



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, September 15, 2025

1. Call to Order and Attendance

- a. The meeting was called to order at 2:15 PM.
- b. Commissioners Present: Carolyn Ness, Greg Lewis, and Andrew Lover.
- 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 Andrew seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.**

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. Projected expenses and revenues from mitigation services for FY26 Quarter 1 were also reviewed. Follow-up communications still need to be sent to towns with outstanding balances as needed.
- b. The Commission held a discussion on District growth and staffing capacity. Members explored what level of service expansion would warrant hiring additional staff or a full-time position to support operations. It was agreed that this discussion should be continued at a future Commission meeting to determine specific criteria.

5. Surveillance and Larval Control Update

- a. The Director reported that, to date, there have been 53 confirmed West Nile virus-positive mosquito samples in the Pioneer Valley and one human case reported in Hampden County.
- b. All scheduled larval treatments have been completed.
- c. Catch basin treatments were conducted in Palmer in response to West Nile-positive mosquito samples.

6. Membership and Outreach Update

- a. A discussion took place regarding the current status of Montague's membership review. Following the discussion, the Commissioners reached a consensus to invite Jessica Burgess, Deputy Counsel for MDAR, to the next Commission meeting to provide additional context and explanation regarding the review process.
- b. The Director will reach out to Jessica to invite her to next month's Commission meeting.

7. Vehicle Acquisition Update

- a. The Director noted that the total vehicle costs discussed during last month's meeting did not include lease to purchase pricing and were nearly double the anticipated amount. As a result, the Director decided not to move forward with acquiring a vehicle at this time, as it would not be in the District's financial best interest. The Commission agreed that this was the appropriate decision.
- b. The Director stated that alternative options for vehicle acquisition would be explored.

8. Other Business

- a. None.

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

- a. October 20, 2025 at 2 PM. This meeting will be held virtually.

10. Adjournment

- a. **Carolyn motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Andrew seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.**
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 PM.