



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD



PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

272 SOUTH MEADOW RD, PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

TELEPHONE (781) 585-5450 FAX (781) 582-1276

www.plymouthmosquito.org

Commissioners:

Cathleen Drinan, Chairman
John Sharland, Vice Chairman/Secretary
Michael F. Valenti
John Kenney
Ann Motyka

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

COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

On Thursday, November 19, 2020 the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting remotely on Zoom. Commissioners Drinan, Sharland and Motyka were present, along with Superintendent/Pilot Ross Rossetti, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack, General Foreman Matt McPhee and Administrative Assistant Denise DeLuca. There were no members of the public present. A quorum being present, the meeting proceeded.

Chair Drinan called the meeting to order at 9:38 am.

Public Comment/Input – None

Project Administration

The minutes of the Oct. 22, 2020 meeting were approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Administrative Assistant Update – Denise reported that the new phone system is up and running, with a few things still being worked out. She thanked Ross for his research on this. Ross noted that the installation went smoothly because Comcast was chosen and their basic infrastructure was already in place.

Commissioner's Reports – None

Superintendent's Report/Monthly Review

Cessna AgWagon maintenance – Ross reviewed the upcoming maintenance needs for our aging airplane – engine work/possible need for replacement may run anywhere from \$15,000 to \$50,000. There is \$96,000 available in the budget. The plane is going in for this maintenance in two weeks. Commissioners approved this necessary expense by consensus.

Ross also wants to add a variable flow device to the AgWagon that much more accurately distributes both the granular and liquid larvacides automatically, based on plane speed. Cost is \$15,000. Commissioners present agreed, by consensus.

Final feedback on Covid reimbursements is that any money awarded would go to the state general fund, so it is not worth pursuing.

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Water Management – General Foreman Matt McPhee reported that 202 tires were collected during the period and that there was 11,375 ft. of hand cleaning/brushing. Machine digging was done in Cohasset at 497 Beech St., Hanover at 314 Spring St., Hingham on South Pleasant St. and Cohasset at 497 Beechwood St. For the Hingham job, property owner signatures etc. were obtained by the Hingham Conservation Commission to help with this and the Cohasset job was requested and done in cooperation with the Cohasset DPW.

There are two salt marsh projects waiting on Water Quality Certificates in Duxbury and Marion. Matt and Ross met with Mike Huguenin from Mattapoisett Land Trust to start planning work on the Newman Preserve salt marsh.

Entomologist Report – Data from the season has been reviewed. Preparation of her section of the paper on methoprene granules is underway.

Ellen also noted that she is currently taking a free on line class about the GIS system and that she has applied to take the Hoisting License test.

Ellen has been nominated for the position of 2nd Vice Chair of the Northeast Mosquito Control Association (NMCA). Tradition holds that she will next be nominated (next year) for 1st Vice Chair and then President the following year.

The 2021 NMCA Annual Meeting will be virtual in 6 sessions held between Jan. 6 – Feb. 10. They are spread out to make sure attendees can arrange their schedules so that pesticide credits can be awarded.

Assistant Superintendent Job Posting Review – The Position Description was reviewed. The word “aggressive” in the decision making paragraph was changed to “prudent and timely.” The word “political” was removed from the communication skills paragraph and “take over for Superintendent when necessary” added to the second paragraph of the General Description section.

It was agreed that two commissioners would be part of the interview team. This will be taken up at the next meeting when all commissioners are present.

Other Business/Comment – Commissioner Motyka asked for a review of the position of General Foreman. Is it needed? Current job descriptions of Asst. Supt. and General Foreman are very similar. Ross explained why that had happened over time and then suggested that he would re-write the General Foreman job description to better reflect the current situation and to justify the need for the position. This will be an agenda item for our next meeting.

Ross – recent Policy revisions included a clarification that the Superintendent does all hiring for positions beneath but with “final approval by the commissioners.” On further thought, this could be an impediment for hiring field techs and seasonals during the busy season. Ross asked for an exclusion of the final approval by commissioners of field techs and seasonals. Cathy said it will be on the next agenda.

Date, Time and Location of Next Commission Meeting – Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 9:30am, most likely by full remote on Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

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Respectfully submitted,

John Sharland, Vice Chair and Secretary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John R. Sharland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.