

## Governor's Pesticide Council by Tom Walsh

The purpose of the Maryland Governor's Pesticide Council is to advise the governor on pesticide related issues. The council discusses upcoming bills in the legislature regarding pesticides. They then recommended passing the bill or suggest changes to accommodate all parties involved. The council consists of twenty three members from a cross section of the community, such as representatives from public schools, local governments, public health, labor organizations, environmental groups, the agricultural community and the general public. The discussions can be both lively and entertaining to say the least.

Members include Council Chairperson Amy Brown, Ph.D., Pesticide Education Coordinator, University of Maryland; Raymond Fritz, retired Chief of the Chesapeake Bay Estuary Water Quality, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service; James Slater, Chief of the Bureau of Environmental Services, Carroll County, MD; Mark Fuchs, Senior Agronomist, Southern States Cooperative; Max Eisenberg, Ph. D., Executive Director, Center for Indoor Air Research; Garry Schnappinger, Ph. D., Research Scientist, Novartis; Michael Pelczar, Ph. D., Professor of Microbiology, University of Maryland; Craig Storbel, Executive Vice President, York Distributors; Senator Lowell Stolfus, R-Wicomico.

The September 23rd meeting provided additional discussion surrounding the pest applications in and around public schools. An IPM training manual of Grounds Maintenance was distributed and discussed by Dr. Michael Raupp of the University of Maryland, Entomology Department. Meetings are open to the public and public comments are welcome at each meeting. From time to time throughout the meeting, the public is invited to ask questions. A sign-up sheet is provided for those who wish to address the council at the end of the meeting on a particular issue.

My observations are that the environmental community has the biggest voice. The audience seems to consist of more people who are against our industry. From time to time, issues regarding the Golf Course Industry will be discussed. So please take the time to attend these important meetings. Your voice could help persuade the many panelists who are undecided.

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