



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  
Cathleen Drinan – Community Liaison

## COMMISSIONER’S MEETING MINUTES JULY 22, 2021

On Thursday, July 22, 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, Kenney, Valenti, Reynolds. Also present; Ross Rossetti, Superintendent/Pilot, Assistant Superintendent Matt McPhee, Administrative Assistant Denise DeLuca, and Joan Kenney, wife of Commissioner Kenney.

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

At this time, Ross introduced the two newly hired field technicians and introduced recently promoted General Foreman Russell Mazzilli. Russ expressed his appreciation in being chosen for this position and promised to do his best to represent the project in the most positive and professional way.

Public Comment/Input- Joan Kenney noted that at Hull gut, they observe thousands of dragonflies feeding on mosquitoes.

Vote to approve May, 2021 Minutes- A motion to approve the June 24th minutes was approved unanimously.

Administrative Assistant Update- Denise presented a summary of last fiscal year’s expenses. Ross noted that money allocated for a machine that was earmarked for delivery during 20-21 will be transferred to this year’s 21-22 budget.

Commissioner’s Report- With the full complement of Commissioners present at this meeting, a new photo will be taken to upload on the Project’s website.

Assistant Superintendent Report- Assistant Superintendent Matt McPhee reported that the field techs had completed 530 larviciding site visits/inspection during the month. The total number was down due to some of the crew assisting in catch basin treatments. Additionally, there were 63 new requests from residents to check water on or around their properties. The crew completed 200 feet of brushing and hand cleaning. Machine digging totals of 175 feet came from 100 feet from Birchbark Lane in Hanson and 975 feet from the street Chris’s Place in Mattapoisett. Matt reported that spray requests are down by approximately 2000 from last year at this time at 8,132.

Superintendent’s Report/Monthly Review- The new barrels of DUET were tested for PFAS and came back clean. The Project will switch back to spraying DUET while additional PFAS testing is done on Zenivex. Supplemental funds, \$100,000 was not earmarked for the project in this year’s fiscal budget. The Project had spent past supplemental funds on BTI.

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Discussion on the 'Mandated Physical and Drug Test' came up as the Project's recent hire of two field technicians. HR's position is to refrain from pre-employment drug testing as it is not a requirement for MDAR or any other mosquito control projects. Discussion took place on the Commissioner's role in implementing rules regarding testing. The decision was made to remove the requirement for new hires to pass a pre-employment drug test from the Project Policies. Ross will work on a new drug testing policy to include in the Projects Handbook. A motion was made and voted on unanimously that Ross waits to receive information regarding drug testing clarification. Ross will then present that information at a future Commissioner meeting.

The Task Force will be meeting on July 27, August 10, and during the third meeting on September 2, ERG(Eastern Research Group) will make a presentation on its findings. The Project provided information to ERG to help with their research into mosquito control in Massachusetts.

Entomologist Report- (In Ellen's absence, Ross presented her report). DPH reported that there were 12 new mosquito isolations of West Nile in the state but no human cases. There have been no findings of EEEV in the state. Trapping in Middleboro and Hanson produced higher *Cs. melanura* numbers as expected. *Cq. perturbans* numbers were down due to the hotter temperatures. Gravid traps up significantly due to increased water. The rain has led to a wide variety of species on the wing. DPH did not pick up the Project's samples during the third week of July so most current information and numbers will be delayed.

Community Liaison Report- Cathy met with 3, third grade groups in Marion. She also visited the Boys and Girls Club of Plymouth that was attended by 35 people. An intergenerational presentation in Bridgewater had low attendance but Cathy noted that there were great conversations and interactions among those present. Cathy scheduled an outdoor presentation for July 28th at the Holmes Public Library in Halifax. On the 29th, she planned to present at the Marion Council On Aging. On August 4th, 2 presentations were planned for Holly Hill Farm in Cohasset. Cathy displayed some of the informative posters used in the presentation and acknowledged Powder Horn Press in Plymouth for their expertise.

Cathy would like to present columns of written articles but would have to have them approved first by the SRB and the EEA Press.

Other Business/Comment- There was no new business/comments.

Date, Time, Location of next Commission Meeting- Thursday, August 19 at 9:30am. Meeting will be held at the Project headquarters, 272 South Meadow Road, Plymouth. It will also have a ZOOM option.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:42am.

Respectively submitted,

Ann Motyka

Commissioner/Vice-Chairman/Secretary

Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project