



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 FEBRUARY 2021

On Thursday, February 18, 2021, the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting via Zoom. Present were Commissioners Sharland, Motyka, Valenti, and Drinan. Also present Superintendent/Pilot Ross Rossetti, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack, General Foreman Matt McPhee, and Administrative Assistant Denise DeLuca. Attending for Public Comment/Input were Kiernan Kelleher, Health Agent; Town of Plymouth, Maggie Juneau, Health Inspector; Town of Middleborough and Pine DuBois, Jones River Watershed Association.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Sharland at 9:34am.

Public Comment/Input- Mr. Kelleher and Ms. Juneau had no public comment. Ms. DuBois reported that she had found tires in the Watershed area and will work with Matt McPhee and crew to pick up and dispose. Ross informed her there had been no changes regarding PFAS as samples of Duet and Mavrik had not been picked up from the Project for testing.

Project Administration

The minutes from the January 14, 2021 meeting were approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Administrative Assistant Update- Denise noted currently nothing out of the ordinary for this time of the year. The Project will be purchasing the chemicals needed for the upcoming season. Denise had sent this meeting agenda to all 28 town’s Board of Health for the first time; a practice that will continue each month.

Commissioner’s Report- Commissioner Drinan reached out to news outlets regarding the Project being awarded the Outstanding Performance Award from the Department of Agricultural Resources. Newspapers in Plymouth and Plympton ran the story.

General Foreman’s Report/Water Management- Matt reported that the saltmarsh job off Elderberry Lane in Duxbury had been completed. As digging began in February, 2020, Commissioner Valenti questioned why the long job length. It was noted that DEP permitting had mostly held up the speed of the project. Matt reported that both saltmarsh and upland dig jobs have been held up due to the COVID outbreak and subsequent adjustments needed.

Superintendent’s Report/Monthly Review- Ross reported that the project has been busy repairing and preparing vehicles, trailers, and sprayers; all being done implementing social distancing. Budget notices have been sent to towns. All parts needed for the project plane have been purchased. Pesticides needed for the upcoming season will be ordered shortly and should be received by April or early May. Ordering early will save the Project 20% off full cost. Task force scheduled to meet the first week of March. They were taking up an information-gathering process regarding potential legislation or changes that would impact all mosquito control projects around the state.

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PFAS update: Fluorinated barrels have been leaching out. Clark voluntarily is taking back 7 barrels. They will be replaced with non-fluorinated barrels.

Project switched over to T-Mobile. All crew will have their own smartphones with wifi access in all trucks. All will have business cards as needed. Ross reported that the aerial spray done last summer was found to have had no significant impact on the honeybee population. He also noted that crew had acquired licensing credits at this year's NMCA convention, which was held remotely.

Both Ross and Ellen presented at NMCA. Ross presented on "Evaluation of Excavator Low Ground Pressure Mat in Wetlands". The NMCA donated \$1000.00 to assist with the project. The project is currently working on a job on Delano Rd in Marion. Ellen's presentation will be noted in her report.

In regards to the hiring of an additional commissioner, Ross reported that Jessica Burgess said that residency in the county served was not a necessity.

Entomologist Report- Ellen noted that she had updated the Project webpage. Ellen's presentation at the conference was titled "The Trials and Tribulations of Fledgling Pesticide Resistance Program". She is working collaboratively with Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station on research on Cs. Melanura. Ellen indicated the fall season would be far more effective in gaining test results due to availability of more larvae.

Other Business/Comment- There was no new business

Date, Time, Location of Next Commission Meeting- Thursday, March 18th, 9:30AM, via remote

Meeting was adjourned at 10:38am.

Respectively submitted,

Ann Motyka

Commissioner/Vice-Chairman/Secretary

Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project