

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 April 27, 2023

On Thursday, April 27, 2023, the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting at the Project headquarters. In attendance were Commissioners Sharland, Valenti, Reynolds, and Fiore. Commissioner Motyka attended via ZOOM. Employees present: Ross Rossetti Superintendent/Pilot, Ellen Bidlack Entomologist, Denise DeLuca Administrative Assistant, Erin Morrill Community Liaison, and Stephanie Dugan Project Field Technician. The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharland at 12:02 pm.

Public Comment/Input- There was no public comment.

Comments From the Chair- Chair Sharland thanked all of the meeting attendees for their flexibility in being able to attend the meeting on short notice. This was to accommodate Ross's ability to aerial spray from early to mid-morning.

Vote to approve March 23, 2023 Minutes- The March 23, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote by Commissioners Valenti, Reynolds, Motyka, Fiore and Sharland.

Administrative Assistant Expense Report- Denise presented the most up to date budget. There were no significant changes. She noted that service calls have increased requesting water checks and adulticiding. The field techs are completing the water checks as they come in but the Project will not be formally taking adulticide requests until May 22nd. Kim, Denise's seasonal assistant, is returning for the summer.

Assistant Superintendent Report-Field work summary- (Ross presenting report) During the last 5 weeks, the crew has hand cleaned/brushed a total of 610 feet. They currently have cleaned 40,000 feet in 2023. Two upland machine digging jobs have taken place; Wareham, 240 feet at 25 Parker Drive and in Duxbury, 125 feet at 242 Elm Street. The crew collected 256 tires, including 179 at the South Shore Recycling event held in Plymouth on April 8th. There were 1600 water checks completed resulting in 293 positives totalling 356 acres of water treated. Residents called in 84 requests to check water.

Superintendent's Review of Project Operations since last meeting- Ross noted that a recently hired field tech left after one month. The second will be starting in June. Calls to accept residential adulticiding requests will begin on May 22nd with spraying beginning on June 5th. Calls for water checks continue ongoing. Performance reviews were completed by Ross, Matt, and Russell resulting in all positive reviews.

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Aerial larviciding had treated 11,240 acres in Plymouth and Bristol counties. Ross was able to take advantage of recent rain to go back and treat dry spots not previously done due to the dry conditions earlier in the Spring. He has 3-5 more loads to finish treatments. Superintendent Matton from Bristol County complimented Project efforts and commented on the positive results of the spraying.

On April 13th, the State Reclamation Board appointed Commissioner of Agriculture Ashley Randall as Chairman. Additionally, Rebecca Tapper was named as secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Emergency Provisions of the Open Meeting Law were extended to March, 2025. This continues SRB's policy to offer the ZOOM option.

Tire Recycling Update- The first of 2 tire recycling events, in cooperation with the South Shore Recycling Cooperative, was held in Plymouth on April 8th. Field Tech Duggan noted that of the 63 appointments made, 39 attended. 15 people showed up who hadn't pre-registered. The Project collected \$626.00 worth of tires to be disposed of and Project staff put in 27 hours of their time on this event. She noted that the Project received valuable input from the residents on where other abandoned tires can be found. The Project was notified that a large amount of abandoned tires had been located in Bridgewater. Coordination with the town of Bridgewater will take place to determine next steps.

Budget Review- There will be a 2% increase for FY24 with rolled over monies and this increase going into the equipment line item. There are no plans to get monies needed for a helicopter for FY25 but the Project can begin to access grants when they become available. Ross will continue to look at all options, going forward.

COLA- Due to inflation and comparing current salaries from similar job descriptions, discussions began on the necessity of being more financially competitive to attract and retain current and newly hired employees. A set percentage increase will be further discussed and voted on during May's meeting.

Entomologist Report-AMCA and JCV Testing Update- Ellen returned from a successful AMCA meeting. Much of the meeting was dedicated to resistance testing. Resistance is showing up all over the country including in areas with no public mosquito control. The state's Mosquito Control Projects are moving ahead with sending mosquitoes this spring to Amherst for Jamestown Canyon Virus testing. Ellen plans on submitting up to 200 pools for a variety of species for testing. This virus can be transmitted from mother to offspring. Typically, this can be detected in the spring.

Community Liaison Report-Upcoming May Events- Erin reported that the April 19th joint presentation with Blake Dinius, held at the Carver COA went well. Erin gave out brochures and created a popular word search for attendees. Upcoming events will be held May 4th at the Scituate Senior Center and May 12th at the Pembroke Senior Center. Erin will be at a Health Fair being held at the Rising Tide Charter School in Plymouth on May 20th. She will be attending a Health Fair in Marshfield on May 23rd. On May 25th, she will be at the East Bridgewater COA and finishes up the month on May 30th with an event at the Kingston Senior Center. Erin has an event scheduled for June 5th at the Brockton Senior Center. Looking further ahead, she is scheduled to run an event at the Marion Senior Center on August 7th. At this time, both Whitman and Lakeville are showing interest in Project events. Erin noted that some towns are looking for smaller blocks of time in their libraries to hold educational events for children over the summer months.

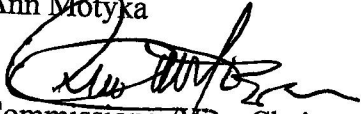
Commissioner Comments, if any- To accommodate Ross's aerial spray schedule, a motion to move the April, 2024 Commissioner meeting to 12:00pm was accepted by Commissioner Valenti and approved by roll call vote.

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Date, Time, Location of next Commission Meeting/Adjournment- Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th, 2023 at 9:30am. Meeting will be scheduled at the Project headquarters, 272 South Meadow Road, Plymouth. It will also have a ZOOM option.  
The meeting was adjourned at 1:11pm.

Respectively submitted,

Ann Motyka



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

Documents that accompanied this agenda:

- \* Meeting Agenda
- \* March 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- \* Balanced Forward FY 2023 Budget