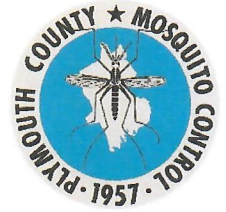




THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD



PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

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Commissioners:

John Sharland, Chairman

Ann Motyka, Vice Chairman/Secretary

Thomas Reynolds

Elaine Fiore

Ross Rossetti – Superintendent/Pilot

Matthew McPhee – Asst. Superintendent

Ellen Bidlack – Entomologist

Denise DeLuca – Administrative Assistant

COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2023

On Thursday, August 17th, 2023, the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting at the Project headquarters. In attendance were Commissioners Sharland, Motyka, and Fiore. Employees present: Ross Rossetti, Superintendent/Pilot, Denise DeLuca Administrative Assistant, Ellen Bidlack, Entomologist, and Erin Morrill; Community Liaison. The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharland at 9:41am.

Public Comment/Input: There was no public comment.

Comments from the Chair: Commissioner Sharland inquired if there had been any update on the search for a fifth commissioner. Ross implied that a previous candidate may be re-applying.

Vote to approve July 13, 2023 Minutes: The July 13, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote by Commissioners Motyka, Fiore and Sharland.

Administrative Assistant Expense Report: Denise reported that there were no significant changes in the month's expense report. Her seasonal assistant, Kim, will be finishing September 1st.

Assistant Superintendent Report-Field work summary: (Ross reported in Matt's absence) Activity summary from July 13th-August 16th was presented. There were 1,135 larviciding site visits/inspections. Additionally there were 72 check water requests from county residents. There were 19,807 basins treated bringing the seasonal total to 44,002. Machine digging took place at 200 Plympton Street in Middleboro; completing 80 feet. A job in Cohasset on Atlantic Avenue completed 620 feet of digging. The towns of Wareham (1460), Marshfield (1260), and Plymouth (1000) were the top 3 towns that contacted the Project for the most adulticiding requests this month. There were an average of 205 calls answered each day.

Superintendent's Review of Project Operations since last meeting: Ross mentioned that a new field technician had been hired and as a condition of his employment, will be taking the pesticide licensing test in the near future. Service requests have increased as the season has turned wetter than earlier in the spring. West Nile Virus isolates were found in Kingston on August 7th, Halifax on August 8th, and 2 in Middleboro on August 14th. There has been no 'risk level' change.

The Northeast Mosquito Control Association (NMCA) inquired about the Project hosting another field day at the facility; possibly the week of October 12-19. On August 23rd, a meeting regarding helicopter financing will

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take place with the CFO's of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR).

When completed, Alex Giannantonio, Operations Coordinator of the State Reclamation Board (SRB) noted that the newly updated handbook draft will be sent out to the mosquito control projects for feedback.

Ross thanked Entomologist Ellen Bidlack and her seasonal assistant Julia for all of their hard work and extra hours put in working on the cage trial research, intended to measure pesticide resistance.

With updates in technology available, the field tech's tablets will be replaced by next season.

Entomologist Report: Update on Mosquito Surveillance: Ellen will be sending 5 samples of *Cx pipiens* to the NEVBD, the Northeast Vector Borne Disease at Cornell University Center for Excellence. Due to recent increases in rainfall, gravid trap collections have significantly increased. Light trap collections have also increased. There has been a rise in *Cx salinarius* being trapped.

The field techs have brought in saltmarsh mosquitoes for the Project's cage trials. Salt marsh mosquitoes were chosen because they have many generations per year and can be collected in large numbers.

Julia Cheeseman, Ellen's seasonal assistant, will be finishing her second season with the Project on August 25th.

Community Liaison Report-Visits to Senior Centers: Erin presented information on Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) at the Halifax Public Library on July 24th and with Entomologist Educator Blake Dinius at the Marion COA on August 7th. Erin was waiting for approval to participate in the Plymouth Extension Services program at the upcoming Marshfield Fair. Upcoming events will have Erin presenting at the Rochester Council on Aging on August 23rd and again, at their public library, on September 13th. She will be at the Whitman Public Library on October 21st and is in the process of securing dates with the towns of Kingston and Hull for Spring, 2024. Erin has begun contacting Chamber of Commerce agencies regarding health and wellness opportunities that the Project can attend and make presentations. She is also exploring the town's media and newspaper options to communicate with county residents.

Commissioner Comments, if any: There were no other comments.

Date, Time, Location of next Commission Meeting/Adjournment: Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 21st, 2023 at 9:30am. Meeting will be scheduled at the Project headquarters, 272 South Meadow Road, Plymouth. It will also have a ZOOM option.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34am.

Respectively submitted,



Ann Motyka

Commissioner/Vice-Chairman/Secretary
Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project

Documents that accompanied this agenda:

- * Meeting Agenda
- * July 13, 2023 Minutes
- * Expense Report
- * Service Requests from Week Ending August 16, 2023