



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)

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District Director  
 John Briggs

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, March 13, 2025

### 1. Call to Order and Attendance

- a. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.
- b. Commissioners present: Gregory Lewis, Andrew Lover, Jennifer Brown, and Jeanne Galloway.
- c. Others present: John Briggs, Director of Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD), and Susan Gruen from the Heath Board of Health (BOH).
- d. The meeting experienced a disruption when an inappropriate image was shared by an anonymous Zoom participant, leading to the session's immediate suspension. The meeting resumed at approximately 2:05 p.m.

### 2. Public Comment/Output

- a. Susan provided feedback on John's presentation during the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS) meeting. She also gave an update on the Heath BOH letter, which requests additional financial support for Franklin County communities.

### 3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. February 10, 2025 minutes
  - i. Discussion: It was noticed that Jeanne's name was missing from the attendance section of the February 10 meeting minutes.
  - ii. **Andrew made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Greg seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**
- b. February 24, 2025 minutes
  - i. **Jennifer made a motion to approve the minutes and Jeanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**

### 4. Finance/Budget

- a. FY25 payments update
  - i. A brief update was given regarding payments owed from FY25 membership fees.
- b. FY25 and FY26 estimated revenue from mitigation services
  - i. Estimated revenue from mitigation services is approximately \$34,500.
- c. Seasonal employee estimated payroll
  - i. Seasonal contracted employee payroll is estimated to be \$8,700 for FY25 and \$12,650 for the beginning of FY26.
- d. FY25: Appropriation of additional funds for contracted seasonal employees
  - i. John requested an additional \$8,000.00 in funds to cover payroll costs for contracted seasonal employees in FY25.
  - ii. **Jeanne made a motion to accept the budget as amended and Jennifer seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**

### 5. Personnel

- a. It was requested that an hourly rate increase of \$1.00 per hour be awarded to contracted seasonal employees who obtain their catch basin applicator permits.

- i. Jeanne made a motion to approve the hourly rate increase, and Andrew seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**

6. Pilot Larval Mitigation Equipment and Supplies

- a. An order from Clarke was delivered on March 4, consisting of 12 boxes of 90-day Bti briquets, 9 boxes of 45-day Bti briquets, and 2 bags of CRG Bti.

7. Membership Update

- a. The Director of Public Health in Agawam has expressed interest in joining the District for FY26 and may ask John to present information about the District at their next monthly meeting.
- b. Carmela Lanza of the Buckland Board of Health has expressed the desire to stay in the District and is working with the Town Administrator to do so.

8. Outreach Update

- a. John met with Dan Conlon and Tom Graney from the Franklin County Beekeepers Association. He agreed to provide a short article about the District for their monthly newsletter.
- b. John presented at the CPHS's meeting last month on February 27.
- c. Note: Jeanne had to leave the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

9. Discussion and vote on the creation and utilization of a dedicated District website

i. Discussion:

1. John reported that a liaison from the MA Department of Agriculture advised that he refrain from publishing and creating a dedicated website for the district, as it is uncertain what future requirements for web hosting will look like once all the mosquito control districts and projects are fully integrated into the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) IT program.
2. The Commissioners acknowledged the potential uncertainties related to future EEA IT requirements. However, they determined that the available information did not provide sufficient reason to delay the publication of a district-dedicated website. They also agreed that proceeding with the launch of pvmcd.org would benefit PVMCD member communities.

ii. Vote:

- 1. Jennifer motioned that the district move forward with publishing the pvmcd.org website, and Andrew seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.**

10. Potential Changes to Open Meeting Law

- a. A plan was discussed regarding in-person meeting locations, in the event that temporary provisions are not extended beyond March 31, 2025.

11. Other Business

- a. Jennifer sought clarification from John and the Commission about whether it was permissible to distribute District materials to a senior organization in a non-member town. The group agreed that this would be acceptable.
- b. John noted that Gabi Sakolsky from Cape Cod Mosquito Control accepted an invitation to attend an upcoming PVMCD Commission meeting.

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

- a. April 14, at 2 p.m.

13. Adjournment

- a. **Andrew motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jennifer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.**
- b. **The meeting concluded at 3:17 p.m.**