

MCTF Meeting 4: Chat Box

10.27.2020

13:03:22 From Jennifer Pederson : Jennifer Pederson, Mass Water Works Association

13:03:26 From Kathleen Baskin : Kathleen Baskin, MassDEP

13:03:33 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon

13:03:36 From Gabrielle Sakolsky : Gabrielle Sakolsky, Cape Cod Mosquito Control

13:03:37 From W. Stuart Loosemore : Stu Loosemore from the office of Senator Gobi

13:03:38 From John Lebeaux : John Lebeaux, MDAR

13:03:39 From Russell Hopping : Russ Hopping, The Trustees of Reservations

13:03:50 From Caroline Haviland : Caroline E. Haviland, Norfolk County Mosquito Control District

13:03:52 From David Lawson : David Lawson, Norfolk County Mosquito Control District

13:03:54 From Chris Craig - PVMCD : Chris Craig - Pioneer Valley MCD

13:03:54 From Central Mass. Mosquito Control : Tim Deschamps Central Mass. Mosquito

13:03:54 From Chris Horton : Chris Horton BCMCP

13:03:55 From Richard J Pollack : Richard Pollack, serving as commissioner of a mosquito control district

13:03:56 From Helen Poynton : Helen Poynton, UMass Boston

13:04:01 From Anita D. : Anita Deeley, Mass Bee

13:04:02 From Heidi Porter : Heidi Porter, Town of Bedford - Community that is member of a Mosquito Control District

13:04:04 From Priscilla Matton : Priscilla Matton- Bristol County Mosquito Control-Superintendent on Task Force

13:04:10 From rrossetti : Ross Rossetti-Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project

13:04:11 From Aubrey Paolino : Aubrey Paolino, Cape Cod Mosquito Control

13:04:11 From Colin McDonald (Rep Pignatelli) : Colin McDonald-Rep Pignatelli's Office

13:04:18 From tonyacolpitts : Tonya Colpitts, Dept. of Microbiology, Boston University School of Medicine

13:04:19 From Bob Mann : Bob Mann, NALP, representing pesticide applicators.

13:04:22 From Jacqui Manning : Jacqui Manning from the office of Representative Pignatelli

13:04:22 From Cathleen Drinan : Cathleen Drinan, chair, Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project

13:04:27 From Derek Brindisi : Derek Brindisi, Upton Town Manager

13:04:51 From brian farless : Brian Farless - East Middlesex and Suffolk County Mosquito Control

13:04:51 From Kim LeBeau : Kim LeBeau, MWRA representing Drinking Water Public Water Systems

13:05:07 From Paul Wintrob : Margaret Callanan, MDAR

13:05:21 From Bill Mehaffey : William Mehaffey, Northeast MA Mosquito Control District

13:05:36 From Katharine Lange, Mass Rivers : Katharine Lange, Mass Rivers

13:05:36 From Stephen Doody : Stephen Doody, Dept of Conservation & Recreation

13:16:25 From tlascola : Taryn LaScola-Miner, MDAR

13:19:22 From richard robinson NOFA Mass : richard robinson, NOFA/Mass

13:20:05 From Jennifer Pederson : Can Caroline circulate the GEIR Priscilla mentioned?

13:20:09 From Brian Rosman : Brian Rosman, Sen. Comerford's office

13:20:59 From Central Mass. Mosquito Control : GEIR: <https://www.mass.gov/generic-environmental-impact-report-geir>

13:39:34 From Central Mass. Mosquito Control : Page 25: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/generic-environmental-impact-report-full-text/download>

13:39:59 From Stephen Rich : i have a question

13:41:56 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16796509/>

13:42:14 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : Efficacy of resmethrin aerosols applied from the road for suppressing Culex vectors of West Nile virus

13:42:18 From Russell Hopping : Are non-target species all species other than the target mosquitoes or is there are defined list of species.

13:43:24 From Central Mass. Mosquito Control : That paper only looked at the Culex species, there are other species that carry WNV

13:44:04 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : Yes but the same principle issue applies in terms of truck based spraying in largely wooded environments

13:44:43 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : Can we please see the list of the 16 vendors that will be qualified to submit bids?

13:45:27 From Caroline Higley : PRF 61: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/prf61/download>

13:45:59 From Caroline Higley : Listed in Appendix A on page 12

13:47:51 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : Thank you!

13:51:03 From Jennifer Pederson : There aren't any academic institutions (save UMASS Donahue) on the list and that is one of our targets, seems like we might be wasting valuable time if the RFR isn't available to them

13:51:17 From Derek Brindisi : Rob under evaluation criteria.....are we going to include a comparative evaluation tool that will define Most advantageous to least advantageous etc.?

13:51:47 From Helen Poynton : For clarity, only the 16 contractors in this list will get the first opportunity to apply? There are no academic institutions on this list.

13:53:12 From Alisha Bouchard : UMASS Donahue Institute is on the statewide contract

13:53:43 From Caroline Higley : Note – comments have been lightly edited

Russ Hopping:

Text below includes comments made in the last meeting and new comments

- The scope should cover all control measures not just spraying and not just MDPH spraying
- The scope should be as clear as possible and avoid “and other factors.” I know this was a draft.
- The background information should include more information on the impacts of control on wildlife broadly for the Task Force to use when making recommendations. There is currently no mention of wildlife other than pollinators and aquatic wildlife. Pollinators often means “honey bee” but any review needs to go well beyond the honey bee and look at other families and genera, especially native wildlife.
- Distinctions between nuisance control by the districts and public health concerns by DPH should be made clear throughout the report.
- Mass Natural Heritage/MASS Wildlife should be included in the agencies to consult, section 3

13:53:56 From Caroline Higley : • If possible, the study should specifically identify any mosquito-pollinated species in MA or similar sized insects that may be critical pollinators for some plant species.

- Rare species should be highlighted as a specific area of concern that gets addressed.

- I think some discussion/information on how climate change is anticipated to impact mosquito populations and mosquito-borne diseases would be helpful.
- I think the contractor should submit a draft of completed sections well before the deadline so the Task Force can respond to any information gaps or concerns of how the contractor is proceeding. We have a tight timeline and this should help with getting the product it needs in a timely manner rather than waiting to get the final report and then having questions and concerns outside the contract.
- I wonder if it makes sense to include that bidders can submit joint proposals? I can see teams may be in a stronger position to provide a better response to the RFR in a timely manner.

13:54:03 From Caroline Higley : • I may have missed it but a review of the opt out process with recommendation would be helpful, perhaps based on what other states or counties do.

13:54:14 From Caroline Higley : Julia Blatt:

Requested addition bolded below:

- Research, analyze, and report on the quantifiable impact of chemical-based mosquito control aerial and ground-based spraying in Massachusetts.
 - o When determining quantifiable impacts, report must account for, but is not limited to: Public health; Medical; Agricultural land including organic farms, Farm animals; Commerce; Recreation; Tourism; Drinking water sources including groundwater and surface water, and with consideration of established exclusion buffer zones around active public water system reservoirs and/or inlets during aerial spraying events; Ecological health including aquatic ecosystems; Wildlife including but not limited to, bird species, honeybees, native bees, odonates, lepidoptera and mosquito predators

13:54:36 From Caroline Higley : Heidi Ricci:

Request that the analysis of the existing system include:

- Data on per capita WNV and EEE risk in each district and in areas outside of the districts, based on the data on actual disease incidence
- The number and types of mosquito traps, and long term vs. shorter term; info on where they are placed in relation to habitat types and human populations.
 - o We need as much and as clear data as can be provided, e.g. #s of traps, roughly how they are distributed.
 - o The info should be sufficient for us to understand whether or not the monitoring effort is giving us a clear, measurable picture of what is happening with mosquito populations and disease incidence vs. snapshots in specific locations.
 - o Info on whether sites producing disease bearing mosquitoes are natural healthy wetlands, degraded wetlands, or artificially constructed areas like detention basins or cranberry bog ditches.

13:54:43 From Caroline Higley : • What are the thresholds used to make decisions on ground and aerial spraying? Are the thresholds different in different districts or for different mosquito species? What exactly is the threshold utilized by DPH to trigger a recommendation for aerial spraying?

13:54:58 From Caroline Higley : Items for Task Force discussion and review:
In the existing system for landowners to opt-out of routine mosquito control pesticide applications, DAR has an online form where property owners can submit an annual exclusion request:
<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/how-to-request-an-exclusion-or-opt-out-from-wide-area-pesticide-applications>

Organizations such as land trusts or municipal conservation commissions have many different properties, often with multiple individual parcels making up each overall property. Each year we have to enter each parcel separately. There is no mechanism for simply renewing existing exclusion requests and adding new parcels as they are acquired. This is a time-consuming and burdensome process.

13:55:09 From Caroline Higley : • Can/Is it possible for DAR to modify the system to enable electronic submission of multiple parcels in a single form?
We could provide this information in GIS format with the parcel data that corresponds to the MassGIS parcel #s.

13:55:20 From Caroline Higley : • What financial and IT resources would the state need in order to streamline this process for landowners with multiple properties?
Note - The requirements for marking No Spray zones along roadways are also excessively burdensome and unsightly – requiring placement of circular pie plates or paper plates labeled No Spray posted every 50 feet. For entities that own long stretches of road frontage this is a burden. This year Mass Audubon spent a considerable sum on purchasing round, reflective signs that meet the requirements, in order to reduce the blight associated with hand drawn signs. It also takes considerable staff time to put the signs up, and to replace them if they become dislodged.

13:55:30 From Caroline Higley : • What resources would be needed for all mosquito districts to rely on GPS mapping systems for these exclusions instead of signs posted every 50 feet?
Some of the mosquito districts utilize GPS systems to operate their spray trucks and to turn the spray on and off based on property exclusion requests as well as other features like Natural Heritage and Endangered Species exclusion areas and proximity to fish bearing waters or surface water supplies.

13:55:40 From Caroline Higley : • Public transparency opportunities
Regarding public transparency and ongoing input opportunities under this process, here is a good example of how DEP provides information as well as an ongoing opportunity for public input on

the review of stormwater management standards (see the comment input form). I think this is a good approach.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-stormwater-management-updates-advisory-committee>

14:02:17 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : Impact and benefit in giving communities choice in opt out or use of pesticides

14:03:23 From Anita D. : Putting my comment here - honeybees should be under agriculture not wildlife. Native bees should be listed under wildlife but honeybees should be listed right after Farm Animals on Page 2 and 3 as “Apiaries”

14:05:07 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : The legislation states that the "Task force shall commission a study by an independent research or academic organization with expertise in the environmental and health effects of pesticides, pest management, and mosquito control to complete a comprehensive evaluation..." Do any of the entities have all of those qualifications? If after receiving bids we determine none are fully qualified would we be able to rebid to other entities for all or parts of the study?

14:05:15 From Bob Mann : Anita D. - add the word "managed" to honeybees in your comment?

14:05:32 From Anita D. : Bob

14:05:57 From Anita D. : Bob Mann - no honey bees should be listed as “apiaries” managed not needed.

14:07:04 From Bob Mann : Anita D. - That's fine. Just want to be clear.

14:07:58 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : In addition to academic institutions there are some nonprofit research institutions with these specialized skills e.g.
<https://www.caryinstitute.org/>

14:10:50 From Alisha Bouchard : Rob can you clarify statewide contracts have to be ruled out first before the RFR can be opened up to other entities - Unless the legislation earmarks an institution?

14:14:50 From Eve Schluter : Proposed revision for wildlife language: Native wildlife species, including, but not limited to, birds, invertebrates (e.g. bees, odonates, lepidoptera, beetles), and other pollinators and mosquito predators

14:15:09 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : Thanks Eve. How about fish and other aquatic life?

14:15:39 From Eve Schluter : I left that under the mosquito predators

14:15:43 From Eve Schluter : but we could expand

14:16:48 From Helen Poynton : @Eve and @heidi, I would recommend EPT taxa as sensitive indicators of water quality: Ephemeroptera (mayflies), five Plecoptera (stoneflies), and two Trichoptera (caddisflies), also crustaceans can be very sensitive to pyrethroids

14:17:15 From Cathleen Drinan : can I receive Priscilla 's PowerPoint and comments? I thought it was an excellent overview.

14:17:24 From Eve Schluter : I guess it depends on how specific we want to get

14:18:41 From Helen Poynton : @Eve, yes true, "sensitive aquatic invertebrates"

14:19:13 From Bob Mann : Ditto on Cathleen's comment. That was great stuff, Priscilla. Thank you!

14:20:57 From Eve Schluter : New proposed revision: Native wildlife species, including, but not limited to, birds, invertebrates (e.g. bees, odonates, lepidoptera, beetles, sensitive aquatic invertebrates), fish, and other pollinators and mosquito predators

14:21:15 From Anita D. : Looks great Eve!

14:21:27 From Helen Poynton : @Eve, sounds great!

14:24:42 From Cathleen Drinan : I want to confirm my concerns sent by John Sharland (PCMCP) re: private pesticide companies, small and large, that spray all kinds of stuff, in the day time, when pollinators are out.

14:27:26 From Bob Mann : Cathleen, I sit on the pesticide advisory council and that is a big concern of ours as well. We would like to bring everyone applying for a fee under the umbrella of being licensed even if they're using organics.

14:28:02 From Russell Hopping : Thanks Eve, sounds good.