



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD



PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

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www.plymouthmosquito.org

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, September 17, 2020 the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting at Project headquarters in the Shop area, observing social distancing. Commissioners Drinan (via Zoom), Valenti, Sharland, Kenney and Motyka were present, along with Acting Superintendent/Pilot Ross Rossetti, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack and Administrative Assistant Denise DeLuca. 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 – Denise reported that her summer assistant, Elaine, had left and that she did a great job. Denise noted that Elaine has gotten a full time job in a town government nearby so she won't be available to rehire next summer.

The minutes of the August 20, 2020 meeting were approved by unanimous vote after notation of a repeat paragraph on page 2..

Commissioner's Reports – Cathy reported that the Project had received a call from a person who had received a bill from Plymouth County Pest Control and was confused because the person thought our spray service was free. Cathy checked with Frank Basler at Plymouth County Commissioners office to see if there was anything that could be done about that company using a government entity (Plymouth County) in their name. Frank said no because it is a private company.

Next, Cathy showed a video produced by the Jones River Watershed Association about the life cycle of eels, It shows that dams built during the Industrial Revolution impede these eels in one stage of their life cycle where they travel upstream into wetland areas, and while in that stage, voraciously eat mosquito larvae. Cathy reported that she had sent an email to Pine duBois, President of the Association, complaining about some of the statements that are made in the video about modern day mosquito control methods. Further, the narrator promotes removal of all these dams but provides no plan or funding methods for this work.

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Acting Superintendent's Report/Monthly Review

Ross presented the Service Request chart (yard sprays and larval checks/treatments) for the week ending September 11, 2020, which also serves as End of Season Totals. The chart shows the spray requests total for the season at 17,830 and basin treatments total of 60,450.

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

Water Management – larval checks for the period totaled 1218, there were 1255 ft. of hand cleanings and machine digging was carried out on Powers Lane in Hingham and Snowfields Road in Mattapoisett for a total of 865 feet.

Next, Ross reviewed the details of his proposed upgrade to the phone system. He selected the existing phone service, Comcast for several reasons, including the ease of the upgrade and the features Comcast offers. This will involve Comcast installing a whole new system, but the additional features will virtually eliminate the problems of county residents not being able to get through for spray requests during the busy part of that season. Highlights include up to 50 calls on Hold, ability for other extensions to pick up and take calls when the display of calls on Hold gets to a certain level, music on Hold, etc. Current monthly cost of the existing Comcast system is \$291.00 and the new system will only add \$163 monthly to that. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve.

Latest information on reimbursement for deep cleanings for Covid 19 prevention is “no.”

Next, Ross reviewed his first draft of our FY22 Budget, which shows a 5.5% increase over FY21. Ross continues to look at replacing the upland excavator with a smaller unit that has a narrower turn path and along with that, a smaller truck and trailer.

Lastly, Ross handed out the latest version of the membership of the State Task Force on Mosquito Control. There are now two members from mosquito control projects.

Entomologist Report – Ellen noted that at our last meeting, what she had received from Cornell was an outline of the paper (on use of methoprene granules delivered by air into cedar swamp crypts), not a draft of the paper.

Traps are being brought in as the surveillance season comes to an end. Amanda, her summer assistant, wraps up next Friday. She did an excellent job as Ellen's assistant.

There were two virus isolates since our last meeting.

Pools sent for testing this year totaled 582 versus 697 last year.

Discussion of hiring process for Superintendent

Johanna Zabriskie joined the meeting via Zoom

- The Draft Job Description is good to go
- The job bulletin will be Internal but applicants will be using the Mass Careers process
- Applications must be received within 14 days of the posting on Mass Careers
- She will forward resumes she receives directly to the Commissioners

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- The interview process and methodology was reviewed – All applicants will be asked the same questions.
- Commissioners can write questions and they must be sent directly to Johanna. Denise to send us Johanna's email address
- Johanna suggested that the interview team should be 3-5 people. All 5 commissioners asked to be on the interview team, so that is how we will proceed.

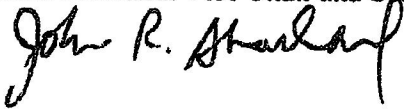
Other Business/Comment – None

Date, Time and Location of Next Commission Meeting – Thursday, October 22, 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 black ink, appearing to read "John R. Sharland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.