



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

Email: john.c.briggs@mass.gov

Phone: 413-545-7136



Pioneer Valley
Mosquito Control
District

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 11, 2025

1. Call to Order and Attendance

- a. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM.
- b. Commissioners Present: Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Ness, Jennifer Brown, and Greg Lewis. Andrew Lover joined the meeting at 2:08 PM.
- c. Others present: Susan Gruen from the Heath Board of Health and John Briggs, Director of the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD).

2. Public Comment/Output

- a. None.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from 6/9/25

- a. **Carolyn made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Jennifer seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**

4. Budget/Finance

- a. The Director provided an update on the District's financial status. FY25 and FY26 payments were discussed, including both revenue received and outstanding balances. Follow-up communications will be sent to towns with outstanding balances as needed.
- b. A discussion took place regarding the acquisition of a new fleet electric vehicle to support the operational needs of the District. Concerns were raised regarding the cost of acquiring an electric vehicle and the current lack of charging infrastructure in Franklin County. Commissioners noted these factors should be carefully considered as part of the decision-making process.
- c. **Jeanne motioned to authorize the Director to move forward with the acquisition of one to two vehicles for the District, provided that the decision is economically feasible and determined to be in the best interest of the District. Carolyn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

5. Surveillance and Larval Control Update

- a. The Director reported that above-average numbers of *Culex pipiens/restuans* were being collected and that catch basin treatments in response to West Nile virus had been completed East Longmeadow, Chicopee, and Northampton.

6. Membership and Outreach Update

- a. At the request of Montague's Town Administrator and Health Director, a formal letter outlining the steps for the town to join the District was sent by MDAR Legal Counsel and has been forwarded to Montague's Town Counsel for review.
- d. The Director has reached out to the Town of Belchertown regarding potential membership and is waiting to hear back.
- e. EEE response decision process magnets will be purchased in the near future.

7. Development and Implementation of a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
 - a. After a brief discussion, the Commission agreed to revisit this agenda item during the offseason.
8. Staffing Update
 - a. It was reported that seasonal staff would continue to work part-time through the remainder of the season.
9. Other Business
 - a. Susan recommended that John provide an end-of-season summary that focuses on unusually high mosquito numbers and West Nile virus.
 - f. The use of battery-powered fans to deter mosquitoes was suggested for inclusion in future outreach materials.
10. Date, Time, and Location of Next Commission Meeting
 - a. September 8, 2025 at 2 PM.
11. Adjournment
 - a. Andrew motioned to adjourn the meeting and Carolyn seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.
 - g. The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 PM.