



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Agricultural Resources
State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board
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 Lt. Governor

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**STATE RECLAMATION AND MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD MINUTES
 OCTOBER 6, 2004**

WHO: State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB)
DATE: October 6, 2004
WHERE: 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA
PRESENT: Representing

State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board

Mark Buffone, SRMCB, Chairman
 Charlie Burnham, SRMCB, Member
 Gary Gonyea, SRMCB, Member
 Donna Mitchell, SRMCB, Projects Administrator

Mosquito Control Project Commissions

Richard Day, Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Commission
 Richard Pollack, Norfolk County Mosquito Control Commission
 Linda Shea, Norfolk County Mosquito Control Commission
 Wally Terrill, Berkshire County Mosquito Control Commission

Mosquito Control Directors/Superintendents

Wayne Andrews, Bristol County Mosquito Control Project
 Tim Deschamps, Central Mass Mosquito Control Project
 David Henley, East Middlesex County 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 Smith, Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project
 Bob Thorndike, Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project
 Ray Zucker, Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project

Others

Suzanne Luinis, True North Mapping, Inc.
 Cindy Stinson, Department of Public Health
 Barbara Werner, Department of Public Health

Introduction

The meeting of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board was called to order at 10:04 AM on October 6, 2004 taking place at the Waltham Field Station (UMass Eastern Extension Center at 240 Beaver Street Waltham, MA.

The Chairman introduced himself and remarked for the record that notices of the meeting had been filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 11A 1/2.

The Chair introduced the other Board members Charlie Burnham representing the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Gary Gonyea, representing the Department of Environmental Protection and therefore the Board had a quorum.

The chair stated that he distributed a sign up sheet for those present and ask that the sheet be completed including e-mail addresses.

Agenda Item #1: Summary of June 9th Meeting

The Chair outlined the following summary of the prior meeting held on June 9, 2004

- June 9th was the first meeting that Mark Buffone officially presided as chairman
- The Board approved the use of the RAMP field test for West Nile Virus detection as proposed by the Northeast Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District.
- The Board established the date of the October 6th meeting and an annual meeting schedule for 2005
- The General Counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources was introduced and invited to address a number of legal concerns expressed by mosquito control Commissioners.
- A group of mosquito control Commissioners met after the June 9th Board meeting to explore the possibilities of organizing for the purpose of enhancing communication between mosquito control commissions.

Question and Discussion: A question on obtaining a summary of results was raised regarding the use of the RAMP testing by the Northeast Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District. Walter Montgomery noted that Northeast Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District would present a paper at the Northeast Mosquito Control Association December Meeting. In addition, John Smith remarked that the paper would be posted on the Northeast Mosquito Control Association website next year.

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Action Taken: Gary Gonyea requested that the Board receive a summary or abstract of the results of the RAMP testing in 2004 by the Northeast Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District before the proceedings are published later in 2005 for the purpose of posting on the Board website.

Agenda Item # 2: Approval of June 9, 2004 Minutes

Question and Discussion: None

Action Taken: Gary Gonyea made a motion to approve the June 9, 2004 minutes as outlined and second by Charlie Burnham. The vote to approve the June 9, 2004 minutes carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 3: Re-appointment and Appointment of Commissioners

Question and Discussion: The Chair remarked that the Board has received a number of applications regarding Commissioner reappointments and appointments since the June 9th meeting. He summarized to those present that the Board had received 3 requests for first time appointments to the Bristol County and Northeast Districts and 4 requests for re-appointment involving Bristol Mosquito Control, Cape Cod Mosquito Control, the Central MA Mosquito Control and the Plymouth County Mosquito Control,

He noted that efforts there have been recent improvement to the appointment and re-appointment process. For example, it was mentioned that the new application and required signature statement of duties and responsibilities are posted on the Board's website that can be downloaded and that anyone interested in appointment or re-appointment should utilize this format.

However, he further commented that the record-keeping and general format for appointing and re-appointing Commissioners still has a number of deficiencies that need correction. In the main, the Chair acknowledged that it was the Board's objective to organize and enhance this process. As a result, Chairman Buffone proposed that the Board postpone the vote to appoint and re-appoint Commissioners until another meeting can be scheduled or for the meeting scheduled for January 12, 2005. Also, he wanted to propose some other ideas for the Board members to consider such as enhancing the application process beyond the written application including but not limited to an interview process for all Commissioners whether or not they are seeking first time appointment or re-appointment, the creation of a subcommittee of 2 Board members to perform the interviews, further that someone removed from the Board business sit in on these interviews and recommend that this person be someone from the State Department of Public Health, that if there is a lack of interest for Commissioner positions that advertisements be purchased in major newspaper, additional mailings to seek applicants, interview process take place in an accessible location such as Waltham.

Overall, these proposals are intended to strengthen, and make more equitable this important process

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Action Taken: Charlie Burnham made a motion (pertaining to appointment and re-appointment of mosquito control districts or project Commissioners) **that** the SRMCB form a subcommittee of two SRMCB members (one member to be the Chairman) and also to request a member of DPH to be appointed by that agency to serve as interview team for the Commissioner appointments and re-appointments; that we further expand the outreach to get applicants for these positions, and that all recommendations be done and reported back to the SRMCB for appointment and/or re-appointment by the January 12, 2005 meeting. Additionally, all current Commissioners who have not been officially appointed and/or re-appointed will remain in their positions on an interim basis until such time as re-appointed. Gary Gonyea seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Mosquito Control Tort Claims

Question and Discussion: Chairman Buffone brought to the Board's attention that mosquito control districts and projects have authorized settlements of claims made against them for damages due to motor vehicle accidents involving the district or project employee. The resolution of these motor vehicle cases or tort claims has created a problem. The problem is that these settlements were agreed upon to be settled for the FULL amount without going through the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) General Counsel. He commented that this must not happen any more.

The Chairman wanted to make it clear that there is a process in dealing with Tort claims such as motor vehicle accidents, which must be followed. This process means that these Tort claims must go through the MDAR General Counsel. As a result, the Chair proposed that a policy that has been drafted on this matter be adopted and if approved will be mailed out to all Commissions and mosquito control districts and projects.

Action Taken: Gary Gonyea made a motion to accept the policy titled Motor Vehicle Accident Policy Discussion and Statement as written and submitted on October 6, 2004 to the Board and noted amendment below. In part the policy states,

No mosquito control district or project Commission, Director or Superintendent, or anyone on their behalf, or any staff thereof, are authorized to verbally or in writing approve settlements resulting from presentation of claims concerning torts such as motor vehicle accidents without consultation and assent from the General Counsel of the Department of Agricultural Resources.

Noted amendment: The SRMCB would send the policy to the Commissions and the projects and also develop a glove box bulletin on how to deal with an accident for the project employees as well as having the date on this policy

Charlie Burnham seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously

Agenda Item # 5: 50th Annual Meeting of the Northeast Mosquito Control Association (NMCA)

Question and Discussion:

The Chairman announced that the 50th Annual Meeting of the Northeast Mosquito Control Association (NMCA) would be held in Newport, RI from December 6-8th, 2004 and encouraged the other Board members to attend and that further that many of the Commissions and projects Superintendents would like to see the Board represent in light of the past two (2) years and the upcoming year that SRMCB members attend.

Discussion ensued concerning member's compensation for traveling and other expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Action Taken:

Out-of- State Travel Form (TAF) needs to be completed and approved. Ms Mitchell would explore best fiscal methodology for member reimbursements due to new accounting rules through the payroll HRCMS system since each member represented different state agencies.

Agenda Item # 6: Northeast Mosquito Control Association (NMCA) Membership

Question and Discussion:

The Chairman discussed with Gary Gonyea and Charlie Burnham that membership to Northeast Mosquito Control Association (NMCA) is included in the registration fee for the meeting. If members attend the NMCA meeting, their membership dues are included in the Registration Fee and in the event the Board members do not attend that we would have their membership paid separately in January 2005

Action Taken:

NONE

Agenda Item #7: Other Business (staying ahead of the curve)

Question and Discussion:

The Chairman placed on the table a number of issues listed below that need to be addressed for the future.

Action Taken:

a. GEIR and SRMCB Website

Chairman Buffone brought the attention to the Board and others that the Mosquito Generic Environmental Impact Report (GEIR) has been posted on the SRMCB website and all were encouraged to go on website to view and review.

b. Insecticide Resistance Management

Chairman Buffone expressed concerned that an important component of Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) or Integrated Pest Management (IPM) lacking in Massachusetts is a resistance management strategy. This is especially important in light of the fact that mosquito control has a limited number of public health pesticides or tools to control mosquitoes. The Board heard from others such as East Middlesex Mosquito Control acknowledging that they have looked at the larvicide *Bacillus spaericus* (Bs) and collected egg rafts and sent to California to look at resistance and no resistance was found. Also, Rich Pollack sent mosquitoes to the Center For Disease Control (CDC) that were tested with no sign of resistance.

The Chairman mentioned that had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Janet C. McAllister (Ph D) from the Center For Disease Control (CDC) in Fort Collins, CO. As a result, the Chairman has been able to secure a one-day training seminar with Dr. McAllister's on insecticide resistance management and bottle testing.

c. Letter to State Department Commissioners regarding arbovirus threat in 2005

Chairman Buffone suggested that we send to our respective Departments such as Department of Agricultural Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, and Department of Conservation and Recreation to "go on record" that the Board is concerned about the potential for an arbovirus outbreak in 2005. The letter would request that funding or a special contingency allotment be set aside in the FY 06 state budget to insure that the necessary funding to purchase pesticides and aerial application contract is available.

d. Mosquito Misting Systems

Chairman expressed concern about a growing industry in the United States (US) that sell mosquito misting systems. Apparently, these misting systems are more common in the Southern and Western parts of the US in response to West Nile Virus

Chairman stated that he is not aware if companies have been established in Northeast. However, Chairman Buffone mentioned that American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) and other groups have developed position papers essentially stating that such systems should be discouraged and contrary to IMM. The Chairman remarked that the Board should go "on record" that we discourage said mosquito misting services. It was hoped that a position statement be developed for the next meeting.

e. Private Mosquito Control

The Chairman also brought up the fact that with the relatively recent appearance of the West Nile Virus, the opportunity for private mosquito control services being offered to the public may become common. He mentioned that a number of training sessions have been held throughout the country suggesting private companies will make an opportunity of selling their services. The Chairman expressed concerns about this situation and encourages the SRMCB to develop position statements about these items.

Discussion focused on certification of those doing private mosquito control, the fact that private companies would not be working under the mosquito law (Chapter 252), would not likely be doing surveillance and only be able to offer homeowners a limited number of options to control mosquitoes such as adulticides.

A discussion ensued and the consensus appeared to gravitate to the development of a homeowner brochure that would discuss this topic including but not limited to components of IPM, the best approach to control mosquitoes, back yard spraying, regional mosquito control, over-the-counter homeowner products, use of 25 B products such as garlic etc.

Agenda Item # 8: Next meeting Date and Agenda Suggestions

Question and Discussion:

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2005 at 10:00 at the Waltham Field Station, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA.

Action Taken:

Chairman Buffone will reserve the conference room for the next meeting.

Agenda Item # 9: Adjournment

Question and Discussion:

Chairman Buffone entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gary Gonyea made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 AM. Seconded by Charlie Burnham and voted unanimously

Action Taken:

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted:

Mark S. Buffone, Chairman
Donna Mitchell, Projects Administrator

