



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Mosquito Control for the 21st Century Task Force

MA Mosquito Control Organizational Structure Overview

September 2nd, 2020



Massachusetts Mosquito Control:

- In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, mosquito surveillance and control is a collaborative effort between state public health and environmental agencies and mosquito control programs and municipalities.

- ***Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)***

- State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB)
 - Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)
 - Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
 - Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
 - Department of Fish and Game (DFG)

- ***Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EHS)***

- Department of Public Health (DPH)

Local Boards of Health

- ***Regional Mosquito Control Districts/Projects (MCD):***

- Berkshire County Mosquito Control
 - Bristol County Mosquito Control
 - Central MA Mosquito Control
 - Cape Cod Mosquito Control
 - Dukes County Mosquito Control
 - East Middlesex Mosquito Control
 - Norfolk County Mosquito Control
 - Northeast MA Mosquito Control
 - Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control
 - Plymouth County Mosquito Control
 - Suffolk County Mosquito Control

Boards of Commissioners



State Reclamation & Mosquito Control Board

- The SRMCB oversees mosquito control in Massachusetts under its legal authority provided for in Chapter 252 of the Massachusetts General Laws
- The 3-member Board represents the Commissioners of the state departments of:
 - MA Department of Agricultural (MDAR), Chair
 - Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
 - Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)
- The SRMCB establishes administrative and technical policy, guidelines and best management practices to ensure mosquito control programs are safe and effective
- The SRMCB annually certifies mosquito control budgets
- The SRMCB conducts aerial applications for mosquito control upon declaration of a public health hazard
- The SRMCB is housed within MDAR



SRMCB Statutory Authority Overview:

Statutory Authority

- **M.G.L. c. 252**
 - Establishes State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB)
 - SRMCB has the following authority:
 - Establish the process by which municipalities can petition to form or join an MCD
 - Approve funding methods
 - Certify budgets for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to make necessary cherry sheet deductions
 - Appoint and remove commissioners of MCDs
 - Establish administrative and technical policy, guidelines, and best management practices to ensure MCDs operate according to federal, state, and local laws and perform the necessary functions under the statute
 - Establish conditions under which mosquito control work may be performed



Mosquito Control Projects/Districts (MCDs):

- ***MCD Boards of Commissioners:***

- Appointed and removed by the SRMCB
- Represents local interests including member communities and oversees the MCD
- Responsible for hiring a Superintendent or Director to carry out the day-to-day operations and all staff of the MCD

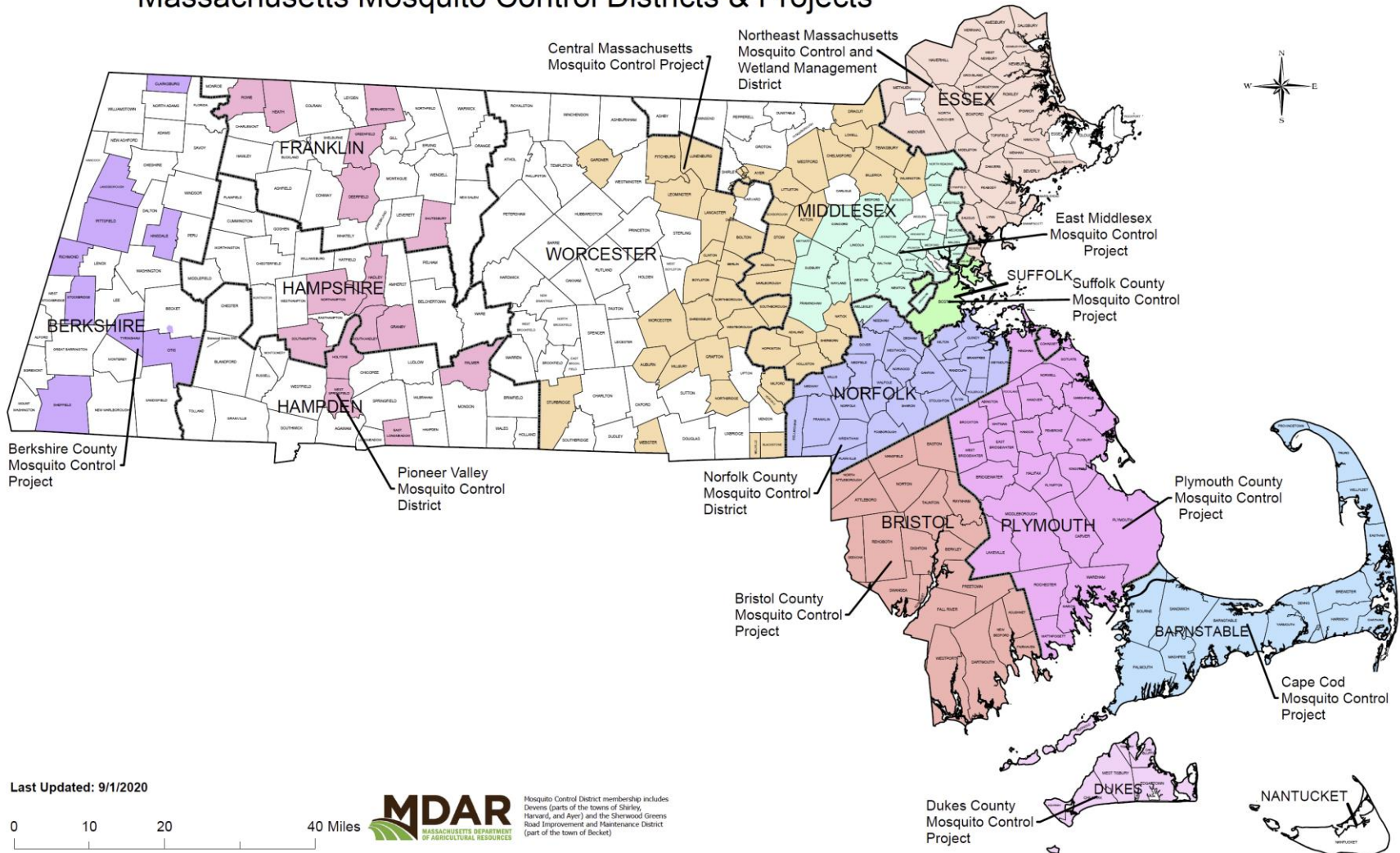
- ***Mosquito Control Districts/Projects (MCD):***

- Operates under the authority of the SRMCB and the oversight of its commissioners and are considered state entities. Works with member communities to provide services
- Depending on the regional program/MCD services may include: Ditch Maintenance, Water Management, Source Reduction, Surveillance, Larviciding, Adulticiding, Research & Efficacy, and Public Education. MCDs may also have beaver mitigation and tire collection programs in place
- Follows the Generic Environmental Impact Report (GEIR) on methods of mosquito control and eradication in Massachusetts, and the environmental impacts of those methods
- MCDs employ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices and employees performing pesticide applications are licensed through MDAR and required to comply with MGL Chapter 132B and its regulations
- MCDs operate independent of each other but coordinate and collaborate frequently



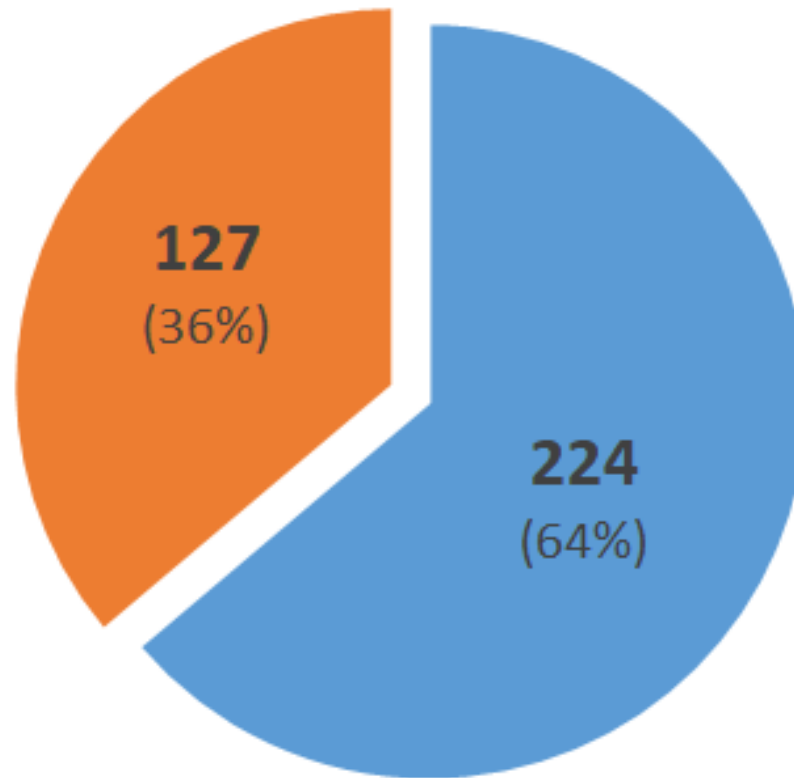
Map of MCD Coverage Areas:

Massachusetts Mosquito Control Districts & Projects





Member & Non-Member Communities (as of 9/2020)



■ MCD Member ■ Non-Member



MCDs Legislative Authority Overview:

- Enabling Legislation
 - 9 of the 11 MCDs were created through special enabling legislation, as amended, while the other 2 were established by the SRMCB under M.G.L. c. 252.
 - Set forth funding mechanism:
 - Cherry Sheet Assessments through local aid deductions based upon land valuation calculations done by the MA Department of Revenue (“DOR”).
 - Set forth number of commissioners and any appointment criteria. These commissioners represent member communities and are responsible for the day-to-day operations, including the hiring and oversight of all personnel employed by the MCD.
 - Identifies cities, towns, or areas of the Commonwealth eligible to join that MCD. Many, but not all, are made up of cities, towns, or land within the same county.
- All enabling legislation provides language that MCDs are established as if created under M.G.L. c. 252 for all other purposes and fall under SRMCB oversight.



Member Communities & Funding:

Membership

- A city or town that is not a member would vote to join the MCD in which it is already located through a lawfully binding mechanism such as:
 - Vote of the City Council
 - Annual or Special Town Meeting Vote
- The municipality's certified vote is then presented to the SRMCB. The SRMCB needs to vote and officially approve the municipality's action for membership or withdrawal to/from an MCD
- A municipality's withdrawal from a MCD is done in the same manner

Funding for Mosquito Control Services:

- Depending on the MCD, funding for mosquito control is either through a Cherry Sheet Assessment from DOR's, Division of Local Services to the member municipality or through a voluntary trust
- Cherry Sheet Assessments are a deduction from member municipality's local aid and based on equalized land value. All MCDs created by enabling legislation utilize this funding option
- Voluntary Trusts require the MCD to bill the member municipalities directly for services. Member municipalities must vote annually to appropriate funds for its share of services based upon the MCD's total budget



Department of Public Health:

Surveillance, Testing, and Risk Communication:

- Surveillance Goals:
 - Detect and assess prevalence and geographic distribution of arbovirus in mosquitoes over the course of each season
 - Confirm arbovirus infections in humans and animals
 - Analyze data to assess level of risk to human health to inform personal protective measures
 - Track temporal and geographic patterns of arbovirus within and between years
- Routine and supplemental surveillance activity is conducted by DPH and the MCDs. DPH and MCDs set and collect traps of mosquitoes for testing. Mosquito samples are sorted by species and tested for arbovirus at the State Public Health Laboratory
- Test results are shared by DPH with Local Boards of Health and the MCDs along with information about community arbovirus risk levels.
- Public-facing risk maps and health promotion materials posted during arbovirus season



Additional information is available at the SRMCB's website at:

<https://www.mass.gov/state-reclamation-and-mosquito-control-board-srmcb>