



Mosquito Control for the Twenty-First Century Task Force

Public Listening Session #2

February 10, 2022 – 4:00pm-6:00pm



Overview

Please visit the Mosquito Control Task Force website for more information - mass.gov/orgs/mosquito-control-for-the-twenty-first-century-task-force

- **The purpose of this public listening session is to accept comments on Mosquito Control for the Twenty-First Century Task Force subcommittee draft recommendations, for comprehensive reform of the Commonwealth’s mosquito control system per Chapter 120 of the Acts of 2020**
- This public listening session is being recorded. A copy of the recording will be distributed to task force members and may be posted online
- This session is being conducted remotely. Please note that while registration is required to obtain the access information for this session, there is no requirement to register in advance to attend. Registration and access is available until session ends
- If an attendee wishes to speak, attendee must sign up via the Microsoft Form available on the public listening session webpage and pasted into the meeting chat
 - When it is time for a registrant to speak, we will read out registrant’s name, and enable registrant to unmute. At this point, registrant may begin speaking
 - Speaking time is limited to three minutes
- Written comments pertaining to draft recommendations will be accepted through 5pm on February 14, 2021, via the public comment portal on the task force webpage



Legislation

- **“An Act to Mitigate Arbovirus in the Commonwealth” signed into law in July 2020**
- **Created the mosquito control for the twenty-first century task force (“MCTF”) comprised of 23 members**
 - Chaired by EEA, Vice-chaired by Public Health
 - State agency representation – Agricultural Resources, Conservation and Recreation, Environmental Protection, Fisheries and Wildlife, State Reclamation Board
 - Additional representation includes: epidemiologist, microbiologist, ecotoxicologist, academic expert in pesticides and mosquito control, mosquito control programs, water resources including rivers and drinking water, pesticide applicator, land conservation, wildlife protection, beekeepers, farms and agriculture including organic farms
- **Task force is required to commission a study and recommend comprehensive reforms of the mosquito control system per the legislation, through March 31, 2022**



Subcommittee Organization

Task force created four subcommittees to develop recommendations on legislative directives, to advance to full task force for consideration

- **Mosquito Control Policy Structure**
 - (v) assessing the need to update the composition of the state reclamation and mosquito control board;
 - (x) identifying the challenges, including but not limited to financial barriers, facing municipalities in joining a regional mosquito control project or district;
- **Local Engagement**
 - (ii) promoting public participation in mosquito management decisions;
 - (iii) providing for local options regarding the use of pesticides;
 - (viii) providing for comprehensive annual evaluations of each season's mosquito control process, including the effectiveness of the process in controlling arbovirus and any effects of spraying on the environment, agriculture and wildlife;
- **Pesticide Selection**
 - (vii) promoting the use of the safest or minimum risk pesticides feasible and employing methods, including product disclosures or implementation of testing protocols and procedures, to avoid the use of pesticides containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances;
 - (ix) identifying known ingredients in pesticide products used for mosquito control, analyzing the ability, or lack of ability, to identify such ingredients, and making recommendations for determining such ingredients;
- **Best Practices**
 - (i) facilitating the use of integrated pest management, including surveillance, public education, enhanced habitat for mosquito predators and storm water management;
 - (vi) developing procedures to protect human and ecological health and minimize non-target impacts of mosquito pesticides, including, but not limited to, effects on persons with respiratory or immune system illnesses, drinking water supplies, pollinators and aquatic life;
 - (iv) protecting organic agriculture from pesticide use;



Process for Final Recommendations

Date (2022)	Meetings	Action Items
January	Subcommittees: 2 meetings each	Subcommittees outline recommendations and incorporate feedback from full task force
February	MCTF Meeting: Feb 7 Public Listening Session: Feb 10 (4-6pm) Subcommittees: ~3 meetings each	Subcommittees draft recommendations, incorporate feedback from full task force, and solicit public input on recommendations Subcommittees finalize recommendations and advance to full task force
March	MCTF Meetings: Mar 3, Mar 21, Mar 29	Task force discusses and finalizes recommendations Task force votes to advance recommendations to Legislature

Subcommittee Draft Recommendations*

Policy Structure

1. Repeal and replace OR revise MGL C. 252 and enabling MCD/MCP legislations
2. Amend the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook (and relevant local land use and stormwater regulations)
3. Revise the structure, function, and funding of MCDs to ensure a comprehensive and cohesive framework for mosquito control across Massachusetts and to potentially allow for towns to join MCDs at lower costs
4. Establish baseline mosquito control services such as education, surveillance, source reduction and allow people/member towns to add additional services such as larviciding, adulticiding, and local stormwater management

Local Engagement

1. Create an online system for requesting property exclusions and property opt-outs
2. Remove physical marking requirements for property exclusions and property opt-outs
3. Public Engagement: improve outreach to the public and input from the public
4. Establish a menu-based approach: funding/resources by the state; opt-in to additional services at discretion of munis
5. Create program for pilot evaluation of environmental impacts
6. Increase sharing of pesticide application locations
7. Increase transparency on sensitive habitat/rare species exclusion

Best Practices

1. Improve consistency in the implementation of IPM
2. Limit ground-based applications of adulticides
3. Authorize and fund statewide mosquito surveillance
4. Improve consistency in MCD staffing
5. Establish statewide education on mosquito management
6. Prohibit aerial applications of adulticides
7. Develop online reporting system for private applicators
8. Establish system of communication with public water systems
9. Develop statewide QA/QC testing program for mosquito control chemicals
10. Protect receptor areas from pesticide run-off
11. Reduce pesticide applications for nuisance control
12. MCDs to conduct monitoring and evaluations after spraying
13. Determine procedures to protect vulnerable populations and non-target species
14. Set criteria for declaring a public health emergency
15. Offer current opt-out option to commercial farms
16. Codify the current protected status for certified farms

Pesticide Selection

1. Further review pesticide products used in mosquito control and ensure transparent selection process
2. Consider synergists: conduct periodic assessments of insecticide levels; evaluate whether synergism of insecticides is already present or possible
3. Establish several mechanisms to avoid use of PFAS-containing pesticides
4. No recommended action relative to active ingredient disclosure
5. No recommended action relative to inert ingredient disclosure
6. Update/amend the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act to address the components of inert ingredient review

**Please note that this table is a simplified overview of the draft recommendations. More detail can be found in the draft recommendations documents online. Draft recommendations presented here are under varying degrees of discussion and may not represent subcommittee majority opinion.*