

MCTF Meeting 3: Chat Box

10.07.2020

16:09:50 From Kyla Bennett - PEER : kbennett@peer.org
16:09:53 From Glen Ayers : glenayers@gmail.com
16:09:58 From Chris Craig - PVMCD : Christopher.Craig@mass.gov
16:10:10 From Brian Rosman (Sen. Comerford) : jp.comerford@masenate.gov
16:10:25 From Brian Rosman (Sen. Comerford) : brian.rosman@masenate.gov
16:11:55 From Glen Ayers : That should be Jo.Comerford@masenate.gov not
jp.comerford
16:12:17 From Brian Rosman (Sen. Comerford) : Sorry. I forwarded it to her.
16:15:28 From Julia Blatt, Mass Rivers Alliance : question/comment
16:38:53 From Jo Comerford : Dan, (not about the RFR) has the process for municipal opt
outs been developed? (I know folks were working on it.)
16:42:07 From richard robinson NOFA Mass :

This should be much more detailed, including:

- inclusion of impact on human health
- definition of “effectiveness” in effectiveness of spraying
- detailed list of deliverables, presumably including:
 - narrative of the current state of control
 - the history of control measures in MA
 - the history of arbovirus in MA and other northeastern states
 - summaries of interviews/surveys with stakeholders
 - narrative/review of scientific literature, with an emphasis on control in similar human/eco environments
 - experiences with alternative models of control, esp. in similar human/eco environments

16:44:01 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : I would like to make sure that the scope of the review is as comprehensive as feasible, and in particular that it fully examines the best available science on ecologically-based mosquito management, including model programs from other states or municipalities and any information available in the scientific literature about non-chemical mosquito control practices as well as the nontarget impacts (human and wildlife) of chemical controls. This item in the legislation:

enhanced habitat for mosquito predators and storm water management, including documenting where these activities are already in place.

was incorporated to include restoration of rivers, streams and wetlands to eliminate stagnate water and restore habitat for fish and other mosquito predators. It also was intended to address concerns that some commonly used stormwater practices create mosquito habitat and that alternative approaches are available to avoid this. Examples of opportunities to evaluate include culvert upgrades and dam removal

16:45:08 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : Examples of opportunities to evaluate include culvert upgrades and dam removals to open up fish passage where none exists now; restoration of abandoned cranberry bogs to replace stagnant ditches with free flowing streams supporting mosquito predators, and the use of rain gardens and bioswales instead of stormwater basins and ponds that often contain cattails and stagnant water (prime breeding habitat for EEE bridge vector).

Entities to be consulted should include MassWildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and Division of Ecological Management. Also the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition which represents more than 100 land conservation organizations statewide, and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

Community representatives to be consulted should include a few conservation commissions as well as boards of health. Consider a statewide online survey form.

In examining why communities are not members of districts, there should be an effort to fully unders

16:45:15 From Julia Blatt, Mass Rivers Alliance : Great point by Richard Robinson re definition of effectiveness!

16:46:50 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : In examining why communities are not members of districts, there should be an effort to fully understand this beyond just financial considerations. In my experience talking with local officials and citizens, I've heard from many people who say they want mosquito surveillance, public education, clean up of tires and roadside trash, help upgrading culverts, and the availability of targeted spot treatments when hot spots of disease-bearing mosquitoes are found, but they do not want to sign up for routine truck-based spraying. Several communities have declined to join because they can't get the services they want without also accepting and paying for services they do not want.

Will the RFR be open to entities that are not already pre-approved consultants for the state? I think it should, because this is a quite specialized study and we may need expertise from a university or other entity not presently affiliated with MA.

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16:46:51 From Jennifer Pederson, Mass Water Works Assoc : 1. Agree with comments that evaluation of much of background bullets should be in the scope and specifically, MWWA would like to see more emphasis on evaluating impacts on drinking water sources (groundwater and surface water). 2. We would like an analysis of the ingredients in the pesticides used (and ideally what impact those ingredients might have on water supply). 3. In Section 3, add DEP as another agency they must consult with.

16:48:16 From Kathleen Baskin, MassDEP : In terms of measuring effectiveness (i.e. illness rates vs. # of mosquitoes), we might choose multiple metrics rather than selecting only one parameter.

16:48:55 From Russ Hopping (Trustees) : Following up on Anita's comment about honey bees, I'd like to see wildlife mentioned more broadly in the background. Specifically calling out native bees, odonates, rare species lepidoptera and mosquito predators. Honey bees can be important but they have very unique biology compared to the more than 300 species of native bees.

16:50:47 From Anita D. : In section 1.1 include the impacts of spraying on honey bees and other pollinators. In section 3. Page 5 The report must include the impact of spraying on honey bees and other pollinators.

16:54:11 From Julia Blatt, Mass Rivers Alliance : Just in case it's helpful to restate my comment here, I would like to look at the scope of the project with an eye toward collecting information that will enable us to come up with recommendations. This means that in addition to an analysis of existing programs, the consultant should be asked to provide data and information

on best management practices that provide multiple benefits, and protect both ecosystem and human health.

16:54:32 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : Because the scope of work will necessarily be limited by time and cost, provide opportunities for the task force, agencies, or public to offer information on best practice examples as well as relevant studies. Boulder, CO and Washington, DC are 2 examples. Boulder has recently conducted a comprehensive review that included literature reviews - including reviewing the scientific literature on Bti. https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/BoulderCCMemo_Update_to_Mosquito_Management_Program_8Nov2018-1-201906051539.pdf

16:56:05 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : To the extent feasible, the consultant's report should present information in quantifiable terms. Where that is not possible due to data gaps, those should be identified. Assumptions and limitations of the analyses should be transparent.

16:56:24 From Julia Blatt, Mass Rivers Alliance : Do we know what the budget will be?

16:58:02 From Eve Schluter : One of the specifications should include identification of data gaps for possible future research needs etc. Also, final deliverables should include a presentation to the task force (and possible other outreach efforts?). Finally, the reference to MESA should include the word Massachusetts, Agree with Russ' comments

17:03:12 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : Other, not related to RFR - what is the process for communities to opt out of spraying as called for in the legislation? If communities are going to ask to opt out of state spraying next year, they need to begin planning now and developing their alternative plan in accordance with guidelines to be forthcoming from DPH.

17:04:49 From Helen Poynton : toxicity data on any of the ingredients used in spraying, bioaccumulation, persistence, trophic transfer, and use of synergists

17:05:32 From Brad Mitchell, MA Farm Bureau : Toxicity data is available for ai and synergists. May be difficult to get "inert" data as its considered CBI

17:05:57 From Brad Mitchell, MA Farm Bureau : Not many "inerts" in adulticides

17:07:20 From Richard J Pollack : To reiterate on my oral comments: I encourage the contractor to include a review / analysis of the medical, public health, and fiscal burden imposed by mosquitoes and mosquito-borne disease. Burdens might also include those on agriculture, commerce, recreation, tourism, and more. Furthermore, the analysis might include the 'role' of exotic / invasive mosquitoes in nature, and their impact on health. What are the burdens of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne disease on wildlife (particularly birds) and on farm animals?

17:07:20 From Julia Blatt, Mass Rivers Alliance : Maybe one during the work day and one in the evening? Some people may have trouble taking time out of their working day.

17:07:24 From Jennifer Pederson, Mass Water Works Assoc : Maybe one during the day and one during the evening held virtually

17:11:57 From Helen Poynton : I think the study might want to address levels of insecticide resistance to the active ingredients in these insecticides.

17:13:11 From Brad Mitchell, MA Farm Bureau : I don't believe an analysis of private mosquito control companies is within the scope of this project, or necessary. I'd rather see resources go towards organized mosquito control

17:13:20 From Bob Mann : I think it would be helpful for MDAR to provide examples of insecticides currently being used - labels/SDS would be good, too.

17:14:06 From Brad Mitchell, MA Farm Bureau : I'd also argue that we don't overly focus on pesticides. It's only a component of mosquito control

17:15:27 From Brad Mitchell, MA Farm Bureau : Public education is one of the components and should be an area of discussion

17:15:48 From LeBeau_K : Regarding scope: For Public Water Systems with surface water body sources, the study should assess the currently established exclusion buffer zone around active reservoirs and/or inlets during aerial spraying events. Is the current buffer zone sufficient? Do other states have different protections for PWSs?

17:16:46 From Brad Mitchell, MA Farm Bureau : Also, how do we effectively control mosquitos in exclusion zones. People still live in those areas very often and are left at risk - significant risk in some cases

17:17:28 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : I agree with Brad - also, spraying may lead to complacency in personal protection measures

17:17:42 From Brad Mitchell, MA Farm Bureau : agreed

17:18:02 From Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon : Clarification, I was replying to his comment on public education.