

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 June 16, 2022

On Thursday, June 16, 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 present. Employees present: Ross Rossetti, Superintendent/Pilot, Ellen Bidlack, Entomologist, and Denise DeLuca, Administrative Assistant. General Foreman Russ Mazzilli joined the meeting at 10:00am.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharland at 9:37am.

Public Comment/Input- There was no public comment.

<u>Comments From the Chair-</u> **Following Jessica's email from the SRB, regarding agenda format, Commissioner Chairman Sharland modeled our monthly meeting agenda off other town and city's protocols.**

Commissioner Sharland noted that several towns in his district had posted positive comments on their websites regarding the Project's performance in services provided. He also showed an article from the New Bedford Standard Times by a reporter that outlined the Bristol County Project's plan to spray public parks and other targeted areas around the city. He asked Ross if any city or large town in Plymouth County gets the same extent of this service, noting that it would be nice if we could encourage local media to report. Ross replied that they did provide this service to Brockton or any other city or town in the county, but may not be at a level that would be of interest to a reporter.

Vote to approve May 26, 2022 Minutes- By roll call vote, the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

<u>Public Outreach Activities:</u> Ellen and Denise reported that the visit by the Middleborough Girl Scout Troop was a success. The troop was impressed by the number of jobs the Project has and their responsibilities to the public. They sent a very personalized 'Thank You' note to the Project. Outreach activities with other groups will be sought out as the active summer season winds down.

<u>Assistant Superintendent's Report-Field Work Summary</u>: (Ross submitting report in Matt's absence). From May 26 through June 15, the Project dug 400 feet on Elm Street in Marshfield. The field techs responded to 70 'check waters' from the public. In total, there were 1,280 inspections completed resulting in 274 treatments.

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Superintendent's Review of Project Operations: Ross reports that none of the towns in Plymouth County applied to the Executive Office to Energy and Environmental Affairs to opt out of the Project's services. Ross accepted the resignation of a field tech as of July 1. Brian Callahan will be available to fill in as needed. Plymouth's Board of Health called regarding the tire collection program. Matt will be communicating with them in the fall. Needing additional information, a second draft for drone usage has been submitted to Energy and Environmental Affairs. Ross noted that the second random drug test is scheduled to take place in July.

The Community Liaison position has been posted on the Mass.gov website. It will be posted for 2 weeks or until filled. Blake Dinius from Plymouth County Extension Services has offered to assist in finding candidates for the position.

In addition to Ross and Matt, Commissioner Motyka has offered her services to be on the Screening Committee for the position.

<u>Entomologist Summary- Adult Surveillance Update</u>: The Project began submitting weekly samples to DPH this week. Seasonal assistant, Julia, is settling into her job well. Ellen reports that Cs. melanura and Cq. perturban numbers are up but too early to predict. The number of trapped Ae. vexans and Ae. canadensis mosquitos are down due to dry conditions. The running of the OVI cup traps and gravid traps will be starting in July on a weekly basis.

<u>Commissioner Comments:</u> General Foreman Russ Mazzilli gave an update on coastal concerns. The crew is concentrating on salt marshes and their flooding due to the Strawberry Moon tides. Russ is looking to get historical data that can be used for future records and treatments. Discussions on an increase in Commissioner's stipend took place. Chair Sharland planned to create a letter to be submitted to the SRB for the next meeting.

<u>Date, Time, Location of next Commission Meeting</u>- Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 9:30am. Meeting will be held at the Project headquarters, 272 South Meadow Road, Plymouth. It will also have a ZOOM option.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37am.

Respectively submitted,

Ann Motyka

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

Documents that accompanied this report: June 2022 Meeting Agenda