girdled trap trees
       ▪ Looking for areas that have about 25% ash
       ▪ Insects are in tight supply provided by federal government
       ▪ Biological control won’t save trees now standing but will save next generation
       ▪ Promising approach in other states
     o Pesticide options
       ▪ Systemic – trunk injections, soil drench, lower bark spray
       ▪ 100% mortality with minimal spread into environment lasts ~3 years
       ▪ Cheaper to treat than remove
       ▪ Can reduce EAB density and slow mortality
• See [maine.gov/eab](http://maine.gov/eab) FMI
  
  ▪ Think about which trees should be saved – lots of things to do to keep ash on landscape
  ▪ Canadians have developed neem products that are organic alternatives to synthetics
    ▪ Need to put in trap tree to determine extent of infestation and to help identify which trees to save – when EAB is within 5 miles it’s time to start treating
    ▪ Only MSF can release biological controls – let them know if we want help
    ▪ Licensed arborists can apply pesticides

• Hemlock Wooly Adelgid: aphid like insect that lives on underside of twigs
  ▪ Can take 10-20 years to kill hemlock
  ▪ Crawlers are around from March – July
    ▪ Tiny and practically invisible and can cover clothing and equipment
    ▪ Best to do work in fall and winter when crawlers aren’t present to avoid spreading to other trees
  ▪ There are biological controls – predatory beetles but not immediately effective – more long term solution

• Browntail Moth: nothing good to say about them – invasive caterpillar with toxic hairs
  ▪ Now found throughout Maine but mostly mid-coast region and spreading
  ▪ Climate change is making it worse
  ▪ Has an odd life cycle – hatches in the summer and creates winter web in the fall then in the next spring comes out to begin feeding
  ▪ Shorter milder winters allow them to feed longer into the fall increasing winter survivability
  ▪ Naturally occurring fungus can provide some control but it requires cool wet springs

QUESTIONS FOR COLLEEN

• Natural browntail moth controls: BT can work but requires 2 applications – best to spray in fall when caterpillars are small then again in the spring because the population has been knocked down
  ▪ There’s another insecticide – Entrust SC (spinosad) but needs to be applied when growth is really kicking in
  ▪ Best to put the webs out

• What’s the source of spread for browntail: comes from Europe and we can’t use their bio controls because of unintended consequences; no good US parasites yet

• There have been some attempts to spread the fungus

• What does Canada do? Just starting to move into Canada so not much of a problem there yet

• EAB isn’t here yet but it will be soon so early detection is key – when woodpeckers are detected it’s already too late
Fred will check with Parks on whether/where EAB has been identified in SoPo
- Is homeowner outreach part of their work? Go to maine.gov/eab FMI
- Is there a way for private residents to access insect bio controls? Only for hemlock wooly adelgid; not so for EAB but MFS will work with cooperators; MFS working with UMass for winter moth
- Winter moth banding recommended and or which trees to plant?
  - Don’t plant ash – project canopy won’t support
  - Banding trees possibly still good to do with areas with high winter moth
  - SoPo probably won’t have that much in coming years because bio control has been so successful
  - Do wood chips create a winter moth issue? There could be eggs depending on time of year
- What about soils brought in from elsewhere? Could be a huge issue for winter moths as well as European fire ants; BMPs are really key (soil quality requirements may create unintended consequence if brought in from elsewhere)

2. Review/amend/approve 4/12/21 PMAC meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)
   - CORRECTIONS
     - Alex was present
     - Grub complaints – put in Jesse’s name rather than Joe’s
   - Unanimously approved with amendments

3. Quick review of FOAA requirements and City’s new policies for committees
   - Most LMAC were able to attend
   - Really important to be careful about how to communicate; only on a 1:1 basis to avoid group discussions which would require public noticing
   - 4/30/21 FOAA training required for all volunteer committee members
   - Boards and Committees Policy
   - Remote Meeting Policy
   - Use of Social Media Policy
   - Need to fill out completion form
   - Check to see if waiver committee passes muster with only 2 members

4. Review/revise/edit 2020 PMAC Report to Council (ATTACHMENT)
   - Feedback especially appreciated for Recommendations to Council section
     - Looked pretty good
     - Tough to analyze applicator’s report data
     - Recommendations for issues for which we don’t have easy solutions
       - Need for clarification on enforcement; should LMAC have any role in pushing for more enforcement?
       - What more can we do that’s really meaningful?
       - How can we support the implementation of the ordinance?
       - Enforcement is complaint driven
- Could recommend more data than what MBPC requires
- How to determine level of compliance
- Our mandate is to support good practices in organic land care
- We need to come up with better data collection – commercial applicators
- MBPC wants to improve its data collection efforts
- Most of the data that’s provided are exempted for structural, pets, ticks and mosquitos, etc. – maybe consider removing graphs because they’re misleading
- May want to clarify the types of pesticide for which we collect data
  - Fred will check with Clerk

5. Update on status of Fertilizer Education & Outreach Plan
   - CCSWCD retailer outreach scope finalized and moving forward
   - GHSP webpage updates – would love feedback from LMAC in comparison to Portland’s approach

6. Next month: Karen Coluzzi, State Pest Survey Coordinator, will be presenting on emerging forest insect pests

QUESTIONS
- Is there a draft of the tree ordinance?
- When the city takes down a street tree how does it restore the lawn?

7. Adjourn

NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING: 6/7/21 from 5-6:30 PM
TO: South Portland City Council

DATE: May 7, 2021

 SUBJECT: 2020 Annual Summary Report - DRAFT

OVERVIEW

The pesticide use provisions in the City’s ordinance direct the Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC)\(^1\) to provide the Council with annual reports in March of each year summarizing the committee’s activities for the previous year. The PMAC’s primary duties as specified in the ordinance include:

1. Working with the Sustainability Director on outreach & education to encourage broad community support.
2. Reviewing & issuing decisions on waiver applications.
3. Reviewing annual data (e.g., annual applicator’s reports).
4. Seeking expert advice from professionals and practitioners in organic land care practices.
5. Advising the Council & Sustainability Director on problems encountered or amendments needed to successfully implement pesticide ordinance.

1. EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The numerous difficulties and disruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic limited efforts by the PMAC and City staff to conduct public education & outreach (E&O). At least two events had to be cancelled though there were some notable activities that promoted increased public awareness about sustainable land care practices, including:

- Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) delivered YardScaping\(^2\) workshops to South Portland residents in early April and mid-August that incorporated elements of the City’s pesticide ordinance provisions.
- PMAC members (Chair & staff) participated in two Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Council meetings and provided updates about City’s ordinance implementation.
- Staff worked with the PMAC to develop and place interpretive signs for the Yerxa Park knotweed suppression demonstration project.
- Others?

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\(^1\) Amendments to Chapter 32 by the Council in November 2020 added provisions for fertilizer management and renamed the Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) the Landcare Management Advisory Committee (LMAC). These provisions became effective on 12/7/20.

\(^2\) YardScaping promotes low-maintenance practices that minimize the use of land care products; CCSWCD modified their workshop to include information specific to the City’s pesticide ordinance.
The development of an E&O plan for fertilizer use began shortly after the enactment of the new Landcare Management Ordinance in November 2020. While the plan will focus primarily on fertilizers, the types of practices recommended for building healthy soils will apply to pesticides as well. Additionally, the Grow Healthy South Portland website will be updated to ensure that the recommendations for pesticide and fertilizer use are consistent and mutually supportive.

2. WAIVER APPLICATIONS

The pesticide ordinance allows waivers for the use of synthetic pesticides in very limited circumstances and requires that all of the following criteria must be met to justify a waiver:

- A situation exists that threatens the public health and safety and/or where invasive species pose a threat to the environment;
- The applicant has carefully evaluated all alternative methods and materials;
- The applicant will, to the greatest extent practical, minimize the impact of the application on abutting properties; and
- The grant of the waiver will not be detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare.

Summaries for each of the waiver applications submitted for consideration by the PMAC’s Waiver Review Committee are provided below.

Wainwright Field – Crabgrass

Parks Department staff submitted this waiver request well in advance of the 2020 growing season. Despite the implementation of organic turf management practices for the previous three years, approximately 50% of the playing surfaces had been overtaken by crabgrass. To reduce the likelihood of athletic injuries from inconsistent or uneven playing surfaces and potentially adverse impacts to abutting properties, they proposed a rescue treatment with the synthetic pesticide Dimension (Dithiopyr) in strict accordance with use instructions.

The Waiver Committee approved the request because all of the four required criteria were met and there were no effective non-synthetic alternatives available. Additionally, other possible options were exceedingly expensive or impractical (e.g., re-sodding damaged areas, hand weeding, etc.). The committee’s response also included recommendations to amend the ordinance for more flexibility in periodically using synthetic products to manage crabgrass without a waiver. Alternately, they suggested significantly increasing the field maintenance budget to allow for routine re-sodding to address turf damage by crabgrass.

Crestview Drive – Grub Control

The resident’s landcare provider submitted a waiver to use the synthetic pesticide Acelepryn for grub control. The homeowner had hired a different landcare provider in 2019 to employ an organic grub control treatment that proved to be ineffective. Despite significant and extensive damage to the resident’s lawn, the Waiver Committee was unable to approve the request due to the very restrictive waiver provisions – particularly the requirement for a “threat to public health
and safety”. While most landcare providers contend there are currently no organic alternatives for effective grub control, the ordinance makes it virtually impossible for any residential property to qualify for a waiver in these circumstances.

**Vista Drive – Grub Control**
A resident of Vista Drive submitted an incomplete waiver application for lawn damage due to grubs. Staff followed up with a request for more information but the resident did not respond. Consequently, the Waiver Committee took no action on the waiver request.

**Ocean House Place Condos – Grub Control**
After conferring with City staff about the waiver review process for grub control using synthetic pesticides, the condo association president submitted an application that clearly documented extensive turf damage from animals foraging for grubs. The application did not specify which pesticide was being proposed nor which alternative methods had been evaluated. Consequently, the waiver request was denied. Even if this information had been provided, the committee would still have denied the waiver due to the requirement for a threat to public health and safety. The president contacted City staff again later in the year (11/17/20) to complain about how the pesticide ordinance created the unintended consequence of depressing property values due to extensive lawn damage from grubs.

**Breakwater Drive**
A landcare provider submitted a waiver request on behalf of the Breakwater Condo Association for a cut-stem application of the synthetic pesticide Cheetah Pro (glufosinate ammonium) to an area infested with Japanese Knotweed. While the applicant indicated that alternative methods had been attempted previously without success, the committee denied the waiver with the recommendation that these methods be used for a longer duration. Subsequently, the applicant appealed the waiver and the City Manager directed the PMAC to reconsider the request. The applicant also provided additional information identifying the location of the proposed pesticide use in relation to nearby Casco Bay and details about why the recommended alternate methods would be problematic for this location. The committee conditionally approved the waiver to allow for the 1-time use of the least toxic synthetic pesticide available.

### 3. ANNUAL DATA REVIEW

Twenty licensed pesticide applicators provided annual reports for 2020, primarily copied directly from the reports submitted to the Maine Board of Pesticides Control (MBPC) – as allowed by the City’s pesticide ordinance provisions. The information included:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Applicator’s License Number</th>
<th>Target Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicator’s Name</td>
<td>Pesticide Brand Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company Name</td>
<td>EPA Registration Number</td>
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<tr>
<td>Company Email</td>
<td>Total Pounds Undiluted Formulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company Address</td>
<td>Total Gallons Undiluted Formulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company Telephone Number</td>
<td>Total Area Treated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Most of reported sites were privately owned with the public sites consisting primarily of athletic fields and the municipal golf course. Unfortunately, the way that applicators provide this information is not standardized and therefore provides little or no basis for evaluation in terms of pesticide volumes and the relative areas to which they were applied. It was also somewhat difficult to determine whether all of the applications fully complied with the ordinance’s exemption requirements (i.e., to confirm that no pesticides were used inappropriately). The MBPC is currently developing an online reporting system that will hopefully address some of these shortcomings.

4. SEEKING EXPERT ADVICE

Even though the process of developing the provisions for the fertilizer ordinance was separate from the implementation of the pesticide ordinance, there was membership and subject area overlap between these two efforts. Four PMAC members and the City’s Stormwater Program Coordinator also served on the Fertilizer Working Group, which involved consultation with numerous landcare management experts on practices to build healthy soils and reduce the need for fertilizer – and by extension, pesticide – use. Additionally, all members of the Pest Management Advisory Committee are “experts” in their own right with extensive experience in various aspects of landcare management and water resource protection.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

LMAC recommendations here...