THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Agricultural Resources

State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

RICHARD K. SULLIVAN JR
Secretary

GREGORY C. WATSON
Commissioner

MEMBERS

Lee Corte-Real, **Chairman**
Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR)

Bruce Hansen
Department of Conservation And Recreation (DCR)

Gary Gonyea
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

ADMINISTRATION

Mark S. Buffone
Executive Director

Alisha Bouchard
Project Administrator

MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECTS & DISTRICTS

Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project

Bristol County Mosquito Control Project

Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project

Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project

East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project

Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project

Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito & Wetland Management District

Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project

Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project

DATE: **Thursday, August 9, 2012**

TIME: 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

LOCATION: MA Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Small Conference Room
Boston, MA 02114

Please call 617-626-1777 for more information

Public Health Emergency Meeting Agenda (EEEv threat continuing and 2nd round of Aerial Adulticide Intevention)

A. ***Start:*** **Call to Order** by Gary Gonyea for Chairman Corte-Real, and Attendance.

B. ***2nd Round Of Aerial Adulticide Spraying For EEEv***

C. ***Other Business:*** *(If any)*

D. ***Adjournment:*** The Board will officially adjourn the meeting.

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Subject: Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, August 9, 2012

Place: MA Department of Agricultural Resources,
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500,
Boston, MA 02114

Present:

Board and Administration:
Gary Gonyea, Department of Environmental Protection for Lee Corte-Real, MDAR-Department of Agricultural Resources, Chairman
Bruce Hansen, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Member
Mark Buffone, Executive Director

Mosquito Control Project Commissioners: None

Mosquito Control Project Directors/ Superintendents /Assistants:
None

Others:
Jessica Burgess, MDAR Counsel

Start*:* Call to Order by Chairman Corte-Real, and Attendance.

Gary Gonyea, DEP member, substituting for Chairman Lee Corte-Real called to order an emergency meeting of the Board at 10:06 AM introducing all present and then took attendance. G. Gonyea stated that he was representing Commissioner Kenneth L. Kimmel of the Department of Environmental Protection and that B. Hansen Commissioner Edward M. Lambert Jr. of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Board with two voting members present has a quorum.

The primary order of business was to discuss the 2nd round of aerial adutlciide spraying scheduled to occur on August 13th and to vote and support the next round.

B. Aerial Mosquito Control Operation 2nd round spraying: The Board discussed and approved the aerial mosquito control operation to combat Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEv) risk in Southeastern Massachusetts. (*Voting Required*)

B.1: Background: G. Gonyea asked M. Buffone Executive Director to update the Board as to what has occurred concerning EEEv and aerial spraying and the reason for the need for the second round of spraying.

M. Buffone explained that although the 1st round of aerial adulticide spraying reduce mosquitoes effectively, that DPH and mosquito control project mosquito collections from certain areas were still being confirmed positive for EEEv in both bird and mammal biting mosquitoes. The concern is that the virus is still circulating in the area spray and that it could move to other areas. DPH determined that several of the original 21 communities sprayed would be elevated from high level of risk to critical and therefore a second intervention would be warranted. M. Buffone remarked that he had been authorized by MDAR Commissioner Watson to deploy and mobilize the contractors to bring aircraft and pesticide product to MA to spray the evening of August 13th weather dependent. He noted that the plan was to try to get the mission completed in one evening with 2 aircraft with spray on around dusk (7:50 PM) and with proper weather conditions good results would be expected.

He announced to the Board that there was a reported human case of EEEv but outside of the spray zone in the Metrowest area of the state.

M. Buffone told the members that a second NHESP permit was issued to the Board dated August 8th, 2012. He explained that it allows the Board to take species. He remarked about the NPDES permit that according to the EPA Region 1, George Papadopoulos, where the Board's NOI is anticipated to be active by Friday or Monday the latest. The current action to support the 2nd round of adulticide would in fact not cover any new municipalities. Everything being the same, the contractors, pesticide product, area, and along with the original DPH certification still in effect until September 30, 2012, the Board would not be required to do amend the current NOI once approved.

M. Buffone read to the Board members the following e-mail from EPA Region 1, George Papadopoulos response to a public inquiry.

The NOI that the State submitted for the Pesticides GP is for the original aerial application, but it will also cover any other aerial applications for the duration of this permit (October 2016) provided that such applications occur within the same 21 communities identified in the map. This NOI was submitted on 7/31/12 and it should be active after 10 days, or by 8/10/12. My understanding is that the next scheduled application will be in 6 of the original 21 communities and will use the same pesticide; therefore this permit will cover the State. If a future aerial application involved any other communities or pesticides not identified in the original NOI, the State would need to edit its NOI to update such information.

G. Gonyea stated he had discussions with DEP Bob Kubit and George Papadopoulos about this matter.

M. Buffone told the Board, to date, 108 EEEv cumulative positive statewide and 87 WNv positive which a concern is too. He noted that "we are not out of the woods" since this is the peak risk for both EEEv and WNv. Both mosquito-borne diseases can a problem well into September.

M. Buffone remarked that essentially, the Board's purpose today is to make a motion to support and approve the 2nd round of aerial spraying that it is necessary to suppress the threat of EEEv to the public and also to support the continued intensification of ground spraying in particular Bristol and Plymouth. However, all projects should do so because every district is combating some arbovirus as even Pittsfield and Cape Cod has had positive pools for EEEv. He also commented that the motion as the previous motion in July 19th should include authorizing Chairman to take such action necessary.

The Chairman asked M. Buffone if he had this motion written for the Board to enter into the record. M. Buffone did acknowledge that the motion could be similar to the motions for the July 19th meeting especially the MAG advisement.

B.2: **Questions and Discussions:** Those present discussed the matter thoroughly. M. Buffone stated he would send an electronic copy of the NHESP permit.

B.3: **Action Taken:** Bruce Hansen made the following motion. The motion was seconded by Gary Gonyea and was voted unanimously 2-0.

The Board supports and:

Agrees that the certification of public health that application of pesticides by aerial spraying in 6 communities is necessary,

Approves the aerial adult mosquito control spraying to suppress the risk of EEEv to the public,

Approves continued intensified ground spraying effort in both Bristol and Plymouth County where isolation of virus occurs should concurrently be conducted with the aerial spraying intervention and thereafter, if additional positives are confirmed by DPH,

Emphasizes the need for the public to heed all DPH health alerts and take all precautions necessary to prevent mosquito from biting such as using repellants, appropriate clothing, and avoid those periods when mosquitoes are most active,

Authorizes Chairman Corte-Real to take such actions, on behalf of the Board as deemed necessary, to address this fluid situation and any other related issues concerning the aerial spraying.

The Board discussed the possibility of a 3rd round of spraying. G. Gonyea reported that in round 2 spraying, there were no drinking water reservoirs in the spray zone. Water samples would be from surface water sites such as streams and ponds.

G. Gonyea requested that final maps be forwarded to Board members and DCR Parks Director.

C. **Adjournment:** *The Board will officially adjourn the meeting.*

C.1: **Background:** Chairman G. Gonyea entertained a motion to adjourn.

C.2: **Questions and Discussions**: None

C.3: **Action Taken:** B. Hansen, moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 AM which was unanimously voted 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Buffone

Mark S. Buffone
Executive Director