



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD



## PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

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**Commissioners:**

Cathleen Drinan, Chairman  
John Sharland, Vice Chairman/Secretary  
Michael F. Valenti  
John Kenney

Stephen A. Gillett - Superintendent  
Ross Rossetti - Asst. Superintendent/Pilot  
Ellen Bidlack - Entomologist  
Denise DeLuca - Administrative Assistant

### COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

On Wednesday, May 20, 2020 the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting remotely by conference call at 12:30 pm. Commissioners Drinan, Valenti, Kenney and Sharland were present, along with Assistant Superintendent/Pilot Ross Rossetti, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack and Administrative Assistant Denise Deluca. Supt. Steve Gillett and Community Liaison Dan Daly were absent. Also present were staff members Matt McPhee, Brandon Gillett, Brian Callahan, along with Johanna Zabriskie EOEEA HR and Ann Motyka, who is in the process of becoming our 5<sup>th</sup> commissioner.

Chair Drinan called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm.

Public Comment/Input - None

Administrative Assistant Update- Denise noted that she had received an email from Dan Daly, wherein he offered his congratulations to Ann Motyka on her appointment. Denise's seasonal assistant, Elaine Fiore, is on board and handling phone calls, etc. very well. Calls for yard spraying are coming in now. That program starts next week. Denise and Elaine are also working on processing standing water checks as they come in.

Project Administration

The minutes of the April 23, 2020 meeting were accepted by unanimous roll call vote after a minor amendment in how the price of a new airplane was expressed. (\$1000k changed to \$1,000,000)

Commissioner's Report

Out of title pay for acting superintendent Ross Rossetti – after a presentation by Johanna, the board voted unanimously by roll call to provide Ross with out of title pay in Grade 17, retroactive to January 5, 2020. Should there be a cap on salary – question posed by the Chair – after discussion, it was determined there is no need for a cap based on how salaries are determined and increased in the current system.

Should there be a cap on sick leave – question posed by the Chair – after learning that the Cape Cod Project had done this and then later had to remove the cap, it was decided to take no action.

By unanimous roll call vote, the board approved the FY21 employee pay increases that show a 3% COLA and step increases as appropriate. It was also voted to include Dan Daly in the 3% COLA.

# PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

## Superintendent's Report/Monthly Review

In the superintendent's absence, Ross reported:

Special mention of all members of the staff who are pulling extra weight during this very busy and critical part of the mosquito season. Commissioners also noted their gratitude. Ross also gave an update on all of the seasonal employees, whose employment has begun. All are doing well.

The Project's Proposed FY21 budget was approved at the May 13 Quarterly SRB meeting at \$1,991,602.00, which reflects an overall 5% increase over FY20. Ross had forwarded the Project's budget justification memo to SRB as part of our pre-meeting information package. It was very well done.

Also at the SRB meeting, a proposed amendment to MGL Chapter 252 was discussed. Apparently, this amendment, which would provide for Projects to spray in non-member towns, is getting negative reviews. Ross noted that this situation does not affect our Project.

Ross introduced Ann Motyka. She spoke briefly, indicating that she is pleased with being able to join the board.

After discussion, it was decided, all things considered, that the Chair's request of the Superintendent to provide a weekly update is not serving its intended purpose and this will be stopped.

Since our last meeting, two employees had to self-quarantine for 14 days due to potential exposure to the COVID 19 virus. Both will be returning to work after their quarantine period.

Ross was interviewed by a reporter from the Brockton Enterprise for an article about the Project's plans for this mosquito season. It has not been published yet (per Commissioner Sharland, who reads the digital edition of the Enterprise daily)

Ross has been invited to make a presentation by Zoom at the Middleboro Selectmen's Meeting on June 1.

The statistics and maps for the larvicide aerial spraying were in the pre-meeting information package and were presented and reviewed.

Water Management – Larval Checks: 2,081 Basins Treated: 2,635  
Machine Digging: None due to aerial spraying

## Entomologist Report:

Percent control of the aerial larviciding had a few outliers where there was not much control. Otherwise, results are similar to past years.

No results to report yet on the methoprene use and study in conjunction with Bristol County.

The Mosquito Mayhem remote training in conjunction with Cape Cod Community College was offered on May 15 and had about 25 attendees.

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Adult mosquito trapping has begun, but the first adult samples won't be sent to the state lab until June 18.

## Community Liaison Dan Daly Update

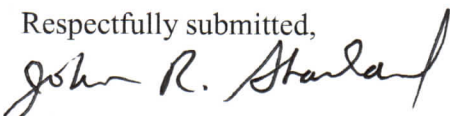
In a written report, Dan noted that until further notice, he won't be able to do face to face meetings and on site trainings, but if necessary, could do some things of this nature with Zoom.

Other Business/Comment – Johanna informed us that Supt. Gillett went out on sick leave on March 20 and is now in the process of being approved for FMLA, but could offer no further information, in light of privacy issues, Being his supervisors, the commissioners all expressed their exasperation and disappointment with not being informed of these actions by him, as required.

Date, Time and Location of Next Commission Meeting – Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 9:30am either remotely or at Plymouth Headquarters.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Sharland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John Sharland, Vice Chair and Secretary.