

### **03.03.22 Mosquito Control Task Force (MCTF) Meeting #22 – Minutes**

**March 3, 2022, 12:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Meeting Topics:

- Call to order and introductions
- Routine business
- Goals for Mosquito Control
- MCTF Recommendations

#### **Call to order and introductions:**

The full task force meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Beth Card. A housekeeping and agenda update was provided. Members in attendance included Kevin Cranston, John Lebeaux, Nicole Keleher, Kathy Baskin, Brad Mitchell, Heidi Porter, Julia Blatt, Anita Deeley, Derek Brindisi, Russell Hopping, Kim LeBeau, Bob Mann, Priscilla Matton, Jennifer Pederson, Richard Pollack, Helen Poynton, Heidi Ricci, Richard Robinson, and Sam Telford.

#### **Routine business:**

A motion was entertained by Beth Card to approve the 2/07/22 meeting minutes as amended. A motion was made by Jennifer Pederson. Seconded by Richard Robinson. A roll call was conducted. Kevin Cranston (aye), John Lebeaux (aye), Nicole Keleher (aye), Kathy Baskin (aye), Eve Schluter (not present for vote), Heidi Porter (aye), Derek Brindisi (not present for vote), Julia Blatt (aye) Tonya Colpitts (not present for vote), Anita Deeley (aye), Russell Hopping (aye), Kim LeBeau (aye), Bob Mann (aye), Priscilla Matton (aye), Brad Mitchell (abstain), Jennifer Pederson (aye), Richard Pollack (aye), Helen Poynton (aye), Heidi Ricci (aye), Stephen Rich (not present for vote), Richard Robinson (aye), Sam Telford (not present for vote)

Beth Card discussed the ERG polling process and noted that ERG would be assuming the role of meeting facilitator in order to allow her to participate as a member of the task force. It was mentioned that Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 p.m. should be reserved in case an additional meeting was needed before final voting on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Beth Card commented on questions that were received about what would go to the Legislature at the end of the task force process and noted that the last task force meeting would be reserved for closing statements and recommendation voting.

Heidi Ricci commented with request for inclusion of a task force narrative section with a description of process and a summary to capture the key issues that were identified in addition to capturing the many public comments that were received. Heidi Ricci also discussed her concerns related to minority opinions and wanted to ensure that task force members would be able to submit key issues that were not addressed in the recommendation language. Beth Card provided a clarification in relation to a summary of task force work and commented on the inclusion of public input. It was noted that the team would work with ERG to see what could be prepared. Beth Card added that she thought it made sense to tell the story of how the task force members conducted their work. Richard Robinson asked how the report would be provided to the Legislature and task force members. Caroline Higley read aloud the legislative language requirements.

#### **Goals for Mosquito Control:**

##### **Presentation, discussion, and revision of goal statement:**

Diana Pietri, ERG Facilitator, shared a slide deck with the task force members and provided an overview on the development of a goal statement for the MCTF. A reminder was provided that the goal statement would need majority task force support to be included in the report to the Legislature. Abby Burton, ERG Facilitator, shared the results of the goal statement poll with the task force members and noted the proposal that 2/3 task force member support be the threshold for inclusion. Abby Burton presented the proposed goal statement: *Massachusetts*

*mosquito control program and control decisions should follow the best available science, follow an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, be designed to minimize impacts on non-target species, be transparent, actively engage with the public and minimize the incidence of mosquito borne diseases in humans.*

Questions/Comments:

Brad Mitchell agreed with all the goals but had a concern with the stated goal on minimizing the incidence of mosquito borne diseases and noted his concern that some would read the goal precluded nuisance control. Richard Pollack agreed with Brad Mitchell's comments and noted the wording seemed to indicate that the goal of the program was a single goal, which was not what was discussed in the subcommittee meeting. Richard Robinson noted that addressing human health was a large missing piece in the proposed goal statement and added there was no statements related to concern for a group of people that the task force was charged with addressing. Heidi Ricci agreed with Richard Robinson and noted the human health impacts of pesticides needed to be addressed. Heidi Ricci referenced Dr. Oliver's studies and noted that there needed to be something added about public health and efficacy. Julia Blatt noted that the focus on human health was a unanimous decision in the subcommittee and should be included. Russell Hopping discussed gaps and commented on filling gaps to ensure the best available science was used.

Beth Card commented on considering the inclusion of all of the proposed goal information and statements that were listed. Helen Poynton commented on what was missing from the list related to research to fill gaps and addressing vulnerable populations. Diana Pietri and Abby Burton noted that the list was everything that was put forward by the subcommittees. Helen Poynton noted that the research was not part of the poll. Diana Pietri discussed the four proposals that the task force members were considering. Brad Mitchell noted that the concern was the way the goal was written related to minimizing the incidence of mosquito-borne diseases in humans. Richard Pollack proposed that the goal of the program wording be revised to "a" goal of the program as opposed to "the" goal of the program.

Diana Pietri took a poll via a show of virtual hands to see who was in favor of including impacts to human health in the goal statement. Heidi Ricci, Richard Robinson, Anita Deeley, Julia Blatt, Russell Hopping, Derek Brindisi, Kim LeBeau, Heidi Porter, Nicole Keleher, Helen Poynton, Jennifer Pederson, Beth Card, Kathy Baskin, and John Lebeaux supported the suggestion. Heidi Ricci suggested including to protect public/human health. Richard Robinson suggested including information from the enabling legislation and read the legislation language to the task force members. Jennifer Pederson suggested leaving the language broad and noted that she liked Heidi Ricci's suggestion. An additional poll was conducted to determine support for language on protecting public health. Kevin Cranston, Jennifer Pederson, Bob Mann, Kathy Baskin, Heidi Ricci, Helen Poynton, Richard Pollack, Julia Blatt, Richard Robinson, Sam Telford, Russell Hopping, Beth Card, Heidi Porter, Anita Deeley, Brad Mitchell, Priscilla Matton, and John Lebeaux supported the suggestion.

There was discussion on the inclusion of research to fill gaps in the goal statement. A poll was conducted. Helen Poynton, Richard Pollack, Kevin Cranston, Kathy Baskin, Julia Blatt, Russell Hopping, Nicole Kelleher, Helen Poynton, Sam Telford, Richard Robinson, Bob Mann, Brad Mitchell, Heidi Ricci, Anita Deeley, Kim LeBeau, Jennifer Pederson, and Derek Brindisi supported the suggestion. Another poll was conducted to assess support for including all the statements in the goal. Four people raised their hand, and it was noted that this was not something that would be pursued. Diana Pietri discussed the final item that was proposed, on the removal of "the" from "minimize the incidence of mosquito-borne diseases in humans". A poll was conducted. Heidi Ricci, Priscilla Matton, Jennifer Pederson, Brad Mitchell, Nicole Keleher, Kevin Cranston, Derek Brindisi, Sam Telford, John Lebeaux, Beth Card, Kathy Baskin, Richard Robinson, Richard Pollack, Brad Mitchell, Kim LeBeau, Helen Poynton, and Russell Hopping supported the suggestion. Heidi Ricci commented on the polling results and asked if all of the items that received a majority result in polling should be included. A poll was conducted. Julia Blatt, Russell Hopping, Richard Robinson, Anita Deeley, Heidi Ricci, and Derek Brindisi supported inclusion.

#### Vote on goal statement for mosquito control:

A motion was entertained by Beth Card to seek a vote on the goal statement as modified based on conversations from task force members. A motion was made by Kevin Cranston. Seconded by Jennifer Pederson. A roll call was conducted. Kevin Cranston (aye), John Lebeaux (aye), Nicole Keleher (aye), Kathy Baskin (aye), Eve Schluter (not present), Heidi Porter (aye), Derek Brindisi (aye), Julia Blatt (aye) Tonya Colpitts (not present), Anita Deeley (aye), Russell Hopping (aye), Kim LeBeau (aye), Bob Mann (aye), Priscilla Matton (aye), Brad Mitchell (aye), Jennifer Pederson (aye), Richard Pollack (aye), Helen Poynton (aye), Heidi Ricci (aye), Stephen Rich (not present), Richard Robinson (no), Sam Telford (aye). The motion was accepted. Heidi Ricci noted her opinion that the goal should have also included efficacy and accountability.

#### **MCTF Recommendations:**

##### Presentation on proposed ground rules:

Diana Pietri shared a slide deck with the group and provided an overview and a summary flow chart of the tiered recommendations and voting process. Helen Poynton asked what percentage of the task force responded to the poll and commented that there was less than twenty-four hours to respond. Abby Burton noted that there was a 65% response rate from the task force. Heidi Ricci commented that she thought all the recommendations put forth by the subcommittees should be considered and she was concerned that the Local Engagement subcommittee did not have municipal representation and commented that there were several recommendations that were split 2-2 votes. Heidi Ricci suggested a process for task force members to draft minority opinions to present at the next task force meeting.

Beth Card asked for clarification from Heidi Ricci on recommendations that were minority opinion, and Heidi Ricci noted the things that she wanted to raise were central to the task force and that she would like to present those for consideration in the next meeting. Heidi Ricci discussed the instructions that were provided in subcommittees regarding voting on the recommendations as they were written. Beth Card added that for items that did not become recommendations, there were mechanisms in which either the Legislature could become apprised of those items or in which individuals could seek to provide information to the Legislature, and as a result and in light of timing, she did not recommend addressing these things in the next task force meeting. Richard Robinson suggested seeing all of the votes in a recommendation before moving forward. Jennifer Pederson agreed with Beth Card that it was hard to bring into the process recommendations that people may have initially thought were important but did not make it through the subcommittee processes. Jennifer Pederson noted in other task force groups that she has been involved with, in instances where task force members were not happy, they put together a minority opinion report or sent letters to pass onto the Legislature. Priscilla Matton added that there were challenges associated with contacting legislators as a state employee and she was hopeful to address concerns.

##### Presentation on polling results:

Abby Burton shared a slide deck and provided an overview to the group of the poll results based on the responses that were received. Heidi Ricci discussed her concerns and noted that the menu-based approach was included to give local control and she thought it was very important for the group as a whole discuss this topic. Heidi Ricci added that all tier 2 recommendations needed consideration here. Kevin Cranston asked a clarification question about the partial poll response that was captured in the slide deck. Abby Burton noted that one person started the survey and did not finish. Kevin Cranston asked about the threshold for what was considered ready to vote and Abby Burton clarified that the proposal was 67%. Kim LeBeau noted that she would like to see the information emailed to the task force members so it could be digested, and she wanted to see the comments that people left in the poll. Caroline Higley mentioned that all of the content would be shared.

Beth Card noted that there would need to be a way to ensure that the minority opinions existed and added that in the report itself there could be a summary narrative to acknowledge the list of ideas as potential

recommendations but not endorsed by the task force. Heidi Ricci suggested offering Derek Brindisi the opportunity to vote on those Local Engagement recommendations where he was not present and noted that Derek Brindisi was the municipal representative on that subcommittee and was key to the municipal interests. Heidi Ricci added that she was concerned with relegating these items to an appendix based on the way two people voted on the whole task force. Beth Card noted that she was not sure that a special public meeting could be established to accommodate a vote that did not happen but if there was a way to give Derek Brindisi the opportunity to weigh in, it would be considered.

Heidi Ricci commented on the way she thought subcommittees were told to vote on recommendations and how it changed in the middle and she wanted to register her objections. Russell Hopping asked for clarification on the minority opinion recommendations and if they were the same as tier 2. Diana Pietri provided clarification on tier 2 recommendations. Russell Hopping noted that he did find it problematic that seven task force members had not voted in the poll and proposed having more time to complete the poll to see if it changed the tier 2 recommendations. Julia Blatt agreed with Russell Hopping's suggestion. Jennifer Pederson suggested that the minority supported recommendations be put to a vote. Caroline Higley discussed taking the less than 50% task force poll response recommendations and calling them a tier 3 recommendation that would be moved to the full task force meeting on 3/29 for a vote. A poll was conducted to move those recommendations into a tier 3 bucket. Jennifer Pederson, Beth Card, Anita Deeley, Helen Poynton, Nicole Keleher, Kevin Cranston, John Lebeaux, Kathy Baskin, Russell Hopping, Richard Robinson, Heidi Ricci, Derek Brindisi, and Julia Blatt supported the suggestion.

#### Discussion on recommendations:

- Policy Structure Subcommittee:

*POL-1: Repeal and replace M.G.L. c. 252 and enabling MCD legislation or amend M.G.L. c. 252 and repeal MCD enabling legislation:* Diana Pietri shared the recommendation draft with the task force members and provided a recap of the content and language. Comments from the poll were provided to the task force members. Items were reviewed that were still under consideration in relation to recommendation discussion, clarification, funding, personnel, continuity of public health protection, and the need to support current services and equipment within the MCDs.

#### Questions/comments:

Jennifer Pederson discussed repealing the existing legislation and noted that it would be a huge effort and asked for clarification if it was truly a repeal of the legislation or amending certain areas. Priscilla Matton discussed the current SRB structure, services, and funding process through the state versus member towns and noted she did not see the funding needs specified in the recommendation language. Richard Robinson noted that additional information and caution was needed since it was challenging to break down and rebuild a whole structure. Heidi Ricci recognized that the recommendation was a big change and would require funding and asked EEA what the intention was with regard to how the recommendations would be proposed to the Legislature. Beth Card provided clarification related to the report and recommendations being provided directly to the Legislature. Jessica Burgess addressed the previous comments related to the amend versus repeal process of MGL 252.

#### Meeting Close and Vote to Adjourn:

Beth Card commented on the collaboration of the task force members and noted there was follow up required based on conversations from the meeting. It was noted that the question of feasibility would be addressed. Seeing no other questions or comments from the group, Beth Card entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting from John Lebeaux. Seconded by Kevin Cranston. All in favor said aye. The full task force meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.