



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

JUNE 24, 2021

On Thursday, June 24, 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, and newly appointed Commissioner, Tom Reynolds. Also present; Ross Rossetti, Superintendent/Pilot, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack, Assistant Superintendent Matt McPhee, and Joan Kenney, wife of Commissioner Kenney.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Sharland at 9:30am.

Public Comment/Input- Pine DuBois of the Jones River Watershed spoke of how the removal of dams has helped increase water flow for recovery and requested Ellen and Ross to visit The Jones River Landing to get a better grasp on the project. Ellen requested further explanation from Ms. DuBois on recent public comments on uses of BTI.

Vote to approve May, 2021 Minutes- Chairman Sharland noted that he and Commissioner Motyka now exchange draft minutes in an effort to present an accurate report for the monthly meetings. Chair Sharland recognized the Project’s newest commissioner Tom Reynolds. Minutes from the May 19 meeting were unanimously approved.

Administrative Assistant Update- In Denise’s absence, Ross gave an update on the most current expense report. There was no other news to report.

Commissioner’s Report- Discussion took place on how much spray information, including streets, should appear on the spray route’s section of the Project’s website. According to Commissioner Sharland, Bridgewater’s Facebook page includes the streets that are scheduled for spraying but not specific numbers. Ross agreed that this is the best way to give homeowners enough information needed across all towns. In addition, Ross also noted that the Project has gotten away from ‘yard spraying’ verbiage and instead used ‘area’. Project’s website should include wording regarding ‘portions of a street may be sprayed’ rather than giving specific house numbers.

Assistant Superintendent Report- Assistant Superintendent McPhee submitted the activity summary from May 19- June 23, 2021. The field techs completed 1,340 larviciding site visits/inspections and completed 78 water checks from residents. The catch basin crew treated 14,165 basins. The crew also completed 550 feet of brushing and hand cleaning. Machine digging totals for the month totaled 450 feet.

Superintendent’s Report/Monthly Review- From 2 applicants interviewed, Russ Mazzilli was the recommended candidate for the General Foreman’s position; vacated when Matt McPhee was elevated to the Assistant Superintendent position in March. Five applicants have been interviewed for 2 Field Technician openings.

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Ross reported that there have been 900 fewer calls for services compared to last year. This is consistent with the other projects in the state whose numbers are also down. Seven 55-gallon drums and seven 2.5-gallon jugs of Duet, in replacement containers, were delivered to the Project. The tire-recycling program has a new contract with Capital Paper and Recycling to deliver tires to Bob's Tire in New Bedford for recycling. In addition to being more conveniently located than the previous tire recycler, the Project's newest hook lift dump truck is able to transport more tires making this job much more efficient and cost-effective. Two of the three new spray trucks were delivered; they are Ford Rangers, which have more advanced safety features.

Ross reported that Governor Baker had extended the emergency amendments to the Open Meeting Law to April 2022, which will allow the Project to meet remotely, if necessary to do so.

The Task Force meeting that was held on June 2 included a presentation from a chemist with MDAR, which stated that PFAS levels from Vectobac 12AS used by the Projects do not pose a health concern for those areas that were treated. No towns within Plymouth County have chosen to opt out of SRB adult mosquito spraying. No further Task Force meetings have been scheduled.

Entomologist Report- Ellen completed her *Cq. perturbans* trial using Vectolex. Efficacy of this research was affected by the late application. She thinks that this experiment may work best in the fall. DPH began receiving weekly samples from the Project the week of June 14. Number of mosquitos in the collections were down overall but there was a greater presence of *Ae. Vexans* due to increased floodwater. Also, *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx.restuans* collection numbers were higher due to the quality of the water. Ellen is waiting on receiving a test kit from the Center for Excellence at Cornell and one from the CDC. With the Cornell kit, she will be able to mail them mosquitoes for pesticide resistance. The CDC will allow her to test mosquitoes in house.

Community Liaison Report- Cathy reported that the event at O.R.R. in Marion went well. She is continuing to make contact with the towns via emails and phone calls. Summer work includes contacting camps to get educational materials to them. At this time, however, no personal visits can be scheduled. Cathy continues to contact the towns' public libraries for any outside presentations. She is also looking to create opportunities for intergenerational activities with families.

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

Date, Time, Location of next Commission Meeting- Thursday, July 22 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 10:31am.

Respectively submitted,

Ann Motyka

Commissioner/Vice-Chairman/Secretary

Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project