



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

Ross Rossetti – Superintendent/Pilot
Matthew McPhee - Asst. Superintendent
Ellen Bidlack – Entomologist
Denise DeLuca – Administrative Assistant
Cathleen Drinan – Community Liaison

COMMISSIONER’S MEETING MINUTES

MAY, 2021

On Thursday, May 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, and Valenti. Also present; Ross Rossetti, Superintendent/Pilot, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack, Assistant Superintendent Matt McPhee, and Administrative Assistant Denise DeLuca.

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

Public Comment/Input- There was no public comment.

Vote to approve April 15, 2021 Minutes- Chairman Sharland noted a procedural change necessary in the April minutes. After clarification, Commissioner Valenti made a motion to accept. Commissioner Motyka seconded. The April meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Administrative Assistant Update- Denise reported that all seasonal assistants had been hired. One is presently cross-training to assist in a variety of responsibilities in the office. All basin summer staff have or will be completing the certification test shortly to begin their seasonal job. The phone system is up and running. Commissioners were encouraged to call for services to get a better understanding of the system.

Commissioner’s Report- Commissioner Valenti made note of the professional look of the Project. He mentioned the condition of the main garage and the equipment, as well as the cleanliness of the entire facility.

Commissioner Motyka felt that these improvements should be added to the Project’s website. On the website, there should be mention to the residents of the county that the services provided by the Project come to them free of charge.

COLA Discussion- Superintendent Rossetti presented research on comparing other local town’s COLA recommendations; most falling in the range of 2.5%-4%, from the county’s DPW departments. After much discussion, the commissioners recommended a 3% COLA and a \$.50 raise each year for returning seasonal employees. This was based on how well the Project’s employees performed and responded to their changed responsibilities during the COVID crisis and felt there should be a quality cost of living for quality employees. Also discussed was a field technician differential rate. The commissioners agreed to take a vote on the long-standing policy of providing an additional hourly pay during the spray season for the overnight work hours. Commissioner Motyka then made a motion that the FY22 3% COLA for full time employees, step increases as appropriate, and field tech differential pay of \$2.00/hr be approved with Commissioner Valenti seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Town Meeting Review- Via Zoom, Ross met with the Middleboro Board of Selectmen on May 3 to give them an update on what the Project is doing in their town as early season aerial spraying has been taking place in their town. Halifax Board of Selectmen met to discuss the aerial spray opt-out. Along with the recommendation from the town's Board of Health to keep the current plan in place, there will be no town-wide opt-out of SRB emergency spraying. Ross was able to virtually attend the Kingston Board of Health meeting. Ross noted that part of the agenda was to discuss the detriments of mosquito control. Ross emphasized that he will be staying on top of this to assure that potential misinformation can be addressed. In Plymouth, Cathy addressed her responsibilities as the Community Liaison to the Board of Health.

Assistant Superintendent Report- Assistant Superintendent Matt McPhee noted that the field technicians showed flexibility and great cooperation in lieu of one of the staff leaving the Project. The crew hand cleaned and brushed 1,270 feet but spent the majority of the time in the area of larviciding; completing 1,838 site visits and inspections. The techs also completed 66 water check requests from residents. Adulticide spraying is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, June 1st.

Superintendent's Report/Monthly Review- As determined by ideal larvicide application conditions, the spray window for treatment ran from April 6-May 8; actual days of spraying were 9. With the target and actual application rate of 1 quart per acre of Vectobac 12AS, the Project sprayed 11,439 acres in Plymouth and Bristol County. 300 acres were sprayed using Vectolex FG as a trial to treat *Cq. Perturbans*. The Project has switched over to Zenivex E4 RTU 4% as the adulticiding pesticide, while waiting for additional testing to be done on Duet. This is a less expensive option and is safer for mammals. Valent Biosciences visited the Project on May 10th-11th to help calibrate the A-1 Mist Sprayer and the airplane granular spreader. There was a public listening session for the Mosquito Control Task Force on May 3rd. There were a mix of positive and negative comments on mosquito control in general. The next meeting of the Task Force will be on June 2nd.

Entomologist Report- For the Vectolex FG trials in Carver, post dips were done 2 times a week for 4 weeks. Ellen is working on pesticide resistance with the *Ae. canadensis* mosquito. She noted that the humidity in the office was initially too low and caused mortality of the adults. She began using a humidifier and it has helped. The resistance testing did not go as planned because the acetone used to coat the inside of the bottles did not leave the bottles as quickly as she thought it would. The acetone killed the controls and made the results unusable.

Community Liaison Report- Cathy has contacted all school superintendents in the county and Cohasset, although not all have responded. The goal is to have each school system have information on their websites that families can visit to keep them informed. She will be encouraging measures to take to protect during mosquito season. Ellen has accumulated a variety of resources that can be used by Cathy in her presentations.

Hull has shown to be working on bringing information forward to educate its students and overall school community. On May 25th, Cathy planned to work with some third grade classes from the Old Rochester Regional school district in Marion. The topic will be called "Creature Feature" with Project Entomologist Ellen, and her seasonal assistant Amanda, bringing larvae as visuals, as well as being there to answer any questions.

On May 26, Cathy plans to meet with the Plymouth Board of Health to discuss planning an effective I.P.M for schools and community.

Other Business/Comment- No comments

Date, Time, Location of next Commission Meeting- Thursday, June 24, 9:30am. 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 11:12am.

Respectively submitted,

Ann Motyka

Commissioner/Vice-Chairman/Secretary

Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project