

From Sec. Julie Moore:

I am following up on my testimony from last week around the Agricultural Innovation Board, to offer a recommendation for a streamlined Board structure. I have discussed this alternative structure with Cary Giguere and understand he would support this as well. The Board would be made up of:

- (1) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee;
- (2) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;
- (3) a member from the University of Vermont Center for Sustainable Agriculture;
- (4) a representative from an environmental advocacy organization;
- (5) a member of the farming community; and
- (6) a member from UVM extension or a certified crop consultant.

The Board would advise the (AAFM) Secretary on policy re: pesticides, budget, and challenges, with the Secretary required to report to the legislature (4964(c)).

I would then establish two advisory panels in the statute (with the authority for the Board to create additional advisory panels as needed to carry out its duties):

- Pesticide advisory panel
- Clean water and ecosystem services advisory panel

I would propose to leave determining the membership of the panels to the Board (rather than setting in statute), but expect that they would be drawn from the following:

- the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designees;
- the Secretary of Natural Resources or designees;
- a member of the public representing the dairy industry in Vermont;
- a member of the public representing fruit and vegetable production in Vermont;
- a member of the public representing grass-based, non-dairy livestock farming in Vermont;
- a member of the public knowledgeable in agricultural water management; and
- a representative from an organization involved in land conservation.
- the Commissioner of DEC or designee;
- the Commissioner of DFW or designee;
- the Commissioner of Health or designee;
- a member of the farming community who practices organic agriculture;
- a member of the public representing the dairy industry in Vermont (or a certified applicator, or someone who represents pesticide users); and,
- a representative from an environmental advocacy organization.

I hope this is helpful and would be pleased to answer any follow-on questions you might have.

Kind regards,
Julie