



Memo: Integrated Pest Management Policy Review Task Force Report

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2019

To: Common Council

From: Nan Fey, Co-Chair
Task Force Members and Staff

Members of the Common Council,

With the passage of [Resolution 18-00574](#), an eleven member Task Force comprised of city staff, community representatives, and experts familiar with the use of pesticides was created to review the current Policy Regarding Pest Management on City Property adopted 5/18/2004. To accomplish this goal, the Task Force would:

- Review available research on current IPM best practices
- Solicit input from IPM experts
- Review current city department pesticide usage
- Develop recommendations for revisions to the current IPM policy, and recommendations for City pesticide usage
- Solicit input on City policy recommendations from the community
- Develop best practices on pesticide use for city residents,
- Develop recommendations for administrative support structure(s) for policy implementation and reporting; and

The goal was to complete its review and make final recommendations to the Mayor and Common Council on or before February 28, 2019. The Task Force held one additional meeting to finalize this report for consideration on April 16, 2019.

Background:

In 2015, following a national directive from the Obama White House, entities at all levels of Wisconsin government began studying how their policies and practices might be damaging pollinator populations. Task Forces were created at the state, county and city levels, all of which submitted reports that year. Under the direction of the Madison Food Policy Council, the [City's Pollinator Protection Task Force provided a report and recommendations for the City](#). The following year, the Madison Food Policy Council created a Pollinator Protection Work Group to implement the recommendations in the Task Force Report.

In the summer of 2017, members of the community began complaining about the use of glyphosate on public lands; commonly known by the trade name RoundUp, a growing body of scientific research suggests this chemical may be carcinogenic in humans. This issue of public health, combined with the continued concern over pesticide impacts on pollinators, prompted the Pollinator Protection Work Group and Madison Food Policy Council to request that a group of city staff and experts be created to review the city's 2004 policy on Integrated Pest Management.

Task Force Composition and Activities:

Based on pesticide reports submitted by a number of city agencies, key staff members were identified by their department/division heads to participate in this policy review. Given the concerns about public health, staff from this joint Madison Dane County department was also included. Departments most involved in the use of pesticides include Engineering, Parks, Public Health and the Water Utility. Experts from the IPM Institute of North America, which is located here in Madison, were also invited along with representatives from three city committees (Madison Food Policy Council, Committee on the Environment, Sustainable Madison Committee) and the Board of Health.

Integrated Pest Management Policy Review Task Force Roster URL:

<https://madison.legistar.com/DepartmentDetail.aspx?ID=38466&GUID=1D2A53EC-6165-4B62-AE87-8877CFBFFECA&Search=>

Task Force members agreed to meet every three weeks in order to accomplish the goals established in its enabling resolution on a 6-month schedule. A Steering Team, comprised of the co-chairs and staff, met between Task Force meetings to develop agendas, schedule presentations and prepare documents for the group's review. Between October 2018 and February 2019, the Task Force:

- Reviewed the current IPM policy adopted in 2004 and considered alternative approaches taken by other cities
- Received presentations from experts on Integrated Pest Management
- Received presentations from city departments on their IPM practices
- Reviewed pesticide reports from relevant city departments
- Drafted a project charter using the City's sustainability framework
- Surveyed relevant divisions/departments about their current practices
- Reviewed and discussed dozens of potential recommendations from members and public input

Meeting materials can be found online in [Legistar file #53439: *Integrated Pest Management Policy Review Task Force Meeting Materials*](#).

Recommendations: Based on the knowledge it accumulated during this process, the Task Force suggests the following next steps to update the city's IPM policy:

- Task Force continues meeting
 - Consider adding member(s) for balance and expertise
 - Develop public engagement and input process
 - Draft revised policy for adoption and implementation in Spring 2020
- Revisions should
 - Standardize reporting process and format
 - Clarify chain of command, compliance process
 - Add sections on Values, Best Practices, Standards, etc.
 - Require review of the policy every 5 years, updates as needed
 - Require implementation plans
 - Citywide plan provides contact information, process outline
 - Departmental plans include
 - Areas of responsibility
 - Management plans (land and/or facilities)
 - Goals, metrics, budget implications
 - Publicly available on city's website
 - Review annually, updated as needed
- Support staff training to improve compliance
- Support pilot projects to explore alternative methods
- Develop best practices for use by city residents

Conclusion: The Integrated Pest Management Policy Review Task Force respectfully requests the Common Council to

1. Accept this report on its activities to date,
2. Extend the time allowed for the Task Force to complete its work, revise the current IPM policy for adoption and implementation in Spring 2020, and
3. Allow the Task Force to add member(s) as necessary for balance, perspective and expertise.