Committee Chair Brian Rowe welcomed attendees to the meeting. Introductions were made and the agenda was reviewed. Minutes from the October 21, 2011 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Joe Bondra to approve the minutes (second by Bob England). Motion carried.

Remaining meeting dates for 2012 are April 20, July 20, and Oct. 19. All meetings will be held in the Guyer Conference Room, at the Geagley Lab (address listed above) from 9:30 am to noon. Meetings are open to the public.

Brian announced that Bob England’s appointment to represent Licensed Outdoor Commercial applicators was approved by the director. Bob’s appointment is for three years.

The committee welcomed Kara Moberg as a proposed new member representing farm employees. Kara provided the following information regarding her experience with the community she would be representing:

- Kara works for Farmworker Legal Service (FLS). FLS is a legal aid office with attorneys and other legal staff who provide free legal assistance and referrals to migrant and seasonal farmworkers throughout the state of Michigan. FLS provides assistance in subjects such as employment, benefits, housing, education, and immigration.
- FLS collaborated with several organizations to train migrant medical and outreach workers in 2009 regarding pesticide education and reporting and regularly trains outreach workers regarding farm workers’ legal rights.
- FLS represents workers and advises them on a variety of issues.
- FLS encounters pesticide related issues that affect farm workers (personal protective equipment, drift, children playing in treated areas, housing in close proximity to treated areas, etc.).
- FLS encounters and assists workers with limited proficiency in English.
- FLS is a member of the Interagency Migrant Services Committee and interacts with other farm worker service providers such as Telamon. FLS has also worked with Antonio Castro Escobar from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) on various worker training initiatives.

The committee discussed other programs associated with workers, including EPA funded projects, physician reporting of worker pesticide exposure, working conditions, housing, and how to process worker pesticide complaints so they reach MDARD or MIOSHA. After a brief
recess, John Stone made a motion that the committee recommend to the director that Kara be appointed to the committee (second by Mike Schiffer). Motion carried.

**Action Item:** Brian will advise the director of the committee motion to recommend Kara for appointment to the committee.

**Action Item:** Committee recommendation that when a commodity representative is solicited for membership, choose a commodity that uses farm workers such as a fruit or vegetable commodity.

Roger Wabeke introduced Elaine Clapp from Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Association (MIOSHA). She was invited to the meeting to learn about the committee and consider participating as a member. Elaine shared information about MIOSHA programs and how those programs interact with a variety of pesticide applicators (businesses, farms, farm workers, etc.). MIOSHA receives referrals on a wide range of occupational safety and health issues, not just pesticides. MIOSHA responds to complaints and referrals from other agencies such as the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). Elaine is interested in becoming a committee member and will share more details on her experiences and MIOSHA programs at the next meeting.

Brian advised the committee that he has received a nomination from Michigan Agri-Business for the Agricultural Chemical Industry and will invite that individual to the next meeting. MDARD has also invited nominations from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The committee briefly discussed assigning appointment expiration dates to committee members for discussion at the next meeting.

**Action Item:** Brian will assign one, two or three year appointment expiration dates to existing members for consideration by the committee at the April meeting.

Mike Schiffer presented his committee action item regarding shared responsibility for commercial applicators. Based on two recent incidents, commercial aerial applicators were provided misinformation regarding application locations and inadvertently treated properties where they did not have consent for services. In one case a crop consultant and grower provided a treatment area map that included a farm not owned by the grower. In the second case, a forest pest application to a community had objectors to the application, but the community coordinator did not inform the applicator. Mike indicated this situation could happen to any applicator that accepts location information as part of service agreements. Discussion on the issue resulted in two action items.

**Action Item:** Elaine offered to provide the committee with a MIOSHA document used to assess responsibility for MIOSHA violations that may serve as a template for further discussion.
**Action Item:** Brian will use the MDARD pesticide project team to discuss shared responsibility and consider enforcement response strategies that may deal with this situation and report back to committee.
Reports from MDCH, MSU and MDARD included the following:

- **Abby Swarts (MDCH)** reported that they are behind in occupational exposure data entry, in part because poison control moved to a new location and has not entered November and December data. She described a case referred to MDARD that involved fogging in a food warehouse where an employee was exposed to the application.

- **John Stone (MSU-PSEP)** provided details on a number of pesticide applicator training programs he has or will be holding. He updated the committee on pesticide applicator certification manuals under development including Ornamental (category 3B) and Aquatic (category 6). MSU is now writing questions for the ornamental manual and will provide them to MDARD when completed. He mentioned that several positions in local MSU extension offices are being eliminated.

- **Brian** provided the committee a list of pesticide misuse complaints that were initiated in the first quarter of fiscal year 2012 (October – December 2011). As committee chairperson, Brian recommended casual dress for committee meetings.

**Gina Alessandri** provided the following Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division updates:

- **Trever Meachum** has been appointed as a new member of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture & Rural Development.
- The governor’s initiative to review all rules in state government is underway. There are 18,703 rules in state government. Within MDARD, 18 regulations with 217 rules are obsolete.
- MDARD will be represented in working groups with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to facilitate business development.
- MDARD efforts related to Emerald Ash Borer are primarily focused in the Upper Peninsula. There is less funding coming from the United States Department of Agriculture and current efforts are focused on bio-control using 3 species of parasitic wasps.
- Michigan has a new phosphorus regulation and a brochure describing the regulation was provided.

The meeting adjourned. The next meeting is April 20, 2012 at the Geagly Laboratory from 9:30 to noon.