



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

Thomas Reynolds

Elaine Fiore

Ross Rossetti – Superintendent/Pilot

Matthew McPhee - Asst. Superintendent

Ellen Bidlack – Entomologist

Denise DeLuca – Administrative Assistant

COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2023

On Thursday, January 19, 2023, the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting at the Project building. In attendance were Commissioners Sharland, Motyka, Valenti, Reynolds, and newly appointed Elaine Fiore as the Project's 5th Commissioner. Employees present: Ross Rossetti Superintendent/Pilot, Matt McPhee Assistant Superintendent, Denise DeLuca Administrative Assistant, Ellen Bidlack Entomologist, and Erin Morrill Community Liaison.

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

Commissioner Reorganization- Motions to re-elect John Sharland and Ann Motyka in the Chairman and Vice Chairman/Secretary positions, respectively, were made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Valenti. Both passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Public Comment/Input- There was no public comment.

Comments From the Chair:- Chair Sharland presented an article from 'USA Today' regarding a vaccine for the hives of honeybees to potentially stave off further elimination of these valuable insects.

Vote to approve December, 2022 Minutes- By roll call vote, the December 17, 2022 minutes were approved by Commissioners Valenti, Reynolds, Motyka, and Sharland. Commissioner Fiore abstained.

Administrative Assistant Expense Report- Denise noted that the Nikon microscope had been delivered in November. She had no other news to report.

Assistant Superintendent's Report-Annual Field Work Summary: Matt reported that the Project is currently down 2 Field Techs. The crew had collected 114 tires during the last 2 months. They also completed 21,292 feet of hand cleaning and brushing. Machine digging completed an upland project at the Scituate Country Club; completing 1,252 feet. A salt marsh project at 28 Ocean Avenue in Hull, resulted in 1,700 feet being dug. For the 2022 year, ditch maintenance totals were 101,696 feet and 519 tires were collected and properly disposed of.

Superintendent's Review of Project Operations since last meeting: Ross reported that he notified the SRB of the Project's request to level-fund the FY24 budget on December 1, 2022. There have been no new EV updates although Eversource reported that there would be funding available to install EV charging infrastructure.

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The employee's first longevity pay was paid out in December. Two employees were randomly selected for drug testing in early January and both tested negative. The Project is looking for the 6th full-time Field Technician and expects the job and its requirements to be posted on the SRB/Mass.gov website soon. Ross noted that the Project submitted its yearly report to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System; (NPDES).

Annual and Town Reports: Information for these reports were compiled and submitted by Superintendent Rossetti, Assistant Superintendent McPhee, and Entomologist Bidlack. These have been completed and will be sent out to each town and to the SRB.

Annual Conference Updates: The Northeast Mosquito Control Association regional meeting(NMCA), held in Hyannis this year, was attended by all Project employees; December 5-7, 2022.

Ross attended the Northeast Agricultural Aviation Association(NEAAA) in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania from January 15-17, 2022. He acquired sufficient pesticide continuing education hours for his Category 34 license.

Ellen will be attending the American Mosquito Control Association convention (AMCA) in late February; early March. This will be held in Reno, NV.

Dig Safe will be presenting the Managing Underground Safety Training (MUST), in Hyannis on February 28th. All field techs will be attending.

In other news, Clark Chemical Company has shown interest in sponsoring a field day at the Project in the future.

Budget Notice Report: This report goes out to all towns by early February. The purpose is to notify towns of the monies being paid to the Project for services expected this year.

Entomologist Summary- Microscope: Using the Project's new microscope, Ellen presented a short slide show of a *Ur. sapphrina* mosquito. All noted that the details were simply amazing. She is currently working on creating a series of photographs of common species to assist those who are new to mosquito identification.

Resistance Testing Results:

Ellen created a PowerPoint presentation that showed the results of the pesticide resistance testing conducted by the Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector Borne Disease at Cornell University. *Culex pipiens* were tested from Abington, Hingham, Marshfield, Wareham, and Whitman. The tests showed that the mosquitoes from Wareham did not have resistance. Mosquitoes from Abington and Hingham showed low resistance and the mosquitoes from Whitman and Marshfield showed high resistance. She then discussed how resistance develops and the next steps. That would include more testing of *Cx. pipiens* from those areas, determining the mechanism for the resistance, field testing, focusing on larviciding in affected areas, and changing adulticiding strategies.

Community Liaison Report: Erin has visited 27 Boards of Health and Town Halls. She has discovered an overwhelming interest in the tire collection program. Discussions will be ongoing to look into towns' recycling programs and community outreach programs to learn more about opportunities available. Erin has informed towns on where they can find updated information on daycare locations for their IPM plans. She continues to look for educational opportunities for the near future.

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Commissioner Comments, if any: There were no comments.

Date, Time, Location of next Commission Meeting: Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16th, 2023 at 9:30am.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was accepted unanimously by roll call vote at 10:54am.
Respectively submitted,

Ann Motyka



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

Documents/Media that accompanied this agenda:

- * Meeting Agenda
- * November 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- * Annual Report
- * Town Reports
- * Budget Notification