

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114  
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



CHARLES D. BAKER  
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO  
Lt. Governor

MATTHEW A. BEATON  
Secretary

JOHN LEBEAUX  
Commissioner

### MEMBERS

Alisha Bouchard, Chair  
Department of Agricultural  
Resources (DAR)

Jim Straub  
Department of Conservation  
And Recreation (DCR)

Gary Gonyea  
Department of Environmental  
Protection (DEP)

### OPERATIONS

Jennifer Forman Orth  
Environmental Biologist

Katherine McAuliffe  
Operations Coordinator

Jessica Burgess  
Legal Counsel

Alexander Gill  
Contracts Manager

### MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECTS & DISTRICTS

Berkshire County Mosquito  
Control Project

Bristol County Mosquito  
Control Project

Cape Cod Mosquito  
Control Project

Central Massachusetts  
Mosquito Control Project

East Middlesex Mosquito  
Control Project

Nantucket Mosquito Control  
Project

Norfolk County Mosquito  
Control District

Northeast Massachusetts  
Mosquito & Wetland  
Management District

Plymouth County Mosquito  
Control Project

Suffolk County Mosquito  
Control Project

## NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE STATE RECLAMATION AND MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD (SRMCB)

**Date:** Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

**Time:** 10:00 AM-NOON

**Location:** Northborough Free Library  
34 Main Street  
Northborough, MA

### MEETING AGENDA:

#### 1. **Start:**

- a) Call to Order by Alisha Bouchard, and Attendance: 10:00 am opened by Alisha Bouchard.
- b) Roll call: Alisha Bouchard, representing Commissioner Lebeaux of DAR, Gary Gonyea representing Commissioner Suuberg of DEP, and Jim Straub representing Commissioner Sanchez of DCR.

#### 2. **Introductions: Board Members and new Chief Apiary Inspector**

- a. Introductions and welcome for all
- b. Alisha discussed the role of DAR as the overseeing agency in the SRB.

#### 3. **Election of SRB Chair (vote required)**

- a. Gary motioned to nominate Alisha Bouchard as chair of the Board which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim, unanimous decision to elect Ms. Bouchard as chair.

#### 4. **FY17 Budget Requests**

- a) Alisha Bouchard asked Alex Gill to come to the meeting to assist in discussing the request.

- b) Alisha Bouchard explained that the SRB has its own budget process and policy. The policy needs updating of some of the administrative details. This meeting is being held in the early part of the budget process.
- c) Alex Gill discussed information that has come in for FY17 maintenance plan in response to the request from SRB Finance. The maintenance plans were submitted in July and August and listed maintenance plan increase or decrease (Alex provided handouts to the attendees).
  - a. Relocation costs, fleet updates, cost of living increases, and new hires account for the larger increases.
- d) Gary asked that the chairs request be noted: Alisha Bouchard would like memo from the Districts to put spending in context, Alex said we got some but not all. Alisha asked rest to forward memos to Board and copy Alex and Nu.
- e) Alisha asked if the Board would like to discuss the proposed FY17 budgets or do they want time to review. They determined that they need time to review them. Discussion of increases followed.

**5. Operational Services Division /Office of Vehicle Management charge backs**

- a) Alisha Bouchard presented the update on the OSD/OVM charge backs.
  - a. The SRB was notified in January of 2015 by OSD that OVM was authorized within a line item in OSD budget in General Appropriations Act to issue a fee. The fee charges approximately \$412 per non-lease agency assigned vehicle. The chargeback was sent to the SRB in the middle of the last fiscal year; however, no one had budgeted for it. This fee is comprised of (12) different types of services provided; the districts only utilize three of the twelve services. These three are vehicle inspection and titling services for new vehicles, fuel cards, and fleet response repair services under the statewide contract VEH84.
  - b. SRB Fiscal and SRB Legal tried to reach out to OVM in the last year with not much luck. This year Alisha spoke with EOEEA in an attempt to resolve the issue. Alisha is working to go back to OSD to get them to reconsider under the considerations that the Districts do not use the services that they are being charged for.
  - c. Gabi from Cape Cod Project stated that the fleet response package and gas cards not taken care of by OVM and that OVM does initial inspection only.
  - d. The State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board has not paid this; clarification is needed as Mosquito Control Districts operate differently than the other state agencies.
  - e. Alex Gill has spoken with the fleet manager at OSD who advised him that the SRMCB is the fourth or fifth largest fleet of the state agencies and they may be trying to capitalize on that. Significant turnover in the agency has occurred and may result in a different outcome for the SRMCB in future dealings with them.

- f. Dave has emailed OVM contract point of contact regarding the Districts inability to buy midsize trucks and has not received a response. Alex Gill is aware of the issue and identifies that it's resulting from an issue with Toyota, specifically. The Toyota Tacoma is not on contract and lack of production may result in that specific vehicle not getting put on contract. OVM would like to put the new Colorado on contract; Alex made them aware that the Districts need small to medium sized pickups for operations.
- g. Concern was expressed about reporting back to the municipalities that they will be charged more for the fiscal year for this service. Jessica stated that the authorization comes from the budget not a piece of legislation that itemizes a formula. The language is broad which may help with interpreting the process for the Mosquito Control Districts.
- h. Discussion occurred about the process for purchasing new vehicles. Alex Gill said that MDAR and the Districts were taking the appropriate actions but the process with OVM is a lengthy one.
- i. In determining how to speed the processes Alisha Bouchard asked what kind of effect placing one large order together for the Districts would have. Alex said it would be beneficial to order in aggregate and finance could develop a spreadsheet for Districts to place capital purchase for vehicles on. Fiscal could work on the purchases in winter or fall to have them ready for busy season. Cape Cod says that in the past this has been confusing but perhaps this is when there were some changes that could have effected it.
  - o Carolyn wanted to know if they would still be authorized to purchase vehicles year round. The answer was yes.
  - o Dave L wanted to know what the process is for trading in vehicles and where the return funding will go; will it be returned to the municipalities or will it be kept by the Commonwealth.
    - Jessica said added it to the list to discuss with EOEEA as they continue to discuss vehicle issues with the Secretariat.

**6. Update on Catch Basin Applicator Permit Program**

- a) Statistics for exams given previous year:
  - a. Number who signed up for the exam: 19
  - b. Number who took the exam: 17 (89%)
  - c. Number who passed the exam: 16 (94%)
- b) Most who signed up for the exam were from: East Middlesex County, with a few from Plymouth and Suffolk and 1 each from Bristol and the Northeast

- c) Exam dates ranged from May 28 through June 12, 6 dates. The most people showed up for the 6/12 exam (Lowell). We also had 4 people at the 6/3 exam in Northborough. All other dates had 3 or fewer applicants. The Amherst attendee was from Suffolk County Mosquito Control.
  - d) The exam system worked as intended in 2015, and plan to follow the same general procedure, while also offering some exams earlier in the season and also potentially piggybacking on the existing pesticide exam schedule.
  - e) Alisha said MDAR was working with EOEEA IT and the Department of Environmental Protection to facilitate pesticide application e-licensing for both exams and product registration.
  - f) Dave Henley stated that he expects more participants to the exams this year as the municipalities will be given greater lead time for the exam dates. There were new employees that receive the permit in the Suffolk County District but many East Middlesex District employees maintained their permits from the previous year.
  - g) Jessica Burgess said that they are still finalizing renewal and registration process, recognize will have people that use it more than 1 yr or one time only permit users. Finalize in the next few months to get a head start on the season.
  - h) Alisha Bouchard asked if the Districts in partnership with the SRMCB board and staff make member communities aware that the exam will be available. Dave Henley said he plans on reaching out to communities as some communities reduce their funding and take it on themselves.
  - i) Jessica Burgess has been working with Steve to create a memo or press release regarding the Catch Basin Program to be disseminated early in 2016. The Program isn't in the regulations which allows for flexibility to evolve in administering it and the Legal Counsel have no anticipate putting this into regulations as it working through the statutory authority.
  - j) Jessica is on the Massachusetts Municipal Association list serv and will work with the organization to send out information that the municipalities may find useful.
  - k) Gary Gonyea asked for clarification regarding exemptions to see specifically if the municipalities opt out of the program do they receive the same chapter 252 exemptions as the Projects.. Jessica Burgess clarifies that they do not.
  - l) Tim Deschamps would like the communities to coordinate with the Mosquito Control Districts to ensure that they are utilizing the resources appropriately and not doubling efforts in treatments.
- 7. Updates on Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control efforts**
- a) No updates were provided from the area representation.
  - b) Alisha provided a background on the Pioneer Valley efforts. Jessica Burgess stated that last directive from the Board was that SRB staff sent letter from communities to get formal letters of intent. The SRB staff have two letters of intent as of the meeting date. Alisha recommends that the SRB staff perform outreach to the potential communities.

**8. Legal Updates**

- a) VDCI is a private contracting company for mosquito control services who currently contracts with the Town of Nantucket. The company sent out marketing letter to many communities indicating that they are affiliated with the SRB. Jessica Burgess spoke with a representative from VDCI to explain that they cannot make any misrepresentations of their affiliation claiming approval from the SRB. Their only affiliation is when they are hired to complete a project they must present it to the Board for approval. They are not entitled to any benefits or services provided by SRB Districts. East Middlesex communities were contacted under the incorrect assumption that they are not part of the SRB Districts due to the voluntary nature of their community contributions. If VDCI contacts the Districts or their member communities they can forward them to Jessica Burgess to address.
  - b) Tim met with the Westminster Board of Selectman this week, VDCI was invited as well. The town likes a la carte services that VDCI offers, however VDCI did not provide costs for the surveillance program. In addition to limited larviciding, Tim noted that the state would not recognize any testing performed by VDCI, which he will put in writing and send it to the town. The town will likely not be a member in the spring, there is a slim chance that they will in the fall but also a good chance that they will not join at all.
  - c) If VDCI contracts with town, the company will need to present their work plans to the Board. Jessica also noted that they are not able to utilize he benefits under Chapter 252. Gary Gonyea and Jenn worked with contractor to approve work plan. Conflict of Interest training will be coming up for renewal in December. Need to ensure that the new employees take it too. Personal forms of communication should not be used for state business; only state emails should be used.
  - d) Records Retention Policy: A cheat sheet is in the works for records retention policy. It will be finalized soon.
  - e) Amendments to the exclusion regulations have been in the works and will be presented to pesticide board in December. A draft will be discussed with outside stakeholders after that meeting.
9. **Regional Updates:** Mosquito Control Districts will provide the Board with brief updates about regional activities, issues, and concerns:
- a) Priscilla Matton of Bristol County Mosquito Control Project stopped taking spray requests in the beginning of September. The District took 15,133 requests which is an increase of over 2500 from the prior year. No EEE-positive mosquito pools were found, while 14 West Nile Virus-positive pools were found, up from the 8 in the previous year. They are continuing to monitor for Aedes albopictus. This is still found in the City of New Bedford. A controlled pesticide study was planned but the numbers were not sufficient to justify it early enough in the season. There is a chance that they could do the study next year. Water management projects are also in the works. The District office is moving on October 26 to Attleboro. An open house will be planned.

- b) Dave of Norfolk County Mosquito Control District indicated that it was a quiet year for mosquito control due to dry conditions. A new entomologist was hired. A year is left on the lease and they have been talking to DCAM. They would like to send out an RFP for a new location. There is a trailer that serves as the office which the state owns. This will need to be surplus but the details are to be determined.
- c) Mary of the Northeast Mass. Mosquito & Wetlands Management District: The District is settled into their new facility and also has a new entomologist. They are cleaning up a tire site in Groveland and have made a lot of progress. The rest of the year was quiet other than the organizational changes. There will likely be an open house in the spring 2016. The Andover site is being cleaned up.
- d) Gabi of Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project: Overall it was a quiet year with the exception of a few salt marsh problems and they have been doing water management projects. They used the county's drone to fly over problem areas. They are also getting ready for budget meeting in November.
- e) Alisha noted that they have to update dates on budget forms SRB 1 and 2 forms and distribute the new policy to the Districts.
- f) Chris of Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project: The District operations started early after ice had just cleared. They began with an early West Nile Virus positive pool and 8 more through the season. June was wet but they didn't experience significant river flooding. They had nuisance mosquitoes in July then slowed down.
- g) Tim of Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project: The District responded to 16 thousand service calls, an increase. Over 80,000 catch basins were treated. Over 1300 mosquito pools were submitted, with 10 WNV-positive pools found. The District also reported the state's only EEE-positive mosquito pool this season, from the town of Northbridge, which requested treated with an adulticide in response."
- h) Gary Gonyea suggested that MCD staff check a Division of Fish and Wildlife website to make sure that their ditch maintenance and water management work isn't in a Brook trout habitat. If the project is then the Districts should consult regional DFW fish biologist.
- i) Dave of East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project and Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project: West Nile Virus was found in mid July and East Middlesex inside Route 128 and adjacent to Route 128, Warm conditions created favorable habitat for the mosquitoes. This finding wasn't consistent across the Districts. They found 75 isolations in East Middlesex and 16 in Suffolk; 5 human cases in Suffolk, 1 in East Middlesex. All isolations were found in urban areas, where there is basically only Culex found; The 2 Districts combined treated 125k catch basins. Dave is hoping to start seeking out legislation for the merger by end of 2015. Jessica offered another amendment to the MOA if needed.
- j) Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project: Stopped adulticiding around 9/11, then larvicide and surveillance next week. They found 4 West Nile

Virus. They took 20,000 spray requests, otherwise it was a quiet year. The District is starting to look into moving. Tony and Peter Woodford have initiated conversations regarding moving. Plymouth is looking into a droplet test. Discussion of the test followed.

**10. Introduction of Kim Skyrms the new apiary inspector with MDAR**

a) Kim spoke about her work so far, meeting with beekeepers, performing inspections, is available to support beekeepers and mosquito control as well. She mentioned that no reported bee kills have been tied to mosquito control this year and she is working with Taryn to finalize bee kill program to have experts from pesticide inspectors and apiary inspector to analyze what has occurred. This includes screening reports to respond to more substantial cases, collaborating with UMass lab or Beltsville lab (MD).

**11. Public comment/input period: The Board will provide an opportunity for the general public to speak to the Board**

- a) Matt Osbourne stated they look at overall risk and say current risk to humans is near zero; later trapping is ineffective.
- b) Matt Osbourne stated that DPH State Lab has dedicated insectary in Boston. If the Districts are doing ovitrapping and need to rear mosquitoes that DPH can offer space to the Districts. The insectary has had close to 90% hatch rate.

**12. Date, Time and Location of next State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board meeting**

- a) The Board staff need to set dates for 2016 and create a PDF to post on SRB website.
  - a. Jan 20 – Bristol
  - b. Mar 16 – Northeast
  - c. May 18 – Norfolk (Walpole)
  - d. Oct 19 – Cape (CCCC)

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

- a. 11:30 Motion to adjourn made by Gary 2nd by Jim