



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
Ann Motyka

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

COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

On Thursday, December 17, 2020 the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting remotely on Zoom. Commissioners Drinan, Sharland, Kenney, Valenti and Motyka were present, along with Superintendent/Pilot Ross Rossetti, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack, General Foreman Matt McPhee and Administrative Assistant Denise DeLuca. There were no members of the public present. Jessica Burgess, Esq. our MDAR legal counsel, was present for the whole meeting.

Chair Drinan called the meeting to order at 9:40 am.

Public Comment/Input – None

Project Administration

The minutes of the Nov. 19, 2020 meeting were approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Administrative Assistant Update – Nothing special to report other than everyone is still getting used to the new phone system, especially when working remotely.

Commissioner’s Reports – Cathy opened a discussion about perhaps setting up a blast email distribution list that would be used to inform people, mainly those who have email but don’t use the internet much, of our meeting dates and agendas. No decision today. She will put it on the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

General Foreman’s Report - Matt reported that 47 tires were picked up during the period and that 9,320 ft. of hand cleaning/brushing was carried out, along with 315 ft. of machine digging in the Halifax Estates mobile home park.

Matt also reported that the mini excavator has been “upgraded” to allow the use of biodegradable (Canola) hydraulic fluids.

Superintendent’s Report/Monthly Review

Matt is working well with changes in procedures etc. due to Covid-19.

Year end reports are being prepared and will be issued in January, as is normal.

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Ross has decided on United Ag & Turf for the replacement large excavator. Price will be between \$75,000 and \$90,000 depending on the cost of the optional wider tracks, which United Ag & Turf is sourcing.

Commissioners approved this vendor and purchase by consensus.

Telematics will be installed on our vehicles on January 8, 2021. Rear bumper stickers will be ordered that say that the vehicle is being monitored by GPS.

The Apiary report about post-aerial spraying from the state was distributed. It was given to the project superintendents at yesterday's SRB Quarterly Meeting. Also at the SRB meeting – drones purchases and use by the projects was discussed and SRB will study further. Ross pointed out the advantages of using drones, especially in hard to access areas by foot or ground vehicle.

Budgets were also reviewed at the SRB meeting and ours was not changed, but for several reasons, Ross has decided to amend our budget to adjust it for some expenses that will be smaller than anticipated. (See Airplane maintenance item below)

Assistant Superintendent Job Posting – everything needed has been submitted and the posting (internal only) will be made soon. Commissioners Motyka and Sharland will serve on the interview team.

Commissioners approved by consensus the additional wording for the Employment Procedure in the Project Policy, which will allow the Superintendent to hire field techs and seasonal help and then report these to the commissioners at their next meeting.

Airplane maintenance update – Good news – no low compression on any cylinder in the engine. All compression readings (psi) were high enough to allow another year without any engine rebuild or replacement. This will significantly reduce the maintenance cost for this year.

Entomologist Report –

The NMCA annual meeting is still on – with 6 virtual sessions extending from January 2021 into February.

Ellen continues to search for a speaker on PFAS for the meeting.

The draft of her co-authored paper on Methoprene granule aerial application in swamp crypt areas has been submitted. She provided two charts which showed that a 30% reduction of melanura occurred in the crypt areas based on samples taken.

Lastly, Ellen noted that she had found some useful extra features in the ArcGis app, from the class she took, but that she will be losing this access in a few days because the class is over.

Other Business/Comment – None

Date, Time and Location of Next Commission Meeting – Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 9:30am, most likely by full remote on Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

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Respectfully submitted,

John Sharland, Vice Chair and Secretary.