



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

COMMISSIONER’S MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 17, 2022

On Thursday, February 17, 2022, the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting at the Project building. In attendance were Commissioners Sharland, Motyka, Valenti, and Reynolds. Commissioner Kenney was not in attendance. Employees Ross Rossetti, Superintendent/Pilot, Matt McPhee, Assistant Superintendent, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack, and Administrative Assistant Denise DeLuca were present.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharland at 9:32am.

Public Comment/Input- There was no public comment.

Vote to approve January 13, 2022 Minutes- The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Administrative Assistant Update- Denise noted that on February 14, aerial spraying legal notices went out to newspapers that represent the towns to be sprayed. They included the Patriot Ledger, Brockton Enterprise and Southcoast Today. She presented the most up-to-date expense report, with no significant changes.

Commissioner’s Report- Commissioner Reynolds met Assistant Superintendent McPhee and General Foreman Mazzilli at a dig job in Marshfield. Both spoke to homeowners who had questions. Commissioner Reynolds noted their patience and knowledgeable explanations of the situation. Commissioner Sharland, through his use of social media platforms in Bridgewater and West Bridgewater, wants to get the information of the Project’s tire collection program out to more homeowners in Plymouth County.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report- Due to the more inclement outdoor weather, Matt noted that the field techs used much of this time as an opportunity to repair and update equipment used year round. The crew collected 7 tires and completed 13,005 feet of hand cleaning and brushing. In terms of machine digging, 230 linear feet were completed in Hanson, MA at 312 E. Washington St.

Superintendent’s Report/Monthly Review- Ross complimented the indoor work done by the field techs. Ross noted that there have been 4.5 positions vacant at the Project in the last 6 months. General Foreman Russ Mazzilli and the crew have expanded their responsibilities to do additional jobs as a result of these staff shortages. The crew repaired equipment needed for the summer trapping season and generally worked on a myriad of shop tasks while preparing the trucks and hand equipment for the upcoming season.

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The State Reclamation Board is meeting on February 22 to discuss budgets for FY23. Due to the staff dismissals and decreases, the Project will have monies available to carry over to the next yearly budget. The COLA discussion for employees will take place in April's Commissioners meeting.

Field Technician Posting Update: there were 13 candidates, 10 were invited to virtually interview and 5 accepted. As of today's date, 2 have officially accepted with others withdrawing. The job will be re-posted to hire an additional field tech. Commissioner Valenti inquired about availability and cost of additional training and educational opportunities for employees. The Project provides and covers costs for all licensing and educational opportunities for hired staff.

Performance Review Discussion: The Project will follow a similar format to the Mass Employee Performance Review System to evaluate staff. Ross contacted projects in the state that currently conduct performance reviews. Presented were the rubrics and forms, more specific to the Project's specific job responsibilities and goals.

Longevity Pay Discussion: After contacting other projects, Ross opened discussions on longevity pay for all employees. Amount of pay would be contingent on length of service and acceptable performance review. Ross presented a worksheet to the Commissioners. A motion to enact longevity pay as printed was made by Commissioner Valenti and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Further discussions questioned whether a negative review could affect longevity pay issuance. A motion to accept enacting longevity pay subject to Superintendent Rossetti getting legal clarification for job performance was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Motyka. Both motions passed unanimously. The Mosquito Control for the 21st Century Task Force plans to have its final report completed by the end of March, 2022. A report, with their recommendations, would then be sent to a Legislative Committee.

Entomologist Report- Ellen has been revisiting sites used for gravid, light trap, and OVI Cup trapping to determine if they were successful in providing the expected results. She is looking at other areas to place the traps if a site has proved to be underperforming compared to other years. Ellen noted that the BioQuip Company, a leading entomology supply company, was going out of business. Therefore she is looking to make purchases for priority items. Ellen will make a list to present. She has also been researching quotes for a new microscope for the Project. Two brands, Nikon and Leica, have a camera attached so that pictures and images can be directly uploaded to the website. These 2 brands are more efficient to operate and would work best to train others. She also expressed gratitude to General Foreman Mazzilli and the crew who spent much of their indoor time fine-tuning and repairing equipment used in summer trapping; saving the Project money as well.

Community Liaison Report- Ross presented 3 recommendations for the vacated community liaison position. First was to post as a full time position with that employee also completing other Project responsibilities, as warranted. The second was to wait until Task Force recommendations were posted, and the third was being posted as a part-time position. Looking at time constraints as the Project gets closer to its busy season, a motion to accept the part-time position posting option was proposed by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Motyka. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business/Comment- There was no new business.

Date, Time, Location of next Commission Meeting- Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 9:00am. Meeting will be held at the Project headquarters, 272 South Meadow Road, Plymouth. It will also have a ZOOM option.

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Meeting was adjourned at 11:02am

Respectively submitted,

Ann Motyka
Commissioner/Vice-Chairman/Secretary
Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project

Documents that accompanied this agenda:

- * February Expense Report
- * February, 2022 minutes