



LEAD for Pollinators

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2021 Organization Accomplishments

1. Activities / Programs

- a. Log in To Learn Webinars
 - i. Presented 12 webinars- placed them on website/Dove Productions for pay per view
- b. Other conferences or events
 - i. Webinar provided by Executive Director to Cowlitz Beekeepers, Washington state, Pesticides & Beekeeping, Oct. 21
 - ii. Submitted presentation proposal to River Rally 2022 by LEAD
 - iii. Submitted presentation proposal to OEFFA for their Feb. conference
 - iv. Two presentations given to ESHPA Conference, Nov. 5-6, 2021 by Exec. Dir.
 - v. Accepted LEAD presentation at Ashtabula Pollinator Week event June 2022
- c. Noxious Weed Ordinance- City of Akron, Ohio
 - i. Strategy developed
 - ii. Support letter online garnered 50+ signers
 1. Letter provided to Mayor and City Council
 2. Testified at 2 council meetings
 3. Working with two city council members to make the needed changes
 4. Keeping collaborative stakeholders up to date on activities: Summit County Beekeepers, Great Akron Audubon Society, Summit Food Coalition, James Robinson (urban tree and pollinator habitat farm), Sabrena Schweyer
 5. Held one virtual meeting with 2 council members, and 5 city dept leaders
 - a. Provided ordinance language for noxious weeds and devilstrip planting
 - b. Follow-up contacts with 2 council members three times for THEIR proposed meeting every 2 weeks!!

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- d. Beekeeping Ordinance-City of Hudson, Ohio (new in July)
1. Attended 2 planning commission meetings reviewing the proposed ordinance
 2. Participated on behalf of Summit Food Coalition, LEAD for Pollinators, with Emily Mueller, beekeeper, and Randy Katz, county bee inspector/SCBA VP to support changes to Hudson City Bee and farm ordinances.
 3. Written comments submitted July 11, 2021
 4. In person meeting with group about draft ordinance with past and present county apiary inspector and local beekeeper and Nick Sugar of Hudson Planning Dept. July 28, 2021
 5. Attend Hudson Planning Commission hearing on bee and farm ordinances Aug. 9, 2021; Gave testimony
 6. Attend Hudson Planning Commission 2nd hearing Sept. 13, 2021; Gave testimony
 7. First two readings of bee and farm ordinances at Hudson City Council Oct. 19, 2021; Gave testimony
 8. Third reading of bee and farm ordinances at Hudson City Council Nov. 9, 2021; The legislation passed unanimously

2. Coalition/Network partnerships

Massachusetts MASSQuito Coalition- Continue to participate in MassQuito Coalition (a subgroup of a national pollinator network)to revise mosquito control practices- representing state's beekeepers

- Previously-weekly conf calls; since March 2021- bi-weekly conf. calls
- 2 members of the Coalition we got onto the Task Force created by the legislative action we promoted
- New legislation introduced by Coalition with sponsors
- LEAD created 2 educational flyers, and compiled into for the Coalition webpage (which we duplicated for LEAD website as well at <https://leadforpollinators.org/mosquitoes-and-pollinators/>)
- [Recent education flyer for new bills](#)
- Meeting with bill sponsor end of July; legislative hearing in Sept. postponed due to legislative schedule
- Task Force Report published; Coalition provided comments to Report

A National Pollinator Network

- Monthly conf. calls; some environmental justice education conf. calls as well; national pesticide/pollinator strategy
- Reassessment of group strategic plan
- Racial Equity calls

3. Presentations provided to stakeholder groups:

- Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Assn. virtual conference (Feb)
- River Rally- May

4. Legislative presentations / testimony written/provided

- Renewed effort to address City of Akron's noxious weed, devilstrip plantings, beekeeping and urban ag ordinances.
 - Secured recognition of Pollinator Week Resolution and recognizing the late Councilman Rich Swirsky's environmental contributions (June 2021)
 - Determined to break ordinances into small parts: noxious weeds, devilstrip plantings, beekeeping, farm
 - Began petition to encourage City to change their ordinances to support pollinators (June 2021)
 - Published letter to editor about ordinances in Beacon Journal (June)
 - Submitted petition to City of Akron, created video of contradictions in Bee Ordinances and shared / posted it to you tube for Council to review (June)
 - Sought a meeting to give presentation to the Green Committee of Council (July)
 - Published letter in West Side Leader about ordinances- (August)
 - Revived petition access (August)
 - Follow-up with City again seeking meetings about ordinances, share new petition signers
 - Virtual meeting with 2 City Council members, and 5 City Dept. Dir., gave presentation, discussed issues (Sept.)
 - Emailed draft legislation wording to Council members (Sept.)
 - Follow-up emails and phone calls to Council members (Oct, Nov.)
- Compiled research relative to bees and mosquito control pesticides for MassQuito Coalition members as rebuttals to pesticide industry.
- Asked by Rhode Island Audubon Society to submit comment letter and provide testimony to Rhode Island legislature concerning H5641 and S702 to ban neonics

for consumer use, and make neonics a restricted use pesticide. Called in verbal testimony to both committees.

5. Additional:

- Received scholarship to PheedLoop virtual conference about virtual/hybrid conferences/education
- Article submitted to ABF Magazine for Nov. 2021 issue
- Intern- Ayla Sumer- created social media posts about pollinators twice a week for seven months
- Created survey- “What will the beekeeper of the future be”
- Featured Guest blogs on website
- Drawing for 2 winners for completing education and clubs survey
 - One live webinar- Board member, Becky J. gave live presentation to El Dorado Beekeepers, Calif—
 - 3 recorded webinar links sent to Bucks County Beekeepers, NY (they chose- Pesticides & Beekeeping, Habitat Needs of Native Pollinators, Trees for Bees)

6. Consulting Services:

- Provided consulting services to compile a Township Fiscal Assistant Manual
- Served as Interim Executive Director of a new national nonprofit serving Canada and the US.

7. Policy Actions Taken:

- 1) 1-25-21 with the Center for Biological Diversity and Congressional members to US Fish and Wildlife- seek Monarchs listed as Endangered Species
- 2) 2-2-21 with Beyond Pesticides to US Fish and Wildlife seeking Monarchs listed as Endangered Species
- 3) 2-2-21 with EarthJustice urging the EPA to immediately revoke all food tolerances for chlorpyrifos and initiate the cancellation process to end all uses of this toxic pesticide.
- 4) 2-9-21 Signed on to NOFA/Mass letter to MDAR to ban neonics

- 5) 2-17-21 signed onto letter with Ctr for Biological Diversity expressing strong support for the EPA to issue a robust and protective final biological evaluation for atrazine under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- 6) 2-18-21 join with numerous NGOs in a letter to the US Fish and Wildlife to re-instate the National Wildlife Refuge System prohibition adopted in 2014 on certain practices for the limited agriculture that occurs within our nation's Wildlife Refuges. That prohibition applied to the planting of genetically modified (GM) crops and use of the systemic neonicotinoid insecticides in or on crops within the Refuges;
- 7) 3-8-21 Signed onto letter also with PEER to USFWS concerning pesticides and GMPs on wildlife refuge land
- 8) 3-11-21 with Ctr for Biological Diversity a letter to urge the EPA to issue a robust and protective final biological evaluation for glyphosate under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- 9) 3-17-21 signed onto XERCES Society sponsored Coalition Letter of Support for the Monarch Action, Recovery, and Conservation of Habitat Act, or MONARCH Act, of 2021.
- 10) 4-13-21 Signed onto letter with Friends of the Earth supporting Walmart's major step to protect bees by reducing the use of toxic pesticides in its supply chain and by continuing to expand organic offerings.
- 11) 4-20-21 with Sierra Club Massachusetts seeking the removal of Fluorinated Pesticides (PFAS).
- 12) 4-17-21 with Pesticide Action Network North America and PAN Mexico in calling on the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to respect Mexico's sovereign right to protect its people and environment through its own policy decisions to phaseout glyphosate use and GMO crop cultivation on Mexican soil.
- 13) 4-22-21- with Native Farm Bill Coalition a letter to Senate confirmation committee to Support Janie Simms Hipp to be USDA General Counsel (Native American attorney)
- 14) 4-22-21 with NOFA/MASS signed onto letter to Support the Schoolchildren Pesticides Protection Act HD. 458

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- 15) 4-27-21 with Center for Biological Diversity signed onto letter to US Fish and Wildlife, and Dept of Interior Completion of the nationwide biological opinions for 3 organophosphates
- 16) 4-27-21 with Center for Biological Diversity signed onto letter to US Fish and Wildlife, and Dept of Interior End pesticide use in wildlife refuges
- 17) 4-27-21 with Center for Biological Diversity signed onto letter to US Fish and Wildlife, and Dept of Interior Restrict pesticides in designated critical habitat
- 18) 4-29-21 with Rural Coalition's Comment to USDA in response to Notice of Request for Public Comment on the Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, 86 Fed. Reg. 14403 (Mar. 16, 2021), Docket No. USDA-2021-0003
- 19) 6-24-21 Support letter to City of Akron Mayor and Council concerning Noxious Weed and plant height restrictions for pollinator habitat modifications to current ordinances (signed by 50 plus people and groups)
- 20) 10-6-21 with Beyond Pesticides and PEER to EPA concerning Major Reform is Needed in EPA OPP's Pesticide Regulation
- 21) 10-18-21 With Beyond Pesticides on a comment letter to EPA for EPA Draft Biological Evaluations for Imidacloprid, Clothianidin, and Thiamethoxam [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0575]
- 22) 11-11-21 with Safer Chemicals to REI-Coop to remove PFAS from clothes in order to protect water

Letters to Editor (published)

Akron Beacon Journal, 6-24-21, "Pollinator Groups Seeks Change in Akron Law"

<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/06/23/opinion-group-urges-change-akron-laws-help-pollinators/5299564001/>

West Side Leader, Aug. 12, 2021, "LEAD for Pollinators advocating modifications to Akron ordinances,"

<https://www.akron.com/articles/lead-for-pollinators-advocating-modifications-to-akron-ordinances/>

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