



Commissioners
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

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Director
John C. Briggs

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 13, 2026

1. Call to Order and Attendance

- a. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.
- b. Commissioners in attendance: Jeanne Galloway, Greg Lewis, Carolyn Ness, and Andrew Lover.
- c. Others Present:
 - The Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project (BCMCP) Commission: Wally Terrill, Ryan Grennan, and Jim McGrath
 - Chris Horton, Superintendent of BCMCP
 - Susan Gruen, Heath Board of Health
 - John Briggs, Director of the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD)

2. Public Comment/Input

- a. None.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 4/6/26

- a. Greg made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Carolyn seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

4. Finance Report

- a. The Director reported that a total of \$15,750.00 remains outstanding from three member municipalities for FY26 annual membership. The District is continuing outreach to resolve owed balances.
- b. The proposed fringe benefit rates for FY27 have been released. The District is anticipating a significant increase, with the rate including payroll tax projected to rise from 37.81% to 46.11%. The increase will need to be reflected in the FY27 budget, which had used the previous fiscal year's fringe benefit rates as an estimate.

5. Discussion of Funding Challenges Affecting Rural Mosquito Control Programs in Western Massachusetts

- a. Representatives from both PVMCD and BCMCP discussed how limited fiscal capacity and smaller tax bases in rural communities create shared barriers to participation. These financial constraints contribute to persistent gaps in mosquito surveillance and service coverage across both regions, regardless of the funding mechanism used.
- b. There was a consensus to pursue a collaborative approach in identifying potential long-term solutions.

6. Membership/Outreach Update

- a. The Director is coordinating an introductory meeting with the new Public Health Director in Montague and will be contacting Agawam, Belchertown, and Leverett to discuss potential membership and participation status for the upcoming season.
- b. The Director has been invited to present to the Foothills Health District and the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses. Meeting dates have yet to be established.

7. Other Business

- a. Larval treatments have started in East Longmeadow and Deerfield, with Northampton starting this week. Catch basin treatments will start in May.
- b. An offer letter is being sent to the seasonal entomologist candidate. Interviews for the .5 Field and Lab Technician position will start within the next couple of weeks.
- c. A spring newsletter will be distributed in the coming months, and it was agreed to include an overview of fee structure and funding model.

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

- a. TBD. This meeting will be held virtually.

9. Adjournment

- a. Carolyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Andrew seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.
- b. The meeting concluded at 5:25 PM.