



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD



PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

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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, June 18, 2020 the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting remotely by Zoom at 9:30 am. Commissioners Drinan, Valenti, Sharland and Motyka were present, along with Acting Superintendent/Pilot Ross Rossetti, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack, Community Liaison Dan Daly and Administrative Assistant Denise Deluca. Supt. Steve Gillett and Commissioner John Kenney were absent.

Chair Drinan called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

Public Comment/Input - Robert Stevens, Deputy Planning Director, City of Quincy, MA introduced himself and noted that he is a supporter of the Project and its mission and goals. He suggested that perhaps our website could be used to ask for a yard spray.

Kimberly King, ex-commissioner, had intended to make a comment by Zoom but was not present. It is understood that she was going to comment in support of writing to legislators, etc. about the need for a Mosquito Control Project representative on the recently announced task force that will be studying the delivery of mosquito control statewide that is called for in Bill 4751.

Administrative Assistant Update - Denise noted that Elaine is still working out very well as her summer assistant. They are receiving more letters for spray requests, apparently due to the single phone line and difficulty getting through. There is a drop box outside the building and it is being used. Denise also noted that summer field tech Stephanie Dugan receives many compliments from the public that she interfaces with.

Project Administration

The minutes of the May 20, 2020 meeting were accepted by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner’s Report

Cathy announced that the commissioners had received a notification from Superintendent Gillett that he will be retiring on June 26, 2020. She also noted that any budget questions or issues as a result of this should be forwarded to Johanna at HR.

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Acting Superintendent's Report/Monthly Review

Ross's Zoom call with the Middleboro Board of Selectmen went very well and he received positive feedback. He thinks this might become an annual event.

EEE Kickoff Event with Governor Baker – Ross shared what he knew to date about how this would be carried out at our headquarters building. (Later in the day, the event was canceled by the Governor's office, due to a high priority schedule change.)

Ross reported that the Project had received a reimbursement of \$117,000 from the state for the additional cost of larvicides used last year.

Cathy then asked if perhaps the Project is eligible for reimbursements due to extra expenses caused by the Covid-19 situation. Ross will look into this.

In a conversation with Alisha Bouchard, she noted that as of now, local aid in FY21 "looks OK", but the year might start out with a 1/12th budget.

The state office of vehicle management (OVM) is going to be installing vehicle tracking devices (speed, idle time, accelerations, etc.). There will be a \$5000 annual charge back from our budget. Discussions by OVM with the union need to be concluded before the installations.

House Bill 4650/4751 – Ross reviewed the make-up of the task force in this bill and noted that there is no representative from mosquito control projects, despite the fact that the charge of the task force is to study the delivery of mosquito control statewide. He then read a letter from the projects superintendents, under the signature of the Cape Cod Mosquito Control superintendent that has been sent to MDAR, asking for an amendment to the bill that would add a representative to the task force. Cathy asked that Ross email the letter to the commissioners so that commissioners could also write letters that make the same points.

Water Management – Since our last meeting - Larval Checks: 1352. Basins Treated – 15,429, with 18,064 YTD.

Entomologist Report:

Ellen reported that early test results for the use of methoprene granules to get into the crypts of swamp trees are encouraging.

Samples to DPH started this week. Ellen noted that as of now, "per trap" collection numbers are down significantly from last year.

She has started some resistance to adulticide testing, using samples from the Hockomock area.

Documents attached to our agenda included Methoprene Trial Cost table – total of \$43,927.64 and a table of Spring Larviciding Results for the 10 towns where wet areas received aerial larviciding. Far right column shows percent control.

Community Liaison Dan Daly Update

Dan noted that he also Zoomed with the Middleboro Board of Selectmen but due to technical issues, he left the meeting before Ross's time of their agenda.

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He also noted that it appears that the recent (pre-pandemic shutdown) group session with Board of Health reps from the county was very important for all concerned and expressed hope that more sessions like it can be held in the future.

Other Business/Comment – Robert Stevens asked permission of the Chair to speak again and permission was granted. He has some questions about the possibilities of small scale aerial spraying.

Date, Time and Location of Next Commission Meeting – Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 9:30am either remotely or at Plymouth Headquarters.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sharland, Vice Chair and Secretary.