



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 – Acting Superintendent/Pilot

Ellen Bidlack – Entomologist

Matthew McPhee- General Foreman

Denise DeLuca – Administrative Assistant

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

On Thursday, August 20, 2020 the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting at Project headquarters in the Shop area, observing social distancing, use of masks and the large overhead doors open. Commissioners Drinan, Valenti, Sharland, Kenney and Motyka were present, along with Acting Superintendent/Pilot Ross Rossetti, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack, General Foreman Matt McPhee and Field Tech Michael Wilkins. Administrative Assistant Denise DeLuca was absent and there were no members of the public present or on Zoom.

Chair Drinan called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Public Comment/Input - None

### Project Administration

Administrative Assistant Update – For Denise, Ross reported that the Project had learned that there will be reimbursement for the three deep cleanings as a Covid-19 extra unplanned expense.

The minutes of the July 23, 2020 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Commissioner's Reports – None

Field Tech Differential Rate – HR requested that the commissioners provide a current vote on our long standing policy of providing additional hourly pay during spray season for overnight work, so as to validate it's presence in our budget documents. The current differential is \$1.00 per hour and has been as such for many years. A motion was made and seconded to increase the differential to \$2.00 and the vote was unanimous.

### Acting Superintendent's Report/Monthly Review

Ross presented the Service Request chart (yard sprays and larval checks/treatments) for the week ending August 14. The chart also shows spray requests for year to date at 16,111 versus 14,843 year to date in 2019 and basin treatments total to date of 54,959.

The latest EEE Risk Map was also handed out and reviewed.

Water Management – machine digging was minimal for the month – 175 feet at 322 Main St. in Norwell. Larval checks for the period totaled 1731 and basins treated totaled 12,543.



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House Bill 4650 – the first meeting of the task force was held on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Additional members will be selected in the near future (non-state employees).

Aerial Adulticide Review – Across the evening of August 10, in ideal weather conditions, three airplanes sprayed 190,000 acres and completed the operation in just that one night. The SRB was meeting today to release a report of efficacy results. Ellen noted that the light bulbs in some traps had failed during this period, which may have affected her calculations for efficacy from the aerial spraying, noting that the percentages were lower than what her contact at DPH was reporting. She also noted that there have been no EEE isolates from our traps since the spraying and that a second set of trap collections were being sent to Boston today. Chair Drinan noted that it is her understanding that the person with EEE in Halifax was bitten the day before the spraying.

Ross also reported that the upgrade of the phone system is making headway and the FY21 spending plan and the FY 22 maintenance budget are due soon

Ross then requested that the commissioners approve a temporary pandemic related policy, that he would administer, concerning work schedule flexibility for the staff. The consensus was unanimous.

Community Liaison Job Posting – an RTF will go out after consultation with Johanna at HR.

Superintendent Job Posting – Ross had circulated the latest version of the Job Description ahead of the meeting. Commissioner Sharland had then provided suggested changes and edits and one additional Duty/Responsibility (Performance Evaluations for direct reports).

Commissioner Motyka asked about the need for the CDL License and Hoisting License as being preferred. Ross noted that this had been added two superintendents ago. Ellen then noted that this preference was not in other Project's Superintendent Job Descriptions and that she felt it was a detriment if the commissioners decided to just advertise the position internally. Leaving this in the job description prevailed after discussion by the commissioners.

The commissioners then revised the Job Description, with Chair Drinan adding one more Duty/Responsibility concerning communications with the Entomologist. The Revised Job Description will be dated Aug. 20, 2020 and sent to HR for review.

The commissioners then discussed whether to advertise externally or just internally. Field Tech Michael Wilkins was granted the floor for comments. After further discussion, a full consensus was made to advertise internally.

Entomologist Report – Ellen further reported that in light of the EEE outbreak, DPH has requested more pools than we had budgeted. We are at 500 pools now, with only 450 in the budget. DPH is covering the additional cost of gathering and submitting the additional pools.

A draft of the Cornell paper on the methoprene granule aerial drop project for crypt penetration has been received. Ellen will be shown as an author.

Other Business/Comment – None

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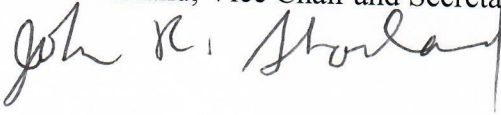
Other Business/Comment – None

Date, Time and Location of Next Commission Meeting – Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 9:30am at Plymouth Headquarters.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sharland, Vice Chair and Secretary.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John R. Sharland", written in dark ink.