



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 02114-2151

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



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**STATE RECLAMATION AND MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD (SRMCB)**

**Subject: Summary Meeting Minutes**

**Date / Time:** Wednesday, September 24, 2008

**Place:** 251 Causeway Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room  
Boston, MA 02114

**Attendees:**

SRMCB Board: Mark Buffone, Department of Agricultural Resources /SRMCB, Chairman  
Gary Gonyea, Department of Environmental Protection / SRMCB Member  
Anne Monnelly, Department of Conservation and Recreation / SRMCB Member  
Alisha Bouchard, SRMCB, Projects Administrator

1.0: Call to Order and Attendance. Chairman, Mark Buffone officially call the meeting of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board to order at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 251 Causeway Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room A, Boston, MA

He stated that today's meeting was posted at both the Secretary of States office and Executive Office of Administration and Finance pursuant to the Open meeting Law. And that the meeting was posted on the Board's website.

He introduced himself as Chairman and the fact that he was representing the Department of Agricultural Resources. He also recognized and introduced Anne Monnelly who represents the Department of Conservation and Recreation and Gary Gonyea who represents the Department of Environmental Protection.

He remarked that the Board did have a quorum for voting purposes.

Finally, he acknowledged the Board's Projects Administrator, Alisha Bouchard.

- 1.2: **Opening Remarks:** Chairman Buffone asked all present to sign the attendance sheet. The chairman mentioned that there would be a conference call in one hour with DPH. He commented that this is a routine conference call scheduled to review the current status of mosquitoes and arbovirus in Massachusetts. The rest of today's SRMCB meeting will focus on discussing a draft scope of work for the Board's GEIR, MEPA and EEA Secretary Certificate obligations, a proposed RFR, and an upcoming meeting with Coastal Zone Management and Northeast Mosquito Control pertaining to Open Marsh Water Management or OMWM. The Chairman went on to agenda item 2 to approve the minutes of the last meeting.
- 2.0: **Vote to Approve Minutes:**
- 2.1: **Background:** Chairman Buffone distributed minutes from the last meeting of July 23, 2008 for review and approval. He remarked that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes as written.
- 2.2: *Questions and Discussions:* None
- 2.3: **Action Taken:** Gary Gonyea after review of the July 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Anne Monnelly and voted unanimously to approve the minutes July 23, 2008.
- 3.0: **MEPA Filing Update**
- 3.1: **Background:** Chairman Buffone informed the Board that as Chairman he retracted the recent MEPA filing pertaining to OMWM along with the request for an extension to the overdue certificate deadline. Due to the appointment of a new MEPA director, it was conveyed to the Chairman that the Board should meet with the new director to hear MEPA expectations, and obtain additional facts concerning the Board's obligations to fulfill the MEPA requirements. The Chairman recommended all members be available to meet the new director, Alicia McDevitt.
- The Chairman stated that due to the importance of meeting MEPA deadlines, and the urgency of accomplishing a programmatic review and update of the GEIR that was completed in 1998, that the Board should use any funds it has available to employ a consultant. Chairman Buffone distributed a draft scope to the other members. He also mentioned that the Board would send an e-mail to the Commissions and MCPs and request their cooperation.
- 3.2: *Questions and Discussions:* Board discussed and explored potential vendors. The Board discussed posting an RFR on the Comm-Pass and the amount of funding that might be available. The Board also discussed deliverables that should be detailed in the RFR. Gary Gonyea remarked that it was important to know when the update would be due. Chairman Buffone stated that meeting with the new director would be useful to determine this information. Chairman Buffone told the members that he would send them the draft scope electronically for feedback. He also distributed copies of the February 15, 2008 certificate from the Secretary. The Chairman highlighted the requirements of the certificate for the Board.

Gary Gonyea also asked about the current status of the freshwater mosquito BMP. Chairman Buffone stated that he has been working with Mosquito Control Projects (MCPs) specialist and other Board Members to complete responses to comments that were received by the Secretary. The Chairman stated that he would like the Board to approve the comments at the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting so that the Board could approve for filing to MEPA. Chairman Buffone stated that it has been difficult to review draft responses due to work assignments. Gary Gonyea stated he had started the process of generating a response letter. The process entails taking specific comments from letters and drafting responses with input from MCPs and others. The Chairman noted that Gary did a very good job in beginning this process. The Chairman stated he would follow-up with MCPs wetland specialist personnel for feedback. The difficulty in this task is that MCPs and the Board members are very busy with a variety of work issues. Alisha Bouchard stated that she and Daniel Rhodes could assist the Board in posting the RFR but needed specific deliverables within the scope. Gary Gonyea suggested that the RFR be forwarded to former Board members to determine if they could offer any insights.

- 3.3: Action Taken:** No vote was taken but the members would aggressively work toward getting this task done as soon as possible. There was a consensus that the one of the issues that the board and MCPs know what we do, but it needs to be documented in a comprehensive document.
- 4.0: Update and Discussion on Meeting with CZM and Northeast Mosquito Control District**
- 4.1:** **Background:** Chairman Buffone commented on the meeting scheduled with CZM and the proposed agenda concerning the Federal Consistency Statement objections. The Chairman distributed a copy of the statement that outlined CZM concerns
- 4.2:** **Questions and Discussions:** The Board discussed the issue pertaining to CZM objections and the Northeast Mosquito District Open Marsh Water Management (OMWM) permit. Gary Gonyea noted that he felt that the CZM objections pertaining to post-project monitoring are not unreasonable. He stated that the Board must see in writing exactly what CZM want in terms of sampling. Anne Monnelly agreed noting that the objections were general in nature but that additional details were needed such as how many sites, how many replicates, for how long, what specific data points?. Chairman Buffone suggested that the Board attend this meeting with the goal of seeking a consensus and expressing that the Board desires a working relationship because the Board prefers OMWM as stated in the GEIR. The Board's concern is that the renewal of the OMWM permit is on hold postponing OMWM projects for this season and we want to see what we can do to effect a positive review because the objections have stopped the issuance of the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Gary Gonyea stated that one problem is that the OMWM information collected by Northeast Mosquito Control District has not been widely distributed beyond the Advisory Committee. The data and information on OMWM needs to be distributed to a wider audience for review.

Anne Monnelly read from a summary where the Northeast states their district has enjoyed great success using this technique. Anne asked where the data to substantiate that conclusion is. Chairman Buffone remarked that the Northeast has the data but it needs to be evaluated and discussed in a comprehensive report. The Board was in consensus that the report (copies of the Advisory Committee meeting minutes and field data sheets) that Northeast submitted to Gary Gonyea recently was not sufficient. The Board believes that the Northeast District needs to shift its priority to complete the 10-year review either by shifting personnel or hiring someone to get the review done. Chairman Buffone stated that he was told by the Northeast Director that someone was hired last season to begin the task of entering data electronically. Anne asked about the statement that the pre- and post data sheets indicate 80% efficacy or better? The Board could not find how this percent efficacy was derived.

The Board felt that the Northeast Mosquito Control District Commissioner could make this a priority to hire someone to evaluate and organize the data. Gary Gonyea and Anne Monnelly suggested to the Chairman that he ask his Commissioner to directly contact the Northeast Commission Chairman to stress the importance of completing the 10 year review document. The Board agrees that for OMWM to continue we need this document to submit to MEPA. Chairman Buffone stated that we should wait until the meeting tomorrow to determine what steps should be taken.

One comment made was that the District is operational in nature and it may require more resources to collect some types of post-project monitoring information. Even if CZM outlines what must be done to satisfy the federal consistency statement, it was agreed that these requests may be realistically outside of the scope of what the Northeast can do since they are not a research agency.

The Board feels that CZM has legitimate concerns and will work with them to seek realistic solutions that will not negatively impact the functions of Northeast Mosquito Control District. The Board seeks ideas and assistance from CZM to move this process forward. Ultimately, the Board agreed it needed more details from CZM to help clarify this issue.

4.3: **Action Taken:** None taken since meeting was scheduled for next day.

5.0: **DPH Conference Call**

5.1: **Background:** The Board adjourned the meeting to participate in the DPH conference call and to hear status update to this point in the season. This was expected to be the final conference call to discuss the current mosquito surveillance data and conditions of the 2008 mosquito season.

5.2: **Questions and Discussions:** None

5.3: **Action Taken:** None

6.0: Next Meeting Date

6.1: **Background:** The Chairman inform everyone of the next scheduled meeting date of the Board scheduled for Wednesday in Waltham October 15, 2008 UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED or needed to accomplish the Board's work

6.2: *Questions and Discussions:* None.

6.3: **Action Taken:** None.

7.0: Other Business

7.1: **Background:** None

7.2: *Questions and Discussions:* None.

7.3: **Action Taken:** None

8.0: Adjournment.

8.1: **Background:** The Chairman asked if there were any other comments or questions before the Board officially adjourned the meeting.

8.2: *Questions and Discussions:* None.

8.3: **Action Taken:** Gary Gonyea made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Anne Monnelly and voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Buffone  
Chairman