

Minutes for the Mosquito Control Task Force for the Twenty-First Century Meeting

February 4, 2021, 3:45 p.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, Commissioner John Lebeaux, Stephen Doody, Kathy Baskin, Eve Schluter, Derek Brindisi, Julia Blatt, Anita Deeley, Russell Hopping, Kim LeBeau, Bob Mann, Priscilla Matton, Jennifer Pederson, Rich Pollack, Helen Poynton, Heidi Ricci, Stephen Rich, Richard Robinson and Sam Telford.

Dan Sieger called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m. and announced the meeting was being recorded. He requested that attendees introduce themselves by entering their name and organization into the chat box and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. He asked for comments on the minutes from the meeting on January 27th. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the January 27th minutes. John Lebeaux moved to approve the minutes and Priscilla Matton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the January 27th minutes were approved unanimously with those absent from the last meeting abstaining.

Dan Sieger then turned to Caroline Higley for an update on the RFR. EEA posted the RFR publicly on January 28th and responses are due back on March 1st. The Mosquito Control Task Force website now has a link to the RFR to make distribution easier. With respect to outreach, EEA and MDAR have reached out to many organizations and individuals and entities through social media accounts, Centers for Excellence in Vector Borne Disease, regional Mosquito Control Associations, individuals at academic institutions, and independent consultants and companies. Caroline Higley reminded members to email her with outreach requests. EEA and MDAR will continue to track the outreach and will reach out on behalf of Task Force members. She also reminded members not to discuss or engage with potential bidders on the subject of the RFR and to refer questions to EEA staff.

Task Force members asked whether the list of entities contacted could be shared and whether the posting could be provided on listservs. Caroline Higley and Dan Sieger promised to share whatever information is appropriate and confirmed that listservs had been contacted.

Caroline Higley mentioned that we will reach out again on March 1st with the bid package and guidance for the meeting on March 3rd, which will be used to evaluate and select a bidder. Dan Sieger mentioned that we can be flexible about what happens at that meeting depending on the number of bids we receive.

Dan Sieger then introduced Kim Skyrn, Chief Apiary Inspector at MDAR, to present on Honeybee Health in MA.

Following the presentation Heidi Ricci mentioned that it is great to see the effort being put toward monitoring honeybee health but also wondered about other native bees and pollinators.

She asked about the sublethal impacts that might make the bees more vulnerable to other diseases.

Kim Skyrn answered that this concerns us as well and is another reason we are diligent about revisiting hives and doing pre-spray investigations. He welcomed any input going forward.

Anita Deeley asked whether this was the result of one spray event and whether we would expect additional impact if there were multiple sprays.

Kim Skyrn answered that this was the result of one spray but in 2019 we did see multiple sprays.

Dan Sieger then introduced Ed Messina, Acting Director of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs within the Office of Chemical Safety & Pollution Prevention for a presentation on PFAS and Pesticides.

Ed Messina mentioned that he appreciates the collaboration with the state and described the PFAS issue EPA is currently focused on. His office became involved when Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) contacted Massachusetts state officials re: PFAS in Anvil. EPA Region 1 contacted his office which followed up by providing lab assistance researching pesticide products. His office has also reached out to the company involved which confirmed that there should be no PFAS in the pesticidal product. After running multiple tests it appears that heated fluorinated containers may be the source of the PFAS. (See [link](#) to EPA Press Release from December 2020).

Ed Messina also reached out to Clarke which took action and is exploring the option of different containers. EPA has also reached out to other agencies and associations to examine other processes and supply chains to make sure PFAS is not included in other containers. Ed Messina referred to the EPA website for additional PFAS information and the EPA PFAS Action Plan.

Dan Sieger thanked Ed Messina for the presentation and the ongoing collaboration and then called on Kyla Bennett whose work for PEER raised this issue initially.

Kyla Bennett asked whether Clarke's roughly 60 products use the same containers. Also, EPA lists a number of PFAS that are approved inerts in pesticides. How can we be sure that there are not PFAS added as inert ingredients in other pesticides?

Ed Messina answered no, Clarke does not use the same containers for all their products but do use them for some others. He believes that none of the inerts are currently being used and that the website has been updated.

Jennifer Pederson asked whether EPA has looked at whether other drinking water chemicals are shipped in fluorinated containers.

Ed Messina answered that that is an area EPA is planning to explore. He mentioned that oily matrix products are the ones that typically use fluorinated containers. They are exploring all products under EPA control.

Dan Sieger asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting which was provided by Rich Pollack and seconded by Jennifer Pederson. The meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.