

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
Thomas Reynolds
Elaine Fiore
Joyce Krystofolski

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

COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES August 21st, 2024

On Wednesday, August 21st, 2024, the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting at the Project headquarters. In attendance were Commissioners Sharland, Motyka, Reynolds, and Krystofolski. Commissioner Fiore attended via Microsoft Teams. Employees present were Ross Rossetti, Superintendent/Pilot, Matt McPhee, Assistant Superintendent, Ellen Bidlack, Entomologist, and Erin Morrill, Community Liaison.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharland at 9:32am.

Public Comment/Input: There was no public comment.

<u>Comments from the Chair</u>: Chair Sharland continues to promote Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project and the free services it offers via social media platforms. He reports that the residents of Bridgewater and surrounding towns respond stating appreciation for the information.

<u>Vote to approve June 20th, 2024 Minutes</u>: Motion to approve the July 25th, 2024 minutes was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Fiore. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Administrative Assistant Expense Report: Monthly Overview: (Ross presented the report in Denise's absence) An additional 6 barrels of the adulticide DUET were purchased from Clarke Chemical to ensure that the Project has sufficient amount to keep up on the service calls. Denise complimented her seasonal assistant replacement, Avery, who was quick to learn and filled in admirably for the short time she was employed.

Assistant Superintendent Report-Field Work Summary: Matt reported that the crew had received requests from towns' Boards of Health to complete area sprays in specific locations. All residents were notified via email and all towns were sprayed.

Matt presented the field work summary from July 25th-August 20th. The field techs completed 839 larviciding inspections. There were 43 'check water' service requests from residents. There were 16,170 catch basins treated, bringing the 2024 total to 55,797. In the area of water management, the machine digging total were from 2 saltmarsh jobs. The locations were Home Meadows in Hingham, totaling 315 feet, and Noyes Avenue in Mattapoisett, totaling 325 feet.

Superintendent's Review of Project Operations since last meeting: Budget Update: Service Request Totals: Pilot/Survey Tech Job Description: On July 24th, Ross met with the Buzzards Bay Coalition for Cranberry Bog Restoration. They were inquiring on the possibility of the Project assisting with their numerous projects in their pipeline. Additionally, the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association is looking to coordinate with the Project and Bristol County MCP to look at strategies and get ideas for the future.

On July 30th, the Office of Vehicle Management(OVM) hired a new vendor to implement their electrification goals. The State will be requiring that the Project have 20% of electric vehicles by 2030 and 70% by 2040.

PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

Tire Recycling events have been set up. On October 9th, Rockland Board of Health and the Project will hold one at the Beech Street dump from 2-6pm. In conjunction with the Plymouth Department of Energy and Environment, Plymouth will be holding one at Camelot Park on October 26th from 9am-1pm. Residents must register in advance. The form is available on the homepage of the Project's website. The pilot position has been posted on various websites. Ross is in the process of contacting local airports for potential candidates or assistance in spreading the word. They include Marshfield, Taunton, and Mansfield airports.

Ross reported updates in arbovirus cases. Eastern Equine Encephalitis cases: On July 30th, a horse-case in Plymouth, on August 6th, a human case in Worcester County. By the end of July, Plymouth, Middleboro, and Carver were placed in the high risk category for EEE. West Nile Virus(WNV) active human cases were found in Hampden County on July 22nd and on the 26th in Middlesex County.

On August 7th, New England Cable News (NECN) network visited the Project and interviewed Ross for a public service announcement. Ross reported that with EEE and WNV in the news recently, calls for Project services increased to nearly 1000 last week.

Entomologist Report: Update on Mosquito Surveillance: Ellen reported that gravid trap collections are at an all time high. DPH raised risk levels in most of the county and she is trapping in areas ranked at lower risk, including Mattapoisett, Marion, and Hull. With the goal of making sure all towns have correct risk levels. Bird vector *Cs. melanura* numbers have decreased. Ellen is finding that CO2 traps are collecting 2,000 adult *Cq. perturban* mosquitoes, the main human vector. Pesticide resistance testing continues in the towns of Hingham, Abington, and Whitman. She is looking to Wareham and Brockton for further testing sites.

Community Liaison Report-Presentations Update-Upcoming Engagements: On July 31st, Erin will be presenting at the Little Sprouts Program in Kingston. Erin conducted a radio interview with WATD on August 6th. She presented at the Brockton COA on August 14th and later that evening at the Rockland Public Library. Erin plans to present at the Marshfield Fair on 4H, Senior, and Children's Day; today and August 22nd and 23rd. Erin will be presenting a webinar with the South Shore Collaborative, appearing with Blake Dinius, on August 26th. Erin will be presenting at the Plymouth Center for Active Living on September 13th. Erin has 2 children's presentations at the Brockton Public Library. She will present to younger children on September 16th and with older children on September 23rd. Erin will be presenting at the Whitman Public Library on September 27th and on October 2nd, she will be in Rochester at a COAsponsored Wellness Fair. Erin was invited back to present to the STEM program at the Brockton Public Library on October 23rd.

Commissioner Comments, if any: There were no comments.

<u>Date, Time, Location of next Commission Meeting/Adjournment</u>: Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 25th, 2024 at 9:30am. Meeting will be held at the Project headquarters, 272 South Meadow Road, Plymouth. A remote option will be available.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was accepted unanimously at 10:44am.

Respectively submitted,

Ann Motyka

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

Documents that accompanied this agenda:

*Meeting Agenda

*Monthly Expense Report

*June 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes