



# **Mosquito Control for the Twenty-First Century Task Force**

**Calendar and Outline of Recommendations**

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**January 13, 2022**



# Mosquito Control Task Force: Working Calendar

Date	Phase	Meetings	Action Items	Deliverable
<b>Early January</b>	Subcommittees outline recs	-Subcommittees: 1 meeting each  -MCTF: Jan 13	Subcommittees create preliminary outline of recs; present to full task force for discussion and feedback	Outline of recs – for task force discussion
<b>Late January</b>	Subcommittees draft recs	-Subcommittees: 2 meetings each	Subcommittees incorporate feedback from full task force; formalize written work to develop draft recs	Draft recs – for task force discussion and public review and feedback
<b>February</b>	Task force and public input on draft recs Subcommittees finalize recs	-MCTF: Feb 7  -Public Listening Session: Feb 10 (4-6pm)  -Subcommittees: 3 meetings each	Subcommittees present draft recs to full task force for feedback; MCTF hosts public listening session for public feedback on recs  Subcommittees incorporate feedback and input to finalize recs. Subcommittee vote to advance to full task force	Final recs – for task force discussion
<b>March</b>	Task force finalize recs	-MCTF: Mar 3, Mar 21, Mar 29	Task force discusses full suite of recs. MCTF vote to advance recs to Legislature	<b>MCTF advances recommendations to Legislature</b>



# Outline of Recommendations: Background

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- Subcommittees on Pesticide Selection, Best Practices, Local Engagement, and Policy Structure have been meeting since early October
  - Task force legislative directives have been divided among the subcommittees
  - Each subcommittee is responsible for developing recommendations that fall within assigned directives, for full task force consideration
- Purpose of meeting today: Subcommittee chairs present outline of recommendations
- Important reminders:
  - Detailed outlines of recommendations are being posted online for review
  - Proposed recommendation outlines come several meetings before subcommittees develop draft recommendations, develop final recommendations, and before the full task force considers the subcommittee final recommendations
  - Outlines of recommendations are live documents that are under development by subcommittees, and may not represent the majority opinion of the subcommittees
  - Recommendations may continue to be added to and eliminated from consideration by each subcommittee
  - Discussion should first prioritize non-subcommittee members
- Members of the public are strongly encouraged to submit feedback and responses to the outlines via the online public comment portal

# Outline of Recommendations: Discussion Questions

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- 1) Overall: Is the subcommittee on the right trajectory with its recommendations, given the context they share about their progress? If not, why or what do you wish to adjust?
- 2) Do you have concerns about the direction of the recommendation?
- 3) Are there components of the recommendation as drafted that you do not support? If so, what are those components, and what about the recommendation should change?
- 4) Is the subcommittee overlooking any critical considerations with regard to the recommendation?
- 5) Within your area of expertise, do you have any feasibility concerns?



# Outline of Recommendations: Pesticide Selection (1/3)

- **Directive: (vii) promoting the use of the safest or minimum risk pesticides feasible and employing methods, including product disclosures or implementation of testing protocols and procedures, to avoid the use of pesticides containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances**
  - 1. Documenting and implementing a transparent selection process: Acknowledging concerns by stakeholders that existing pesticide product review is not sufficient, the SRB should further review pesticide products used in mosquito control
  - 2. Enhancing pesticide selection and consideration of synergists: To make pesticide selection for mosquito control a more formal process and address the potential ecological concerns of synergists in pesticide formulations, recommend:
    - Formalizing the annual review of pesticide products used during aerial and truck-based spraying for mosquito control by the SRB.
    - Directing MassDEP to assemble existing insecticide sediment data from USGS and other sources, and collect additional data if needed to determine baseline levels of insecticides throughout the state.
    - Directing the SRB to review this MassDEP data and determine if synergism of insecticides already present in aquatic sediments is possible, when considering the use of insecticide formulations that include synergists.



# Outline of Recommendations: Pesticide Selection (2/3)

- **Directive: (vii) promoting the use of the safest or minimum risk pesticides feasible and employing methods, including product disclosures or implementation of testing protocols and procedures, to avoid the use of pesticides containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (cont.)**
  - 3. Ensuring selection considers potential impacts to drinking water quality: MA should continue the practice of not using products with chemicals on the Groundwater Protection List and should evaluate whether further controls are warranted on application of other pesticides near drinking water sources.
  - 4. Avoiding use of PFAS-containing pesticides:
    - Consider developing a recommendation that not only will help avoid use of PFAS-containing pesticides, but can also be used to avoid use of pesticides that contain other emerging contaminants.
    - Consider periodic testing to identify contaminants of concern, acknowledging the challenge associated with testing for unknown contaminants.
    - Recognizing the challenge of devising a testing protocol for unknown contaminants, consider deploying tests that look for formulation characteristics that are not desired.
    - Consider requiring manufacturers to certify their products as “PFAS-frees,” acknowledging potential difficulties with that certification option



# Outline of Recommendations: Pesticide Selection (3/3)

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- **Directive: (ix) identifying known ingredients in pesticide products used for mosquito control, analyzing the ability, or lack of ability, to identify such ingredients, and making recommendations for determining such ingredients**
  - 5. No recommended action relative to active ingredient disclosure
  - 6. No recommended action relative to inert ingredient disclosure
  - 7. Update/amend the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act to address the following inert ingredient review:
    - Include MassDEP on the Pesticide Board Subcommittee as MassDEP is the agency responsible for setting regulatory standards for surface and drinking waters and regulating toxic substances.
    - Require that pesticide registrants include information about inert ingredients and their percentages in their product registration applications, to be confidentially reviewed by MDAR and MassDEP; overall hazard assessments of inert ingredients to be presented only generally during an open meeting
    - All information that is protected as confidential business information under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) should also be protected during the MA product registration process.



# Outline of Recommendations: Best Practices (1/2)

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- **Directive: (i) Facilitating use of integrated pest management (IPM)**
  - 1. State-Wide Mosquito Surveillance: The state should conduct state-wide mosquito surveillance with a focus on the species of primary concern for disease transmission, which would increase the ability to conduct evidence-based mosquito control.
  - 2. Improving Consistency in the Implementation of IPM: The implementation of IPM should follow the framework and guidelines established in the EIR. In the next EIR update, the report should be expanded to include recommendations for action thresholds that, once met, allow for the initiation of control measures
  - 3. Limiting Truck-Based Applications of Adulticides: MCDs should conduct truck-based adulticiding applications only when clear thresholds for spraying are met. These threshold should be determined by objective data, including but not limited to mosquito surveillance data that demonstrate elevated disease risk as well as the aggregation of complaints





# Outline of Recommendations: Best Practices (2/2)

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- **Directive: (vi) Developing procedures to protect human and ecological health and minimize non-target impacts of mosquito pesticides, including, but not limited to, effects on persons with respiratory or immune system illnesses, drinking water supplies, pollinators and aquatic life**
  - 4. Protect vulnerable populations and non-target species: Determine procedures for protecting vulnerable populations and non-target species even when pesticide application is warranted.
  - 5. Online reporting for private applicators: Develop an online reporting system so that pesticide application records from private applicators can be analyzed to understand the situation and develop possible recommendation for limiting use.
- **Directive: (iv) Protecting organic agriculture from pesticide use**
  - 6. Agriculture Opt-out: Offer the current opt-out option to commercial farms.
  - 7. Protected status of certified organic farms: Codify the current protected status for certified farms in legislation, not just in policy.



# Outline of Recommendations: Policy Structure (1/2)

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- **Directive: (v) assessing the need to update the composition of the state reclamation and mosquito control board**
  - 1. Repeal and replace OR revise MGL C. 252 and enabling MCD/MCP legislations:  
A revised C. 252 and enabling legislations would:
    - Create a new oversight board to replace the current SRB
    - Establish modified funding mechanisms for mosquito control services and MCD/MCP membership
    - Create a centralized mosquito control program
  - 2. Amend the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook (and relevant building codes):  
Amend the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook (and relevant building codes) to ensure that newly created stormwater retention and detention basins, including but not limited to, sediment forebays, vegetated filter strips, and bioretention swales



# Outline of Recommendations: Policy Structure (2/2)

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- **Directive (x) identifying the challenges, including but not limited to financial barriers, facing municipalities in joining a regional mosquito control project or district;**
  - 3. Revise the structure, function, and funding of MCDs to ensure a comprehensive and cohesive framework for mosquito control across Massachusetts and to potentially allow for towns to join MCDs at lower costs: A framework would provide for two levels of services, Basic Services and Additional Services, and would support a cohesive mosquito control program with all MCDs as part of one system with centralized data systems
  - 4. Establish baseline mosquito control services and allow people/member towns to add services as they wish/as needed.



# Outline of Recommendations: Local Engagement (1/2)

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- **Directive: (ii) promoting public participation in mosquito management decisions**
  - 1. Online system for requesting property exclusions and property opt-outs: The online opt out form should be amended to include an option for renewal that eliminates the need to reenter data annually and by town.
  - 2. Marking methods for property exclusions and property opt-outs: The landowner opt out/exclusion process (333 CMR 13.03) should be amended to remove the physical marking requirement (req. under 333 CMR 13.032) and physical marking should be optional given GPS/GIS technology is used by all MCD and is readily available to private property owners.
  - 3. Promote creative ways to engage the public: Create more resources and methods to engage the public
  - 4. Public Input for Annual Mosquito Control Planning: Provide a process for meaningful public input into a mosquito-borne disease management plan and regular updates.



# Outline of Recommendations: Local Engagement (2/2)

- **Directive: (iii) providing for local options regarding the use of pesticides.**
  - 5. Menu-based approach: Determine options to allow municipalities to receive only desired services.
  - 6. Municipal survey: A survey should be conducted of municipalities periodically, to ascertain municipal opinion on mosquito control.
  - 7. Municipal opt-out: The municipal opt out process implemented by 2A should be extended, with modifications.
- **Directive: (viii) providing for comprehensive annual evaluations of each season's mosquito control process, including the effectiveness of the process in controlling arbovirus and any effects of spraying on the environment, agriculture and wildlife.**
  - 8. Pilot evaluation of environmental impacts: Include funding specifically for initial studies of the impact of larviciding and adulticiding on non-target species in two geographic areas of Massachusetts.
  - 9. Increase sharing of pesticide application locations: Require annual reporting on specific treatment areas, such as a map published through MassGIS
  - 10. Increase transparency on operational exclusions for rare species/sensitive habitat: Require dissemination to select organizations of geographic areas excluded from pesticide application