



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.ht>



MITT ROMNEY
Governor

KERRY HEALEY
Lt. Governor

Mark S. Buffone, Chairman
Department of Agricultural Resources
Mike Gildesgame
Department of Conservation & Recreation
Gary P. Gonyea
Department of Environmental Protection

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EOEA Secretary

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MDAR Commissioner

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STATE RECLAMATION AND MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD MINUTES/SUMMARY

WHO: State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB)
DATE: **May 24, 2006**
WHERE: 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA

PRESENT: Representing
State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board

Mark Buffone, SRMCB, Chairman
Mike Gildesgame, SRMCB, Member
Gary Gonyea, SRMCB, Member
Donna Mitchell, SRMCB, Projects Administrator

Mosquito Control Project Commissions

None Present

Mosquito Control Directors/Superintendents or Assistants

Tim Deschamps, Central Mass Mosquito Control Project
John Doane, Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project
Tim McGlinchy, Central Mass Mosquito Control Project
Walter Montgomery, Northeast Mass Mosquito Control and Wetlands District
Gabrielle Sakolsky, Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project
Robert "Bob" Thorndike, Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project

Others

None Present

Calling the Meeting to order and Introductions

Chairman Mark Buffone of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board officially opened the meeting at 10:05 AM on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at the UMass Eastern Extension Center, - the Waltham Field Station.

He remarked that he serves on the SRMCB as the representative for the Department of Agricultural Resources. He noted that Gary Gonyea, representing the Department of Environmental Protection and the new member Mike Gildesgame representing the Department of Conservation and Recreation were present.

With the three members of the SRMCB introduced, Chairman Buffone announced a quorum for today's meeting

Agenda Item #1: Approval of February 15, 2006 Minutes

Background:

Chairman Buffone noted that the minutes of February 15, 2006 were in order and entertained a motion to approve them as written, with or without edits, as well as the minutes for March 30th and April 3rd meetings relative to the Board conducting interviews for eligible commissioners and make the interviews as an official meeting to comply with the open meeting law.

Questions and Discussion: NONE

Action Taken:

Gary Gonyea made a motion to approve the minutes with edits and Mike Gildesgame seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the vote to approve the minutes of February 15th with edits, March 30th and April 3rd carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #2: Vote to certify FY 07 Budgets

Background:

Chairman Buffone thanked Donna Mitchell for her assistance with the February 15th minutes and requested that the record show that she helped. He also asked Ms. Mitchell, to give a brief presentation relating to the FY07 budgets, the last few fiscal years, as well as the rollover issue since we had to ensure that the districts are not rolling over excessive amounts. Donna distributed the FY07 spreadsheet that will be submitted to the Department of Revenue (DOR) for the FY07 assessments for review. Donna pointed out that although Bruce Landers of Suffolk Mosquito Control was not able to be present (he was at a Commissioners' meeting), that the number on the spreadsheet for Suffolk represented a relatively small increase. However Suffolk may need an additional amount to purchase another truck. Suffolk has only one truck at the present time with over 100,000 miles, and they would like to purchase a small fuel-efficient truck. Therefore, Bruce Landers is requesting an increase at his commissioners meeting. The letter of justification for the increase would also be forthcoming upon the Suffolk County Commissioners approval of the purchase and increase.

In addition, Donna explained the policy of written justification of any increases to be submitted to and approved by the SRMCB before being forwarded to the DOR for assessments. This process has worked well and all districts complied. Chairman Buffone commented that although no one likes to hear about increases, the increases submitted from his review were well justified, especially as it relates to fuel increases, staffing increases, and the addition of new municipalities.

Chairman Buffone also mentioned the issue of rollovers, and that last year, although there was no formal policy, the SRMCB had a consensus that we would like to see the rollovers limited to 10%. He further stated that the SRMCB was not objecting to rollovers, since there were instances where the rollover funding is needed. For example, he commented on the recent heavy rains where Director of Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project, John Smith is using some of Norfolk's rollover money to do timely larviciding. Chairman Buffone remarked that should we get additional heavy rains, Norfolk would have the funds to do additional larviciding as well. He reiterated that the rollovers were a good thing, but he did not want to see excessive amounts, such as in the past with Plymouth and Bristol's rollovers. Ms. Mitchell pointed to the attachment in the handouts that listed what each project has or will do with the rollover amounts, and explained that Plymouth's rollover amounts would be expended over 2 years for both FY06 and FY07, as listed in the rollover handout. Any mosquito control project that had rollover amounts of 10% or less was not subject to the breakdown. There was a consensus that the rollover amounts were in line this year but acknowledged it was something we need to monitor closely.

Walter Montgomery explained the process with the DOR and the fact that his numbers will not be final until the DOR completes the final calculations for his district. He also noted that the Administration Budget increased due to the planned addition of a staff member. Chairman Buffone explained that the SRMCB needed additional help to assist with situations such as work done by non-member communities, to develop professional presentations for all towns, to identify additional resources via grant writing requests, recommend solution regarding issues within the state hierarchy and ensure compliance, etc.

John Doane had a few comments on the budget – first of all, SRMCB has a large percentage increase, and although the increase looks high, when you break it down in dollar figures amongst the cities and towns it is a very small increase to each town. Secondly, he pointed out that it is a little unfair saying that the Northeast District had a 31% increase, since new towns joining this District increased their budget. Gary Gonyea suggested that we characterize it as a 2.5% increase plus list the costs for the new towns separately.

John also noted that the Administration budget included a line item for a new position including fringe benefits. Chairman Buffone pointed out that this technical position would assist the SRMCB, as it is responsible to all 351 municipalities. Walter Montgomery interjected that the mosquito control projects member municipalities would be accessed proportionately for this newly proposed position that would serve the entire state. He further stated that it could come up as an issue with the commissioners. Tim

Deschamps agreed that his commissioners might also have an issue with it. Walter Montgomery suggested that all cities and towns of the Commonwealth, and not just the member cities and towns fund the Administration account, as the work of the Administration and the SRMCB benefits the entire state.

John Doane remarked that a more important issue than the proposed technical position is whether or not Ms. Mitchell is fairly compensated for her position. Walter Montgomery agreed with Mr Doane and pointed out that Ms. Mitchell's job is equivalent with that of a town administrator position, however she is dealing with multiple agencies and districts. Chairman Buffone said that any kind of upgrade would have to go through Brad Mitchell and Human Resources (HR). He commented that if those present felt strongly about this matter, they could have their project commissioners write letters in support of this upgrade. Mike Gildesgame pointed out that the duties and responsibilities of the position need to be examined to determine if in fact it is incorrectly categorized. Chairman Buffone also pointed out that the EPRS needs to be done and it must be determined as to who would be the best person to evaluate her performance – the SRMCB, the Chairman, Brad Mitchell, etc. Gary Gonyea made a motion to explore a reclassification of Donna Mitchell's position and all that it would require. Chairman Buffone stated that he would explore this issue with HR and Mr. Brad Mitchell and draft up a letter from the SRMCB, along with any letters of support regarding re-evaluating her position.

Chairman Buffone also mentioned the idea of approaching Lisa Juskiewicz from DOR about the idea of all cities and towns being assessed a small amount. The other idea discussed was the pursuit of federal grants to finance new equipment, research etc.

Questions and Discussion:

Further discussion ensued concerning the hiring of a technical assistant for SRMCB and a number of ideas were put on the table regarding the duties and responsibilities of such a position, as well as the benefits to the member communities and mosquito control projects. Such discussions included conducting efficacy and resistance studies, writing of federal grants, recommendations for administrative changes, etc. It was also pointed out that there were a few districts not present, and some present felt that there should have been more notification and clarification to the district commissions and the projects before adding this position to the SRMCB budget. Gary Gonyea suggested sending a notice of the newly proposed position along with proposed responsibilities to the commissioners.

Action Taken:

Mike Gildesgame made a motion to certify the budget with the caveats and notes that we have looked into other payment options for the technical assistant. Gary Gonyea seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the vote to approve the 2007 budget passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Old Business

Background:

Chairman Buffone mentioned that Steven Antunes-Kenyon (DAR Toxicologist) requested that the all mosquito control districts send him a list of the larvicides and adulticides they are currently using. The Department of Fish and Game wants to review and approve larviciding and adulticiding that is performed within or near critical priority habitats. The SRMCB understand that DAR and DFG are currently developing a memorandum of understanding concerning this issue.

Unresolved issues surrounding the dissemination of information from the DPH in relation to the adulticiding aerial maps was discussed. Walter Montgomery said that maps for his District were complete with the exception of the data from the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP).

Tim Deschamps inquired as to any guidance as far as ground adulticiding in or around priority habitats designated for endangered species. Chairman Buffone replied that Steve Kenyon would send his data with some risk mitigation information to the Department of Fish and Game by the end of this week. Chairman Buffone would follow-up with NHESP regarding the potential for a waiver to be able to perform adulticide activities in these areas while an MOU is being developed.

Chairman Buffone commented on designated buffers around school property for ground based spraying. He remarked that the mosquito control projects should follow their own basic exclusionary policies in regards to no-spray zones as it relates to state pesticide law since the Children and Families Protection Act was now part of Chapter 132 B of the MGL. He commented that DAR would send out guidance based on the meeting held on March 29th with DAR pesticide enforcement to make it clearer for the mosquito control projects to comply. Also, he noted as a result of a meeting with the Districts and DAR on March 29th, DAR enforcement staff recognize that the projects need some flexibility in spraying near day care centers and school property in order to impede effective ground based adulticide operations.

Questions and Discussion: NONE

Action Taken: NONE

Agenda Item #4 New Business

The issue of Nantucket forming or becoming a mosquito control district was discussed.

John Doane stated the Cape Cod Commissioners believe Nantucket should form their own District. John said the legislation to establish a Nantucket District exists and that they use to have a functioning district. Gary Gonyea asked Gabrielle Sakolsky and John Doane if they would be willing to provide technical assistance to them, and Gabby replied that Nantucket staff could come over and look at the work Cape Cod has done.

Chairman Buffone asked John Doane and Gabrielle Sakolsky if they would be willing to make a site visit to Nantucket and provide technical assistance. John Doane said they always try to help. However, his commissioners raised the issue of reimbursement for expenses. Ms. Mitchell added that if Nantucket formed their own district they would be able to reimburse John and Gabby for expenses. After discussion, Chairman Buffone stated the SRMCB would follow-up on the issue of Nantucket in that in order to better understand their mosquito problems and the SRMCB would need information such as what species of mosquito are present on the island, estimate of population densities, other problems, and provide information on how to control mosquitoes including Open Water Marsh management techniques.

Questions and Discussion:

John Doane suggested that the SRMCB members pursue a site visit to Nantucket and meet with the selectmen to help make the decision as to whether or not they would form their own district. Ms Mitchell will conduct further research into Nantucket legislation.

Agenda Item #5: Next Meeting Date

It was decided that the next meeting would take place on July 19th, but the location would be determined at a later date.

Action Taken:

*Motion to adjourn meeting. So moved by Gary Gonyea and Mike Gildesgame.
Seconded by Gary Gonyea. Vote carried unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM

Respectfully submitted:

Mark Buffone, Chairman
Donna Mitchell, Projects Administrator