

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

225 Turnpike Road, 3rd Floor, Southborough, MA 01772

www.mass.gov/agr



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GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

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COMMISSIONER

MEMBERS

Ashley E. Randle, Chair
Department of Agricultural
Resources (MDAR)

Jim Straub, Commissioner
Department of Conservation and
Recreation (DCR)

Mia McDonald, Commissioner
Department of Environmental
Protections (DEP)

OPERATIONS

Jennifer Forman Orth
Environmental Biologist

Jessica Burgess, Esq.
General Counsel

Anita Amin
Operations Coordinator

**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

Norfolk County Mosquito
Control District

Northeast Massachusetts
Mosquito & Wetland
Management District

Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control
District

Plymouth County Mosquito
Control Project

State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board Meeting

Date: October 27th, 2025 - 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Meeting held remotely via [Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 897 7815 0114

Passcode: 047259

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Meeting Agenda Posted: 10/22/2025

Agenda

1. Call to order and attendance

- a. The meeting was called to order by SRB Chair and MDAR Commissioner, Ashley Randle, at 11:07 AM. Additional SRB members in attendance included Mia McDonald (DEP) and Jim Straub (DCR). A meeting quorum was met.

2. Approval of meeting minutes from 5/21/2025 and 7/8/2025

- a. Motion to approve Jim Straub
Second: Mia McDonald
Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

3. Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project Commissioner Appointment - Members will review and discuss the appointment to one open Commissioner seat based on interviews conducted at its meeting held July 8, 2025. Candidates are Theodore Andreadis and Joseph Barille.

- a. Commissioners Randle, McDonald and Straub voted to appoint Theodore Andreadis as the new Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project Commissioner. Commissioner Randle stated both were great candidates.
- b. Motion to approve TA: Mia McDonald
Second: Jim Straub
Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

4. Norfolk County Mosquito Control District Commissioner Appointment - Members will review and discuss the appointment to one open Commission seat based on interviews conducted at its meeting held on July 8, 2025. Candidate is Landis Hershey.

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- a. Commissioners Randle, McDonald and Straub voted to appoint Landis Hershey as the new Norfolk Mosquito Control District Commissioner.
- b. Motion to approve Jim Straub
Second: Mia McDonald
Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

5. Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District New Membership Discussion and Approval for the Town of Montague

- a. General Counsel Jessica Burgess discussed Pioneer Valley Superintendent John Briggs's process of recruiting the town of Montague. There was a lot of back and forth with the municipality. There was good constructive conversation with officials with Montague and town counsel. There was finds that the enabling legislation – under municipal law – article was appropriate. During a July 2025 meeting, the select board approved membership as well as the town meeting article passed. Subject to financial contribution, the town will need appropriate funding annually. JB would make recommendation to approve Montague to join Pioneer Valley MCD. Commissioner Straub related his confidence in Superintendent Briggs and General Counsel Burgess for the work being done.
- b. Motion to approve: Mia McDonald
Second: Jim Straub
Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

6. Updates from the Mosquito Control Districts and Projects regarding the 2025 mosquito season

- a. Berkshire – Culex and West Nile Virus (WNV) found at beginning of the season. Dried up at the end of the season – no results. When the positive came in was around the same time of ending the release of adulticiding.
- b. Bristol – Increase in culex highest since 2015. 48,000 mosquitos collected, 616 pools 37 WNV positive results and 11 Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) positive results. No human or horse positives. In October 100s of mosquitos trapped. Stopped trapping in October – couple dozen in CDC white traps.
- c. Cape Cod – Quiet season. Dry. Busy with larviciding and catch basins. 9 WNV positive findings.
- d. Central Massachusetts – 108 WNV positive pools. No EEE+ isolates. Lots of spray and public outreach. Concentrated catch basins ~ 100,000.
- e. East Middlesex & Suffolk County - Similar to others. Drought last year – Perturbans had a record year. Later brood higher in Melanura. Trapped a lot due to EEE positive finds last year. Many WNV positive in EM and Suffolk.
- f. Norfolk – Experienced a drought. Focused rain events – two helicopter application. May and July. 14 WNV positive findings, but no EEE. No human cases.
- g. Northeast – Also experience drought, 3 successful salt marsh aerals. 1 Localized weather event. 1 hand application. 17 WNV positive and 2 in a non-member community. No EEE. Drought has dropped levels. 74,000 catch basins. 500 tires were also collected and removed.
- h. Pioneer Valley – Busy season. WNV+. 10000 culex. Season averages ~20000. 24 member communities – 18 one or more positive. 16 + Franklin county, 22 Hamden county. 186% catch basin. More preventative measures in member counties. Town requested treatments -Chicopee, Palmer, Northampton, and East Longmeadow. Agawam and Leverett are interested in future membership.

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- i. Plymouth – Fairly low – dry. 14000 service requests. 11 EEE+. 48+ WVN. 36 educational events. 54000 basins. 92000 acres. 85000 larval events. Salt marsh hatch in Cohasset after rain event.

7. Review and Discussion of Mosquito Control District and Projects Preliminary FY27 Budgets

- a. Berkshire –2.5% increase – increased costs of products and utilities.
- b. Bristol – 3% New lease – new increase in utilities, and retirees. Need to backfill seasonal employees.
- c. Cape Cod- 2.5% increase. Commissioner discussion this year. 3 open positions are to be backfilled and operating costs.
- d. Central Mass- 2% increase. Backfilling a biologist. Capital purchase for a new truck. Thanked Anita, SRB Operations Coordinator, for assistance with purchase.
- e. EM/Suffolk – East Middlesex 960,175. 2.98% increase. Operation costs.
- f. Norfolk – 4.5% increase due to vehicle purchases. 3 new vehicles potentially. Will reevaluate in December.
- g. Northeast – 3% increase. Help fund new 10-year lease. 16.5% lease. 3% COLA. Essex county retirement. 3 Vehicle replacements and additions 2 mavericks and 1 ranger. Excavator replacement.
- h. Pioneer Valley 2% increase. Operating at a deficit but closing gap. Might increase membership fee for defect and hiring of seasonal staff.
- i. Plymouth county – 6.5% increase. Payroll, fringe, retirement. No capital costs. High pesticide costs and 2 excavator replacements and workman comp settlements.
- j. SRB – level fund. Utilizing roll over funding in increase in payroll, salary step increases, COLA, and any increases in fringe benefits and taxes.
- k. Suffolk – level fund. 1 unknown – new office space within FY '27. Landlord needs the entire building. Lease ends 9/30/2026.

District	FY2027 Preliminary Budget Request
Berkshire	\$328,250.00
Bristol	\$1,864,486.17
Cape Cod	\$3,356,144.18
Central MA	\$3,221,364.51
Norfolk	\$2,378,111.00
Northeast	\$2,271,344.42
Plymouth	\$2,408,940.10
Suffolk	\$298,555.96
SRB Admin	\$642,650.85
East Middlesex	\$960,975.00
Pioneer Valley	\$150,678.50

8. New Business

- a. No new business

9. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn at 11:41 AM: Jim Straub
Second: Mia McDonald
Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle