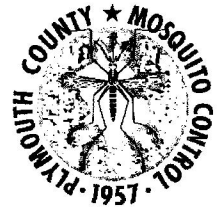




THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD



# **PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT**

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**Commissioners:**

John Sharland, Chairman

Ann Motyka, Vice Chairman/Secretary

Michael F. Valenti

John Kenney

Thomas Reynolds

Ross Rossetti – Superintendent/Pilot

Matthew McPhee – Asst. Superintendent

Ellen Bidlack – Entomologist

Denise DeLuca – Administrative Assistant

Cathleen Drinan – Community Liaison

## **COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES**

**AUGUST 19, 2021**

On Thursday, August 19, 2021, the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting in person at the Project building. Present were Commissioners Sharland, Motyka, Kenney, Valenti, Reynolds. Also present; Ross Rossetti, Superintendent/Pilot, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack, Administrative Assistant Denise DeLuca, and Joan Kenney, wife of Commissioner Kenney.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Sharland at 9:34am.

Public Comment/Input- There was no public comment.

Vote to approve July, 2021 Minutes- The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Administrative Assistant Update- Denise gave out the most up-to-date expense report that included the proposed FY 2022 Budget. A few adjustments to Denise's spreadsheet by Ross will now enable her to better coordinate with others in the Project and with the SRB. Denise made a point of thanking Ross for his assistance. This week marks the end of the summer receptionist as Jenna heads off to her first year of college. She was recognized for having strong data entry skills and good personal communication skills with the residents of the county.

Commissioner's Report- Commissioner Motyka thanked Ellen for uploading the updated picture of the commissioners on the Project's website. Commissioner Chair Sharland picked specific pages of the ERG report that were most pertinent to the Project. Among our discussions, September 2nd is the date that the Task Force was expected to view the report. Recommendations are expected to be made by September 30th. Ellen stated that the model used by the State of New Jersey may best represent the model that Massachusetts may be striving for. The Task Force committees were evaluating mosquito control project's policy structure, pesticide selection, local engagement, and best practices. Ross noted that communications with the state are more fluid due to Zoom options being used.

Assistant Superintendent Report- Ross presented Matt's report in his absence. From July 21-August 18, the crew performed 985 larviciding site visits/inspections. There were 107 service requests for water checks from the residents of the county. There have been 43,900 catch basins treated up to this point of the season. A total of 785 feet of hand cleaning and brushing were completed. 350 feet of machine digging was completed on Main Street in Hanson.

# PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

Superintendent's Report/Monthly Review- Ross noted there was no new virus in Plymouth County. With the barrels of Zenivex being cleared for use, the Project shared them with other projects as we are finishing out the spray season with sufficient Duet. On August 27th, Ross and Ellen were to meet with Pine DuBois and the Jones River Landing.

Calls have remained steady the past few weeks with September 10 being the last scheduled day of residential spray requests. School spraying will continue on an 'as needed' basis beyond September 17.

Most updated budget information leading into FY 23 will include a \$450,000.00 rollover that still includes \$115,000.00 from FY 20-21. The latter amount is earmarked for a new excavator which has yet to arrive at the Project. The engine of the plane is in need of a replacement at a cost of roughly \$60,000.00. It will take 20-24 weeks for delivery of the engine. Upgrades include new backpack sprayers, chainsaws, hydraulic spray machine, and upgrades needed for the mini-machine. The new budget is expected to submit a request for a 2-2.5% increase with the rollover monies. This budget proposal, FY 23, must be submitted to the SRB by September 10, 2021.

Drug Testing Policy Review- The Project researched many models and looked to model the one used by Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project. Among discussions was how an application for employment would address the question that any potential employees must be able to pass a drug test to be considered for employment. Commissioner Motyka opened discussions on when and how the Project will implement the testing amongst its current employees. Periodic testing, with random selection of 3 employees, was the suggestion made. A motion to insert the drug policy into our by-laws and handbook was made by Commissioner Valenti. Commissioner Motyka seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

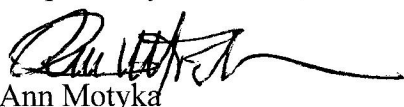
Entomologist Report- Ellen reports that still no EEE in the state. As for her collections, populations of *Oc. canadensis* was 50% above normal. *Cs. melanura* numbers are up, including in smaller wetlands. With the increased rainfall this season, the gravid trap collections are also up, including a 50% increase in *Cx. restuans* due to fresh water. Conversely, numbers of *Cx. pipiens* showed a significant decrease. Ellen plans to continue setting traps through mid-September unless the virus appears in our area. Money from the budget will replace some of the older, less productive traps.

Community Liaison Report- Cathy is planning on attending the Marshfield Fair with Ellen providing larvae raised in buckets at the Project. Halifax will be holding a forum on "Arbovirus Educational Forum", sponsored by the office of Representative Kathy LaNatra, via Zoom, on August 25th at 6:30pm. The forum will include bullet points from BOH agent Bob Valery. Both Ross and Cathy plan to attend. Cathy showed us pictures from 2 of her past presentations; Holly Hill Farm in Cohasset and from the Plymouth Boys and Girls Club. The Commissioners agreed to place some of these pictures on the Project's website. Both Ross and Commissioner Valenti complimented Cathy on her efforts of implementing these presentations around the county to diverse groups.

Other Business/Comment- There was no new business or comments.

Date, Time, Location of next Commission Meeting- Thursday, September 23, at 9:30am. Meeting will be held at the Project headquarters, 272 South Meadow Road, Plymouth. It will also have a ZOOM option. Meeting was adjourned at 11:19am

Respectively submitted,



Ann Motyka  
Commissioner/Vice-Chairman/Secretary