Maryland MP³ Stakeholder Engagement

Maryland Department of Agriculture
Ashley Jones
Stakeholder Engagement Overview

• Teamed up with Keystone Policy Center
  – Planned out everything for us!

• Pre-summit outreach
  – Understand what stakeholders are thinking to prepare for summit

• One statewide stakeholder summit
  – January 20, 2016 – Strategy Input

• Comments and review: independent
Stakeholder Groups

- Beekeepers
  - State Beekeeping Association
  - Local Beekeeping Associations
- Crop Producers /Crop Advisors
  - State Farm Bureau
  - Grain Producers
  - Vegetable/Fruit Growers
  - Agricultural Service Businesses
- Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Professionals
  - Landscape Applicators
  - Turfgrass
  - Golf Course Superintendents
  - Arborists
- Universities
- Extension
- Right-of-Way /Utilities / Transportation
  - State Highway Administration
  - Utility Companies
- Other Government Entities
  - State Department of Agriculture
  - State Department of Natural Resources
  - EPA
  - USDA
  - USGS
- Agribusiness
- Conservation and other NGO Sectors
- Structural Pest Control
Pre-Summit Stakeholder Outreach

- **Electronic surveys** - (SurveyMonkey, etc.)
  - Allows for mass input – can be tailored to specific stakeholder group

- **Phone interviews**
  - Smaller subset of stakeholders

- **Registration questions**
  - Allowed for snapshot of attending stakeholder knowledge
Some Questions Asked

• What key issues would you like to see addressed in a managed pollinator protection plan?

• What are the most significant issues facing the health of managed pollinators?

• What solutions would you like to see come out of this plan?

• Is there any type(s) of data would you like to see collected or distributed as part of this plan?
Stakeholder Summit Invitations

- Determined how many seats would be dedicated to each stakeholder group
  - Based on relevancy to issues
- Reached out to Associations/Organizations and requested a representative
  - Some entities given > 1 seat
Summit Structure

- Structured the meeting to be as productive as possible
  - Three educational presentations
    - MP\(^3\) Background
    - Drivers of Honey Bee Losses
    - Augmenting Managed and Native Pollinators
  - Breakout Discussions (small table w/ facilitator)
    - Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Pest Control
    - Forage and Nutrition
    - Pollinator Pests, Disease, and Genetics
    - Other
  - Report Outs
  - Electronic Polling
Ground Rules

- Respect time commitments in the agenda; focus on the issues and objectives.
- Participate in a manner that promotes joint problem solving and collaboration.
- Be respectful of differing points of view: assume good intentions and do not engage in personal attacks.
- Be considerate of the need to incorporate multiple and differing perspectives into the Maryland MP³.
- Be fair, speak briefly, and allow everyone to participate.
- Let the facilitators facilitate.
MP³ Summit Polling – Which Topics are Most Important in Improving Pollinator Health?

**Pre-Summit % of Responses**
- Starvation/lack of forage: 27
- Varroa mites: 22
- Pesticides: 21
- Bee pests and disease: 9
- Other: 8
- Colony Collapse Disorder: 6
- I don't know: 4
- Weather: 3

**Post-Summit % of Responses**
- Varroa mites: 28
- Starvation/lack of forage: 27
- Bee pests and disease: 21
- Pesticides: 12
- Weather: 5
- Colony Collapse Disorder: 3
- Other: 2
- I don't know: 1
Post-Summit Stakeholder Outreach

• Will consult stakeholder groups when drafting MP³
• Will open up draft for public comment
• Revisit plan periodically for updates – stakeholder input
Stakeholder Feedback

• The Good:
  – Vast majority loved the meeting structure
  – Walked away feeling very involved
  – Applauded the department for this approach
  – Collaborative efforts stemming from meeting
  – Included list of individuals at meeting with packet – very positive

• The Bad:
  – Very few were concerned about representation at meeting
Thank you

Final MP³ Summit Report available on our website:
http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/pollinator_protection_plan.aspx