



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD



PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

272 SOUTH MEADOW RD, PLYMOUTH, MA 02360
TELEPHONE (781) 585-5450 FAX (781) 582-1276
www.plymouthmosquito.org

Commissioners:
Cathleen Drinan, Chairman
John Sharland, Vice Chairman/Secretary
Michael F. Valenti
John Kenney
Ann Motyka

Ross Rossetti – Acting Superintendent/Pilot
Ellen Bidlack – Entomologist
Matthew McPhee- General Foreman
Denise DeLuca – Administrative Assistant

COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

On Thursday, July23, 2020 the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting at Project headquarters in the Shop area, observing social distancing, use of masks and the large overhead doors open. Commissioners Drinan, Valenti, Sharland, Kenney and Motyka were present, along with Acting Superintendent/Pilot Ross Rossetti, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack, General Foreman Matt McPhee, Community Liaison Dan Daly and Administrative Assistant Denise Deluca.

Chair Drinan called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

Public Comment/Input - None

Project Administration

Administrative Assistant Update – Denise noted that the large expense on the monthly expense report was for the new truck that carries the A-1 sprayer. The truck was on site and available for a quick tour after the meeting. She also noted that spray requests are up a fair amount from same time last year.

The minutes of the June 18, 2020 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Commissioner’s Report

Cathy inquired about what is available to substantiate data given in reports. Ross explained that Field Techs record data on their tablets which captures date, time, location, dip counts, treatments, etc. He also stated that they will be working to migrate their water management data collection onto the tablets when they move to the new Field Seeker program over the winter. Currently the water management data is recorded in paper form and backed up on a spreadsheet. She also asked if any reimbursements had been received for additional expenses due to Covid-19. Ross explained that the only expense that qualified was the cleanings and that he had submitted a reimbursement request for these, (\$1268.24 for each cleaning) but had not heard back. He will follow up.

Commissioner Sharland noted his ongoing interaction with members on three town Facebook groups when someone asks “Who do you use for mosquitoes?” He explains the services offered by the Projects and does not deride other services but points out the differences in the Project’s methods and materials.

PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

Acting Superintendent's Report/Monthly Review

Ross began with a thank you to staff, naming each one and what their role was, for the successful EEE Kickoff Meeting with Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. Commissioners also thanked the staff and noted Ross's willingness to offer thanks when a job was well done. Ross and Ellen noted that Governor Baker was very pleased with the Project's operations and that he asked some good questions.

Next was a discussion of a chart of the Spray Requests, season-to-date, town by town; a DPH current map showing EEE Risk Level at Yellow in parts of Franklin County and in Plymouth, Middleboro and Carver in our territory and lastly the DPH Arbovirus Surveillance Program Report for the current week. Ross noted that the Project did some targeted spraying in response to the Moderate Threat (Yellow Zone) areas in our county. Commissioners noted that the spray request/larval check chart heading, which is currently titled "Complaint Calls" might be re-titled to reflect that the calls are for sprays and larval checks, not complaints as such.

The information about spray requests and larval check requests triggered a discussion about only having one phone line and that people do complain (as seen on social media) about "never being able to get through." Ross will look into what improvements for the one line (being placed on hold, perhaps) can be had without much if any additional expense.

House Bill 4650/4751 – Ross was pleased to report that the makeup of the Task Force has been expanded to include three representatives from the Mosquito Control Projects (Regions), one individual that holds a valid and current pesticide license, one representative of Public Water Works and one from the Massachusetts Water Works Association. Commissioners expressed their gratitude for the lobbying effort that was organized to accomplish this.

Ross summarized the need for three new trucks to replace aging and excess maintenance prone trucks. He would use the 5 year lease program, which would cost a total of \$18,000 per year, which is available from the Roll Over amount in the budget. Commissioners agreed for Ross to proceed on this.

For the relatively near future, Ross pointed out that the big truck that hauls the excavators on a large trailer will need to be replaced but he is holding off to further determine if this needs to be coordinated with replacement of the excavator. The current truck is 20 years old. The current truck and trailer combination requires a CDL driver's license and the new equipment will also.

Ross and the superintendents of the Bristol County and Cape Cod Mosquito Control Projects had a meeting on July 10th with Alex Hackman of the Division of Ecological Restoration in regards to their efforts in restoring abandoned cranberry bogs. PCMCP has a follow up meeting in the field with Alex on July 31st. The main issue for the Projects is that these bog restorations create enhanced mosquito habitats.

Entomologist Report – Ellen noted that there have been 5 EEE isolates this season to date, compared to 13 last year at this time. She also reported that the results are in for the methoprene granule aerial applications – there was 50% control of *Culiseta melanura* in the crypts of cedar trees. Relevant information has been forwarded to her contact at Cornell University for publishing a paper. Covid-19 has forced the cancellation of the Project's Annual Field Day and she expects that the annual NMCA Meeting will also be cancelled.

Superintendent Job Description Review and Job Posting Discussion

PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

After much discussion, commissioners agreed to individually further review the job descriptions (superintendent and pilot) between meetings, towards a vote most likely at our September meeting concerning how to advertise the opening.

Community Liaison (Dan Daly) Update – Dan noted that he doesn't see much opportunity for working with the public in any effective way due to Covid 19 for the next year or more and thus has decided to resign effective today. Staff and commissioners thanked Dan for his many years of service to the Project in this role.

Other Business/Comment – Ross noted that the buyout amount (out of our budget) as part of Steve Gillett's retirement, totaled \$16,728.00.

Ellen asked for permission to enter the state's Core Management training program. She noted that the prior superintendent had refused this request several times. Ross noted that he was not aware of that. Ross gave his approval verbally.

Date, Time and Location of Next Commission Meeting – Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 9:30am at Plymouth Headquarters.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sharland, Vice Chair and Secretary.