



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Agricultural Resources

**State Reclamation and
Mosquito Control Board**

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<http://www.mass.gov/agr/mosquito/index.htm>



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STATE RECLAMATION AND MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD MINUTES/SUMMARY

WHO: State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB)
DATE: January 24, 2007
WHERE: 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA

PRESENT: Representing State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board

Mark Buffone, SRMCB, DAR Member, Chairman
Mike Gildesgame, SRMCB, DCR Member
Glenn Haas, SRMCB, DEP Member

Mosquito Control Project Commissions

J. Gregory Milne, Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project Commission

Mosquito Control Directors/Superintendents or Assistants

Wayne Andrews, Bristol County Mosquito Control Project
Jack Card, Northeast Mass Mosquito Control and Wetlands District
Tim Deschamps, Central Mass Mosquito Control Project
John Doane, Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project
David Henley, East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project
Jake Jurgenson, Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project
Bruce Landers, Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project
Tim McGlinchy, Central Mass Mosquito Control Project
Walt Montgomery, Northeast Mass Mosquito Control and Wetlands District
Gabrielle Sakolsky, Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project
John J. Smith, Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project
Ray Zucker, Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project

Others

Kimberly King, Mother of Adreanna Wing
Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon, Senior Policy Analyst
Mettie Whipple, President, Eel River Watershed Association, Ltd.

Agenda Item #1: Calling the Meeting to order, Introductions, Introductory Remarks

Chairman Buffone officially called the meeting of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board to order at 10:10 AM at the UMASS Eastern Extension Center, 240 Beaver Street in Waltham on Wednesday, January 24, 2007.

Chairman Buffone noted a quorum was present for today's meeting and that all three members of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board were present, which include himself as Chairman representing the Department of Agricultural Resources, Mike Gildesgame representing the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Glenn Haas representing the Department of Environmental Protection. Also, the chairman announced for the record that this meeting was posted accordingly with the Secretary of State and Executive Office of Administration and Finance.

Before continuing, he reminded those in attendance to sign the attendance sheet that had been distributed.

Introductory Remarks

Chairman Buffone began by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. He offered that even though the month is almost over, expressed that the New Year is an opportunity to accomplish much as well as make improvements from the prior year. With that being said, he reported to those present what had transpired since the last meetings of the Board, which took place in November and December of 2006.

He commented that, Donna Mitchell, working in the position of the projects administrator for the past 4 and ½ years, has resigned and will be working as Finance Director for the Old Colony Elder Care Services in Brockton, MA. Her last day was January 12, 2007. On behalf of the Board and Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), Chairman Buffone extended officially his best wishes for success in her new endeavor and conveyed the Boards gratitude for all the work she did while she was here.

Also, he informed those present that Larry McCormick, General Counsel for DAR, has left the Department and moved on to new endeavor within the Boston Municipal Court System. Again, on behalf of the Board and the DAR, he officially wished him well and success. Chairman Buffone mentioned that Larry's legal review of Board issue were critical to the Board success in a number of areas.

Chairman Buffone stated that New Year brought other changes due to administration changes throughout the state. He acknowledged a new Executive office of Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles and acting Commissioner Scott J. Soares for DAR.

On behalf of the Board, he congratulated the new appointments and also for the record extended the Board's appreciation for both Bob Golledge Jr., the former Secretary, and former DAR Commissioner, Doug Gillespie, for their support over past few years regarding the Boards activities and actions. The Board trusts their skills, experience, and knowledge will serve the greater good in whatever endeavor they pursue.

The Chairman also inform those present the sad news of a longtime, cherished colleague and professor of tropical health at the Harvard School of Public Health, Andrew Spielman who passed away just before the New Year. Chairman Buffone remarked that Andy was an expert on vector-borne diseases such as Malaria and helped the Board and mosquito control districts a number of times over the years when confronting Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV). In fact, the Chairman noted a recent book Andy authored published 2001 titled "Mosquito" The Story of a Man's Deadliest Foe, published by Hyperion of NY, during annual West Nile virus (WNV) municipal employee training. On behalf of the Board, he offered condolences to his family. Finally, the Chairman concluded by saying that anyone who knew Andy or worked with him can honor him in their memories both in thought and prayer.

Administrative Work and New Forms

The Chairman announced that the Board had been busy so far in the New Year interviewing Mosquito Control Commissioners on January 12th and 16th and before and after this meeting. Also, he noted that as of January 12th, the Board is requiring that all mosquito control commissions/districts use new forms regarding payment vouchers and reimbursement forms (for travel). The reasons cited by the Chairman was that this was in line with the Boards plans for establishing more administrative uniformity for the mosquito control districts with the help of the Human Resources Director, Chief Fiscal Officer and General Counsel of the Department of Agricultural Resources.

Finally, he mentioned that the business part of the Board meeting is completed after agenda item 10 so that the Board can recess the meeting and reconvene it at 12:15 to interview a Commissioner up for re-appointment. The Chairman invited anyone who might be interested to stay. After the Board interviews the candidate scheduled, it can determine if this candidate should be re-appointed and then adjourn the meeting.

The Chairman asked the other Board members if they had any introductory remarks to make at this point in the meeting? There were none. However, a number of questions were asked from those present and a discussion followed.

John Doane asked the Board if anything else would be discussed after the Board reconvenes after interviewing a Commissioner for re-appointed. He was told that the Board would determine whether or not to re-appoint the Commissioner and then officially adjourn the meeting.

Questions about the filling the positions previously mentioned pertaining to the General Counsel and Projects Administration were raised. Also, some mosquito control districts petitioned the Board for the need to hire new personnel for the upcoming mosquito season especially those districts that have gained new towns. The Chairman commented that the positions of General Counsel and Projects Administrator were posted and efforts were underway to fill these positions. Also, the Chairman mentioned that there were no changes in current hiring freeze policy and recommended to contact DAR Human Resources Director as it concerned district new hires. Chairman Buffone could not forecast when the hiring freeze might be relaxed. Glenn Haas stated that the state is currently in the process of budget cut reviews for the next couple of months and until these reviews are approved, that we are in more or less a lock down until the fiscal

matters are sorted out. He mentioned that the type of funding such as trust or federal accounts did not matter.

It was noted in the discussion that in lieu of permanent positions being approved, seasonal hires have been allowed to date.

Chairman Buffone thanked everyone who weighed in these issues and conveyed his appreciation to the concerns. He noted that the Board would do what it could to address these issues and stated that there was a need to bring to the next meeting DAR Human Resources and Chief Fiscal Officer to help answer some of these questions and to clarify some of the new administrative changes.

Agenda Item #2: Vote to approve Nov 1st, 2006 and December 6th, 2006 Minutes

Background: Chairman Buffone mentioned that the Board was quite busy at the close of the year with 2 meetings one regular scheduled meeting on Nov 1st and a special meeting held on Dec 6th, 2006. For those needing a copy of the minutes, Chairman Buffone noted that the Board's minutes were available on its webpage.

Further, he remarked that although the Board had officially convened on both January 12th and 16th, 2007, these meetings were only to conduct Commissioner interviews and as a result there were no minutes for those dates.

Therefore, Chairman Buffone entertained a motion to approve the minutes as written for Nov 1st, 2006 and December 6th.

Questions and Discussion:

Glenn Haas asked if the approval of the minutes could be done separately since he was not present at the November 1, 2006 meeting. The Chairman answered affirmatively. Also, Mike Gildesgame raised a point as to why we call the Board's business minutes/summary and not just minutes, Chairman Buffone stated that the minutes are both a summary as well as minutes accounting for the comprehensiveness and depth of these documents to keep with the Board's desire to be open and transparent in these matters.

Also, Kimberly King pointed out a few minor edits on the affiliations of a few individuals who attended the December 6, 2006 minutes. The Chairman acknowledged these changes for correction.

Action Taken: Mike Gildesgame made a motion to approve the minutes of November 1, 2006. Mark Buffone seconded the motion. Glenn Haas abstained since he was not present at this meeting. However, the vote carried 2-1 to approve the November 1, 2006 minutes.

Glenn Haas made a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2006. The motion was seconded by Mike Gildesgame and voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Vote to approve slate of Commissioner Appointments/Re-appointment for terms expiring Nov 30, 2005 and November 30, 2006.

Background:

Chairman Buffone distributed and recommended to the Board a proposed slate of Commissioners to be appointed/re-appointed who were recently interviewed. Recommend for Appointment/Reappointments the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mosquito Control District</u>	<u>Term expires on (Date)</u>
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REAPPOINTMENTS

Arthur F. Tobin	Bristol	11/30/2006 (11/30/2011)
Jere Downing	Cape Cod	11/30/2006 (11/30/2009)
Richard Day	Central	11/30/2006 (11/30/2011)
George Smith Jr.	Central	11/30/2005 (11/30/2010)
Maureen P. MacEachern	Norfolk	11/30/2006 (11/30/2011)
Leighton F. Peck Jr	Plymouth	11/30/2006 (11/30/2011)

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Filling Vacancy (John Kenney)	Plymouth	11/30/2005 (11/30/2010)
Filling Vacancy (Sunny Cai)	Suffolk	11/30/2005 (11/30/2010)

Questions and Discussion:

It was the understanding of the other Board members that we had already voted for these appointments and re-appointments. Chairman Buffone explained that those individuals interviewed were only recommended not officially voted by the Board. Also, the Chairman explained that the Board agreed that the priority at this time is to ensure that each district has a full compliment of Commissioners to meet one of the Boards objectives for 2007.

Action Taken:

Mike Gildesgame made a motion to accept the entire slate as presented by the Chairman and Glenn Haas seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Announcement

After voting unanimously for the proposed slate of Commissioners, Chairman Buffone announced and reminded those present that the Board would take a recess to interview

one additional Commissioner at 12:15PM. Also, he informed the Board that Richard J. Kirchner submitted a letter of resignation and that the Board would need to seek someone to fill this vacancy. Chairman Buffone noted that the vacancy will be posted on the Board's website as well as contacting the Western Public Health District Coordinator Charlie Kaniecki to make health officials in western Massachusetts aware that there is a vacancy for the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project Commission/District located at 19 Harris Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Anyone interested can contact Superintendent James Jake Jurgenson 413-447-9809 or e-mail him at BCMCP@BCN.NET

Agenda Item #4: Feedback and Vote to approve and clarify draft policy on Work Attendance and State Holidays

Background:

Chairman Buffone distributed a draft policy along with a list of holidays that the state observes for the 2007. This was done to clarify an issue that was brought to the Board's attention regarding time off for employees that had not been authorized without proper or appropriate recording of the time. Chairman Buffone commented that the Board recognizes that each mosquito control district may have their own policies for work attendance, vacation, sick days etc. However, he emphasized that the mosquito control districts policies must be in compliance with state policies, rules and regulations.

He announced that mosquito control commissions and their superintendents/directors do not have the authority to approve time off the books. The Chairman did express that part of the issue was that the Board has not provided guidance in this matter and as such wanted to do so now to resolve the issue brought to the Board and to prevent any future issues.

The Chairman reminded the mosquito control district and Commission representatives that beyond the issue that was brought to the attention of the Board, this draft policy was part of the Board's expressed purpose of developing an "internal control document" to set standards and codify certain administrative practices in order to comply with state oversight obligations of the various state authorities such as the State Comptroller, State Auditor, and Environmental Secretariat.

Essentially, the draft policy states that time off must be recorded accurately and all time must be recorded and list the paid holidays approved by the state for 2007.

Questions and Discussion:

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning this issue including but not limited to a number of comments such as observance of Suffolk County holidays both inside and outside of Suffolk County, collective bargaining agreements, the Red Book, variations between all the mosquito control districts, and the reasons for the action brought to the attention of the Board.

Within the scope of discussions, it was commented that the Board's current plan for standardization dilutes the authority of the existing mosquito control commissions from a regional authority to more state authority. Chairman Buffone explained that the

Board was not diluting Commission authority but providing them guidance and instructions to better to help them understand what their authority is within the state compliance process.

In addressing the issue, Glenn Haas made a suggestion that the Board could look at the possibility of having districts work those holidays that might fall within the more busy time of the mosquito season and to exchange that day of work for a day later in the year that is not as critical to the mission of the mosquito control district such as the day after Thanksgiving. He suggested that the Board determine if there is flexibility with the existing rules for those outside of Suffolk County

Chairman Buffone agreed that it would be better for the Board to have employees working on June 17th compared to the day after Thanksgiving and that the time is appropriately recorded on the books.

The Chairman would seek more input on this issue from DAR Human Resources Director and Chief Fiscal Officer.

Action Taken:

No action was taken

Agenda Item #5: FY 08 Budgets Estimates

Background: In keeping with SRMCB Policy 2005-2 voted by the SRMCB on May 5, 2005, the SRMCB FY 08 budget estimates have been submitted to the Board and sent to the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services. Chairman Buffone reminded the Board that the estimated FY 08 amounts would be certified and voted by the SRMCB at its May 30, 2007 meeting. Therefore, we will need the final numbers on or before May 15, 2007.

Questions and Discussion:

A lengthy discussion took place about the needs of mosquito control such as financial and research. As the subject of budgets were discussed, Kimberly King asked if the Board could look into how a non-profit group like hers could contribute funding to mosquito districts especially those where arbovirus occurrence like EEEv is more common for the purpose of allowing them to do more work especially proactive work to combat EEEv. Heidi Ricci asked if there was a need for additional funds to help with other issues such as updated the GEIR or outreach. Discussion ensued about the topic of emergency funding for interventions to suppress EEEv outbreaks too.

Action Taken:

No action taken

Agenda Item #6: Winter Workgroups

Background: Chairman Buffone informed the Board that he would be co-chairing a workgroup with Suzanne Condon of DPH over the next few months regarding the 2006 aerial spray and recommendations for 2007. He mentioned that Cynthia Stinson of the State Labs had contacted him that these groups need to get started if they have not

already. There are a number of workgroups including but not limited to efficacy, risk communication, quantification of early season indicators-larval counts, and laboratory testing: EEE in birds, other virus testing. The goal of each workgroup is to produce a concise document or set of recommendation that answers the critical questions posed by DPH State labs.

The Chairman asked that those mosquito control superintendents/directors who were willing to participate to begin the exercise as soon as possible since time was short with deadlines right around the corner.

Questions and Discussion:

NONE

Action Taken:

No Action taken.

Agenda Item #7: Public Health Conference

Background:

Chairman Buffone informed the Board that the 1st New England Regional Public Health Conference sponsored by the State Laboratories Institute, Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, American Society for Microbiology (Northeast Branch), and the National Laboratory Training Network was being held on March 1st 2007, in Shrewsbury, MA. He encourage that all members of the Board try to attend this conference.

Questions and Discussion:

None

Action Taken:

No action taken.

Agenda Item #8: 2007 AMCA Meeting

Chairman Buffone informed the Board of the 73rd Annual American Mosquito Control Meeting being held April 1-5, 2007 in Orlando, Florida. He remarked that this meeting is an essential meeting for all mosquito control professionals in addition to the Northeast meeting and New Jersey Meetings held annually.

Questions and Discussion:

A discussion ensued about the fact that the agenda for this annual meeting had not been drafted to date and in order to get travel approval, an agenda or presentation schedule was needed. There was a request that the Board draft a letter stating that the aforementioned meetings are important for mosquito control personnel to attend to maintain and enhance their knowledge and professional expertise as well as keep up with the current technologies. The Board members had no objection if the Chairman attended this meeting and report back to the Board.

Action Taken:

No action taken.

Chairman Request and Reminder

Chairman Buffone reminded that that were in attendance that Board would recess at 12:15 PM and reconvene later and asked if there were any questions to this point. There were none.

Agenda Item #9: December 6th meeting next Steps

Background:

Chairman Buffone commented on the Board meeting held on December 6th as a good start to dialogue about a complicated issue especially in light of the aerial spray in 2006. He stated that the presence of many people with both pro and con arguments proved the genuine interest surrounding the topic of mosquito control in Massachusetts. He hoped that the meeting demonstrated an effort by the Board to listen to all the viewpoints and hopefully work with one another to strengthen mosquito control.

The Chairman expressed his belief that the Board's goal should be to find common ground amongst the various viewpoints and to make a good faith effort to work towards consensus (where feasible and when practical). Where we can find common ground, one of the things that stuck out to him at the December 6th meeting were things like more advanced notification, monitoring protocols, and increased public education. He thought that these areas many of us could agree that those are areas that we can find some common ground in as we prepare for 2007. Finally, he mentioned that there would be areas of disagreement. He noted that these areas need to be discussed and deliberated within the context of science in order to for the Board and the mosquito control districts operating under the Board to carry out the most meaningful and effective interventions.

Chairman Buffone place these remarks on the table and invited all present to make suggestions, comments or recommendations as to this meeting and where we should go from here. He further stated that perhaps the DPH work groups were the most appropriate forums for many us to work together. He asked of this would be sufficient. Also, he asked if this would satisfy those that have concerns.

Questions and Discussion:

Another lengthy discussion took place with comments from Heidi Ricci with many questions regarding not just the emergency response for EEEV in 2006 but other questions about mosquito control activities in Massachusetts. Kimberly King commented on her educational campaign to get the message of awareness in the public eye as it related to mosquitoes as a danger and taking EEEV precautions seriously. During this discussion, another topic was raised about wetland restoration in the Town of Hanson and the potential creation of mosquito habitats.

Action Taken

No action taken.

Agenda Item #10: Other

The business part of the Board meeting was completed. The Chairman suggested recessing the meeting and reconvening it at 12:15 to interview a Commissioner up for re-appointment. All are welcome to stay but he thought that based on past experience most folks will depart

Mike Gildesgame made a motion to take a short recess. The motion was seconded by Glenn Haas and voted unanimously.

Agenda Item #11: Vote To Adjourn

Chairman Buffone reconvened the meeting at 12:55 PM, which took place after the Board recessed to interview a candidate for re-appointment to the Suffolk County Mosquito Control Commission. At this time, Mike Gildesgame made a motion to re-appoint the below listed Commissioner and seconded by Mark Buffone and voted unanimously.

Recommended for Appointment/Reappointments the following a favorable interview held after the reconvening of the meeting after the business portion of the meeting is completed.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mosquito Control District</u>	<u>Term expires on (Date)</u>
REAPPOINTMENT		
Anna Todesca	Suffolk	11/30/2006 (11/30/2011)

Also, a motion to adjourn the meeting carried unanimously moved by Mike Gildesgame and seconded by Mark Buffone.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Buffone
Chairman