

## **Minutes for the Mosquito Control Taskforce for the Twenty-First Century Meeting**

November 9, 2020, 11:00 a.m. via Zoom

The meeting was held remotely under the Governor's Order issued on March 12, 2020, which authorizes a public body to meet remotely and suspends the requirement of a quorum on the body being physically present at the meeting location. All votes were taken as roll call votes.

**Members in Attendance:** Dan Sieger, Kevin Cranston, Stephen Doody, Kathy Baskin, Eve Schluter, Heidi Porter, Commissioner John Lebeaux, Julia Blatt, Tonya Colpitts, Anita Deeley, Russell Hopping, Kimberly LeBeau, Bob Mann, Priscilla Matton, Brad Mitchell, Jennifer Pederson, Richard Pollack, Heidi Ricci, Steven Rich, and Richard Robinson.

Dan Sieger called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. and announced the meeting was being recorded. He asked for comments on the minutes from the last meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Lebeaux moved to approve the minutes and Jennifer Pederson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the October 27<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved unanimously with those absent from the last meeting abstaining.

Dan Sieger then opened the discussion about finalizing the RFR. All bids will be due by December 11<sup>th</sup>. He then introduced Caroline Higley to give a summary of the changes to the RFR made since the last meeting.

Caroline Higley reported that the format of the RFR had been changed to match the state-wide contract PRF-61 template. Staff changed the language to identify what the bidder should consider quantifiable impacts, and what they should look at when summarizing the history of arbovirus in the area. Staff also summarized the opt-out options for mosquito control in the Commonwealth and in other states and updated the timeline.

Dan Sieger then opened discussion about any last-minute changes to the RFR with the aim of voting on the RFR afterward.

Heidi Ricci recommend including evaluation of why some communities may choose not to join a mosquito control district and what other options communities have. She recommended analysis of a third option of mosquito control consisting of tiered services. Caroline Higley responded that staff would try to make it clearer that they want a range of options for mosquito control to be researched and not only two scenarios.

Richard Robinson commented that the focus should be on the impact on human health, not on how many mosquitoes are killed.

Richard Pollack said he agreed the human health aspect is critical, but also thinks people value mosquito control for quality of life issues in addition to strictly human health so he thinks a broader look at mosquito control and its benefits is necessary.

Richard Robinson said he had nothing against adding quality of life, but he wanted to reiterate that good mosquito control for protecting human health is not necessarily how many mosquitoes

are killed. It was decided they would look at the language of the original legislation passed charging this taskforce to determine the ideal language for the charge of the RFR.

Dan Sieger then asked for a vote on the RFR. A motion to approve the RFR was made by Commissioner Lebeaux and seconded by Jenifer Pederson. The vote was unanimously approved.

Dan Sieger then opened discussion about RFR evaluation and whether the Task Force should create a subcommittee to review submittals.

Priscilla Matton commented that everyone should read and review everything, so she did not believe a subcommittee would be helpful.

Heidi Ricci and Eve Schluter agreed everyone on the taskforce should read and vote on everything but wondered if a subcommittee would be useful to determine evaluation criteria and how things will be weighted.

Jessica Burgess clarified that a subcommittee would traditionally pre-screen bids for the taskforce to vote.

Dan Sieger asked Rob Monahan to give a summary of the evaluation process for bids. Dan Sieger thought they could use the early December meeting to start thinking about a rubric.

Eve Schluter suggested they needed a rubric of what will be evaluated ahead of an early December meeting so they can discuss it at the meeting.

Dan Sieger asked if anyone had strong objection to doing the review as an entire committee as opposed to a sub-committee. No one objected. He said they would try to send a draft before the December meeting. Responses will be submitted in December, and hopefully the Task Force will be able to vote in January. He announced they now have a place for members of the public to make comments to the taskforce online which can be read and discussed during public meetings in the future. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Staff from Senator Comerford's office and Heidi Ricci brought up the importance of sending guidance to communities who are considering opting-out of mosquito spraying.

Dan Sieger asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting which was provided by Commissioner Lebeaux and seconded by Richard Pollock. The meeting ended at 12:00 p.m.