



Commissioners  
Jennifer Brown  
Jeanne Galloway – Chair  
Gregory Lewis  
Dr. Andrew Lover  
Carolyn Shores Ness

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

State Reclamation & Mosquito Control Board

## Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District

Fernald Hall, UMass Amherst

270 Stockbridge Road

Amherst, MA 01003

Web: [www.mass.gov/pioneer-valley-mosquito-control-district](http://www.mass.gov/pioneer-valley-mosquito-control-district)

Email: [john.c.briggs@mass.gov](mailto:john.c.briggs@mass.gov)

Phone: 413-545-7136



District Director  
John Briggs

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025

1. Call to Order and Attendance
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.
  - b. Commissioners in attendance: Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Ness, Gregory Lewis, and Andrew Lover.
  - c. Also in attendance: Susan Gruen from the Heath Board of Health, Johanna Ravenhurst from the New England Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases (NEWVEC), and John Briggs, the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) Director.
2. Public Comment/Output
  - a. None
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
  - a. **Greg made a motion to approve the previous month's minutes as written, and Carolyn seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**
4. Johanna Ravenhurst from the New England Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases
  - a. Johanna invited the Commissioners to participate in a focus group to talk about their work as mosquito control district Commissioners.
5. Finance/Budget
  - a. Due to additional mitigation services scheduled for the upcoming season, the projected revenue for FY25 is estimated to exceed the amount anticipated at the time of the budget certification last May by \$7,922.58.
  - b. John requested approval for the appropriation of funds to cover an invoice received last month for tires that were purchased in FY24 for the Chevy Tahoe. **Carolyn motioned to appropriate \$678.56 for payment, and Greg seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**
  - c. John requested approval for a \$150 clothing and boot stipend for full-time employees and a \$100 stipend for contracted employees.
    - i. Carolyn motioned to approve the request. An amendment was made to the motion.
    - ii. **Amended Motion: Carolyn motioned to approve a \$195 clothing and boot stipend for full-time employees and a \$100 clothing and boot stipend for contracted employees. Greg seconded the amended motion. Motion approved unanimously, 4-0.**
6. Vehicle Acquisition Update
  - a. Status of 2008 Silverado
    - i. John has yet to hear back from the Office of Vehicle Management regarding the permanent acquisition of the Silverado pickup truck that the District currently still has possession of.
7. Pilot Mitigation Services Update for FY25 and FY26
  - a. Pilot larval mitigation services for the end of FY25 and/or FY26 are expected to expand in Amherst, Deerfield, East Longmeadow, Northampton, South Hadley, and West Springfield.
8. FY26 Pilot Ditch Maintenance Program
  - a. John mentioned that he had planned on offering pilot ditch maintenance services to select member communities during the fall and winter of FY26.

9. Membership and Outreach Update

- a. An update was provided regarding the Town of Buckland's membership status. The Town Administrator had sent John an email stating that a petition to withdraw from the district will be placed on the Special Town Meeting Warrant in May.
- b. John met with the Leyden Board of Health on February 4 to discuss the District's objectives and provide updates.
- c. A meeting with Lauren Kennedy, Agawam Board of Health, is in the process of being scheduled.
- d. John met with Colrain's Board of Health on the February 4 to discuss Colrain joining the District.
- e. Trifold Brochure: Several revisions will be made to the trifold brochure prior to making it public.

10. Website

- a. John had shared a video demo of the website he developed for the District. A discussion was held, and it was agreed that a dedicated website for the District would be beneficial for member communities and the general public. John would continue to work on developing the website.

11. Staffing/Hiring Update

- a. John outlined his hiring plan for the season, noting that two employees from the previous year have expressed interest in returning for the upcoming season.

12. Other Business

- a. Susan provided an update on her progress in drafting a letter requesting additional aid for Franklin County towns.

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Commission Meeting

- a. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 10 at 2 p.m.

14. Adjournment

- a. **Carolyn motioned to adjourn, and Andrew seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.