



The VOTER

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Here's the Buzz...

League of Women Voters Minnesota Releases Briefing Paper on Impact of Neonicotinoids on Honey Bees

Neonicotinoid insecticides (neonics) and their links to bee declines and environmental contamination are continually in the news. As part of the League of Women Voters Minnesota (LWV MN) Natural Resources position on protection and wise management of natural resources, LWV Minnesota 2015 convention delegates approved the development of a Briefing Paper on the impact of neonicotinoid pesticides on honey bees.

Briefing Paper now available:

A small – and very effective – committee convened almost immediately after the convention, producing a paper that was approved by the LWV Minnesota Board at its November 2015 meeting. The paper is available on the LWV MN website. <http://bit.ly/1RqBlvu>

A Briefing Paper is narrow in scope, concise, and provides basic information to adequately inform LWV members about a topic. Typically, the topic falls within the subject matter of an existing LWV position, in this case the League of Women Voters Minnesota Natural Resources position.

The paper is intended to be an educational tool for local Leagues to use not only for their Leagues but also for their communities. As the Briefing Paper concludes, “LWV Minnesota can play an important role in the further spread of neonics and the protection of our ecosystems. Our members truly understand that small actions can lead to widespread results.”

Toolkit to implement the Briefing Paper:

The Briefing Paper committee has produced a toolkit for local Leagues to use. Both the paper and the toolkit are available at www.LWVMNbees.org.

The toolkit includes the Briefing Paper (both color and black and white versions), a suggested cover letter to send with the paper to non-LWV members, a press release, a sample letter-to-the-editor, a meeting flyer template, various other resources for further information on pollinators, and a PowerPoint presentation.

Thank you to Committee members:

Patricia Hauser, LWV South Tonka, co-chair
Amy Wenner, LWV South Tonka, co-chair
Deb Brinkman, LWV St. Louis Park
Sue Hnastchenko, LWV South Tonka
Mary Kunesh-Podein, LWV New Brighton
Peggy Kvam, LWV MEPH

Need paper copies?

Due to generous funding provided by Humming For Bees, paper copies of the briefing paper are available. Email your request to bees@lwvmn.org.

Up to 12 copies per league are available.

One League's Pollinator Action – and you can watch the discussion on video

In November 2014, LWV ABC hosted a program where attendees learned from South Tonka League member Patricia Hauser about the City of Shorewood's Bee Safe City resolution, and identified tools to help cities and residents to be more pollinator-friendly. In addition, speakers from the Anoka Conservation District and the USDA shared how their organizations are working to protect pollinator habitat.

QCTV taped the session and you can find it at: <http://bit.ly/1KtoiY9>

As a result, the League of Women Voters ABC (Anoka Blaine Coon Rapids Area) teamed up with local communities to organize and promote "Bee Friendly" activities that will protect and restore pollinator habitat for all insect pollinators including bees and butterflies. In the cities of Anoka, Andover and Champlin, a "Bee Safe City Proclamation" was adopted, and teams of citizens, master gardeners, city staff, and others organized to promote activities that will enhance habitats and decrease the use of harmful pesticides.



What's next?

Will your League be taking pollinator action? Let other League members know how your League plans to take action because of the Briefing Paper, *Impact of Neonicotinoids on Honey Bees*. Post your activities on *The Voter – Virtual Edition* facebook group.

Related News-- LWV MN appoints a member to the MN Environmental Partnership

On January 26, 2016 the LWV MN board approved the appointment of LWV member Kathleen Doran-Norton as LWV MN's Representative for the Pollinator Cluster of Minnesota Environmental Partnership.

The Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP) is a statewide coalition of environmental and conservation nonprofits. LWV MN is a longstanding member of the coalition. <https://www.mepartnership.org/>

Questions?

If you need further information or have questions about the Briefing Paper, email bees@lwvmn.org .