

Sunset Advisory Commission Board and Commission Review

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.

The Pesticide Advisory Council is statutorily required to meet twice a year, but generally meets approximately 6 times a year. The times and dates of upcoming meetings and agendas are posted on the Agency's website on a page dedicated to the Council: https://agriculture.vermont.gov/pesticide_regulation/vpac On this page there is a link to a public Sharepoint site with all Council related documents, including past meeting minutes: <https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/agriculture/vpac/default.aspx>

2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.
 - Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation - Rick Levey, designee for Commissioner (ongoing)
 - Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife - Eric Palmer, designee for Commissioner (ongoing)
 - Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets - Cary Giguere, designee for Secretary (ongoing)
 - Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation - Barbara Schultz, designee for Commissioner (ongoing)
 - Vermont Department of Health - Razelle Hoffman-Contois (Chair), designee for Commissioner (ongoing)
 - Vermont Agency of Transportation - Andy Shively, designee for Secretary (ongoing)

- University of Vermont Extension Service - Sid Bosworth, designated by the Director. Expires upon resignation from the Council.
 - University of Vermont Experiment Station - Ann Hazelrigg, designated by the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Expires upon resignation from the Council.
 - University of Vermont Medical School (vacant)
 - Governor Appointed Public Member (Environmental/Health) - Elizabeth Royer, 2-year term expires 2/29/2020. Receives reimbursement for mileage.
 - Governor Appointed Public Member (Agriculture) - Catherine Ballard, 2-year term expires 2/29/2020. Receives reimbursement for mileage.
3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose. The Pesticide Advisory Council reviews insect, plant disease, weed, nematode, rodent, noxious wildlife, and other pest control programs within the State and to assess the effect of such programs on human health and comfort, natural resources, water, wildlife, and food and fiber production and, where necessary, make recommendations for greater safety and efficiency. The Council advises the Secretary of Agriculture on policies, and legislation for wise and effective pesticide use that lead to an overall reduction in the use of pesticides in Vermont consistent with sound pest or vegetative management practices.
 4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose? If the Council no longer existed, the functions could be transferred with the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets and consultations could be done by staff with other stakeholders.
 5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance? The Council meets routinely and serves to keep other Agencies, departments updated on new chemistry and developments. It also provides a forum for public comment on state authorized activities.
 6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner? If the Council no longer existed, the function could be shifted to a position within the Agency of Agriculture to reach out to stakeholders for input.
 7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so,

is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose? **There are no duplicative boards/councils/commissions.**

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission? **Yes, the enabling law reflects the continued purpose of the Council: 6 V.S.A. § 1102**
9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded? **Last fiscal year there were no expenditures, other than time of state employees and conference room space. The two members of the public are the only that may receive mileage reimbursement, and there are currently two new members. Expenditures have been minimal for that. Reimbursement comes from funds collected from pesticide product registrations.**
10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations? **In statute, there a requirement for a overview annual report, but it has not been done in at least a decade.**