

People & Pollinator Action Network Legislator Briefing
Thursday, January 18th, 2023
Colorado State Capitol, HCR 107
12pm-1pm

Attendees: Rep Meghan Lukens, Rep Cathy Kipp, Drake Smith - Rep Kipp aide, Rep Claire - Kipp intern, Jeannie Vandenberg - Butterfly Pavillion, Katrina Strand for Sen Jaquez Lewis, Jena Burgess - aide to Senator Roberts, Pearl Bilson - intern for Senator Roberts, Chauncy Johnson for Rep Snyder

Welcome - Melissa Ordelheide, Joyce Kennedy

Why Vail Supports Local Control of Pesticides - Pete Wadden

- Gore Creek is a 303D impaired waterway
- Pollutions sensitive insects are disappearing
- Vail has environmental Stewardship in founding values
- CDPHE says stream not meeting state standards, but DOA says nothing else they can do
- Insect levels drop precipitously in impaired areas. Where bugs are dying, insecticides have been detected in the water
- Landscaping chemicals are the only thing they can't control
- Vail stopped using these chemicals on their public land and this helped
- Where they were able to convince an HOA to do the same that helped also

- Tried educating the entire town, education works to stop things like paint going down storm drain, but haven't moved the needle on spraying pesticides. Vail gives a free annual seminar for landscapers on Integrated Pest Management. Difficult to reach all landscapers. Also, have a weekly speaker series.
- Many rated for use near water, not in water, the label is the law
- The label is the law. Up to waters edge, many foliar pesticides are directed to be "applied to saturation".
- People spray for aphids because they produce a sticky substance that gets on windshields.
- Pine beetle spraying caused lots of issues, now using much more targeted methods on public lands. Rates of spraying went from about 30% to 50% during the pine beetle issue, but these rates haven't declined now that threat is largely gone.
- Have found landscaping chemicals in water, like "Weed n Feed".
- Buffer - EPA recommends a minimum 25 foot setback with a more robust at 75 foot setback.
- Education hasn't worked - even with advertising when free food is offered!
- Vail can't fix the problem without the ability of local governments to regulate pesticides. This affects Vail's tourism. One size fits all doesn't work in Colorado.
- State enforcement not working. Call DOA, but they generally don't come. Enforcement is difficult on Western

Slope. Evidence often gone by the time they do get there, if they do.

- What would Vail do if they could regulate pesticides locally.
- buffer along waterways. In particular foliar pesticides with the highest drift, 2-4-D, Ween & Feed,

Questions:

- What about agriculture? Everything we've proposed has a blanket exception for agriculture.
- What would enforcement look like under local control? Local jurisdictions would be able to enforce with code and police officers/