

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:

John Sharland, Chairman
Ann Motyka, Vice Chairman/Secretary
Thomas Reynolds
Elaine Fiore
Joyce Krystofolski

Ross Rossetti – Superintendent/Pilot
Matthew McPhee – Asst. Superintendent
Ellen Bidlack – Entomologist
Denise DeLuca – Administrative Assistant

COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES

September 26th, 2024

On Thursday, September 26th, 2024, the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting at the Project headquarters. In attendance were Commissioners Sharland, Motyka, Reynolds, and Krystofolski. Commissioner Fiore attended via Microsoft Teams. Employees present were Ross Rossetti, Superintendent/Pilot, Matt McPhee, Assistant Superintendent, Ellen Bidlack, Entomologist, and Erin Morrill, Community Liaison.

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

Public Comment/Input: There was no public comment.

Comments from the Chair: Chair Sharland gave an update on the tire pile in Bridgewater. Interim town manager had reached out to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in April but had not received a response. She will contact them again.

Vote to approve August 21st 2024 Minutes: Motion to approve the August 21st, 2024 minutes was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Fiore. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Administrative Assistant Expense Report: Monthly Overview: (Ross presented the report in Denise's absence) Ross noted that the premium on the insurance policy had nearly doubled due to the theft claim for the excavator. Otherwise, there were no significant changes. Ross read a note from Denise that stated her gratitude for assistance she received from Ross, Matt, Russell, and Community Liaison Morrill in assisting her after losing her seasonal employees.

Assistant Superintendent Report-Field Work Summary: Matt reported that a total of 15 towns had received additional spraying in response to the EEE virus risk levels. Towns receiving multiple applications were Carver with 7, and Plymouth and Halifax with 6. The Project treated 11 different school districts. Larviciding inspections from August 21st to September 25th totaled 1,027, bringing the yearly total to 7,149 inspections. Service requests from residents totaled 68 check waters, bringing the 2024 total to 590.

Superintendent Report: Review of Project Operations since last meeting: Arbovirus Update: Pilot/Survey Tech Update: Review of Current Pay Scale: Ross noted that the last day for resident spraying was September 6th. The Project employees attended the New England Public Works Expo in Marlboro on September 19th. On Thursday, October 24th, the Project will again be hosting the Northeast Mosquito Control Association Field Day from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Since the last meeting, a fourth human case of EEE was found in Middlesex County and isolates of EEE have been trapped in Halifax, Mattapoisett, Middleboro, West Bridgewater, Carver, and Plymouth. A second EEE horse case was found in Middleboro. WNV has been found in the towns of Middleboro, Halifax and West Bridgewater. Numbers of *Cs. melanura* and *Cq. perturbans*, the bird and human vectors being collected are trending downward.

Two candidates were interviewed for the Pilot/Survey Tech position. A third candidate showed interest in a part time position and had the most experience. To select the third candidate, Ross would need to submit posting changes to the

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State Reclamation Board, the Department of Agriculture, and Human Resources. A motion that Ross change the job posting to pilot only was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Motyka. It passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Ross has been looking into the Norfolk County Mosquito Control's study that discusses and makes recommendations on changes to their employee pay scale. The Project will look to have step increase discussions with hopes of implementing any changes by January, 2025.

Entomologist Report: Update on Mosquito Surveillance: Ellen stopped trapping activities last week as there had been no virus activity from the prior two week's collections. Cornell's Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector Borne Disease gave her the results of their tests from their pesticide resistance testing. Ellen discussed the Northeast Mosquito Control Association agenda that will be held in Plymouth from December 9-11, 2024. She is currently dipping potential *Cq. perturbans* locations for upcoming Fall aerial larvicide application.

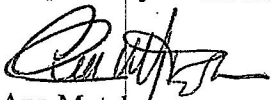
Community Liaison Report-Presentations Update-Upcoming Engagements: Erin presented at the Brockton COA on September 18th. The attendees' questions were mostly about the tire recycling program and number of seasonal sprays. Erin was invited back to present to the STEM program at the Brockton Public Library on October 23rd. She will be presenting at the Whitman Public Library on September 27th. Erin will be at the Rochester COA-sponsored Wellness Fair on October 2nd. Erin, along with Blake Dineus, will be presenting at the Duxbury COA on October 7th. The Pembroke Public Library is looking to schedule a November event. Both Halifax and Plymton's Public Libraries are looking to book events in January. Erin has been in contact with the South Shore Family Network to look into the possibility of scheduling STEM Playgroups and Storybook Walks for day-cares in the towns of Cohasset, Pembroke, Norwell, and Carver.

Commissioner Comments, if any: Commission Reynolds thanked the Project staff for all of their collaboration and hard work in responding to EEE and WNV demands this season. All other Board members responded with their gratitude as well.

Date, Time, Location of next Commission Meeting/Adjournment: Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 17th, 2024 at 9:30am. Meeting will be held at the Project headquarters, 272 South Meadow Road, Plymouth. A remote option will be available.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was accepted by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Krystofolski. It was unanimously passed by roll call vote at 10:42am.

Respectively submitted,



Ann Motyka
Commissioner: Vice-Chairman/Secretary
Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project

Documents that accompanied this agenda:

- *Meeting Agenda
- *Monthly Expense Report
- *August 21st, 2024 Meeting Minutes