



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

Ross Rossetti – Superintendent/Pilot
Ellen Bidlack – Entomologist
Matthew McPhee – General Foreman
Denise DeLuca – Administrative Assistant
Cathleen Drinan – Community Liaison

COMMISSIONER’S MEETING MINUTES MARCH 2021

On Thursday, March 18, 2021, the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting via Zoom. Present were Commissioners Sharland, Motyka, and Valenti. Also present, Ross Rossetti, Superintendent/Pilot, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack, General Foreman Matt McPhee, and Administrative Assistant Denise DeLuca. Attending for Public Comment/Input were Bob Valery, Health Agent; town of Halifax, and Dr. Marcy Herzberg; Kingston Board of Health.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Sharland at 9:30am.

Public Comment/Input- There was no public comment.

Project Administration

The minutes from the February, 2021 meeting were approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Administrative Assistant Update- Denise noted the project purchased a large order of larvicide chemicals, paid through supplemental funding. She had already received 12 calls inquiring information and 8 of those were spray requests.

Commissioner’s Report-

Commissioner Motyka noted the upgrades done to the Project’s website. Commissioner Valenti agreed with the concept of up-to-date pictures and displayed one that the Town of Marshfield uses that rotates pictures. Pictures could be regularly changed as more projects are completed throughout the year. It was agreed by many that the Project’s website is the most thorough and user-friendly of any mosquito control project in the state.

General Foreman’s Report/Water Management- Matt noted that the crew had collected 63 tires and completed 11,625 feet of hand cleaning and brushing. Machine digging projects, totaling 930 feet in length, were completed in Hanson, Lakeville, Marion, and Whitman.

Superintendent’s Report/Monthly Review- Ross received his Drone Pilot License after completing the necessary course work. He noted that Ellen continued to update the Project’s website. This included purchasing the yearly SSL certificate to avoid outside interference to the website.

The Project upgraded its machinery by purchasing a new John Deere excavator while trading in 2 older excavators.

All of the old DUET pesticide has now been removed from the facility.

Ross introduced Matt McPhee as his selection for the Assistant Superintendent position. All commissioners agreed with the selection.

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Task Force Update: The Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) is developing a form that towns in the county may use to opt out of State Reclamation Board aerial mosquito spraying. The towns must come up with their own plan of action in its place. This must include a plan to continue to educate and inform the town's residents as needed.

Ross noted that a vendor hired by MDAR will be coming to the Project to test our BVA 2 larvicide oil.

The Department of Agriculture provided supplemental funding to the Project for the purchase of Vectolex FG for spring/fall Cq Perturban applications. They also included upgrades to the plane for a total cost of approximately \$72,000.

Ross noted that summer employee job postings are now available for catch basin applicators and an office manager assistant.

Entomologist Report- To continue her research project, Ellen created a cage to keep her trapped mosquitos in a screened area. She is beginning to dip for larva and noted there was much more ice in the uplands than last year. She is finding larva. Ellen is beginning to prep locations around the county to trap for the upcoming season.

Ellen and Ross, along with Bristol County Mosquito Control Project and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, submitted their article, "Evaluation of a methoprene aerial application for the control of *Culiseta melanura*" to "The Journal of Medical Entomology"

Community Liaison Report- Cathy is in the process of creating a Facebook page to bring education and awareness to the Project's 28 towns. Letters will be sent to all towns informing them of curriculum links that the communities can access and schools can use in their classrooms. The web page will list websites that all can access and will include useful, science-based activities. Ross noted that there was a Facebook site called 'Plymouth County Mosquito Team'; no relation to the Project and our website expectations.

Other Business/Comment- There was no new business.

Date, Time, Location of Next Commission Meeting- Thursday, April 15th, 1:00pm. Determination of whether the meeting will be held in person will be made closer to the meeting date. It will also have the Zoom option.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

Respectively submitted,

Ann Motyka

Commissioner/Vice-Chairman/Secretary

Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project