

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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KARYN E. POLITO  
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### MEMBERS

Alisha Bouchard, Chair  
Department of Agricultural  
Resources (DAR)

Jim Straub  
Department of Conservation  
And Recreation (DCR)

Gary Gonyea  
Department of Environmental  
Protection (DEP)

### OPERATIONS

Jennifer Forman Orth  
Environmental Biologist

Juan Carlos Gutierrez  
Operations Coordinator

Jessica Burgess  
Legal Counsel

Alexander Gill  
Contracts Manager

### MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECTS & DISTRICTS

Berkshire County Mosquito  
Control Project

Bristol County Mosquito  
Control Project

Cape Cod Mosquito  
Control Project

Central Massachusetts  
Mosquito Control Project

East Middlesex Mosquito  
Control Project

Nantucket Mosquito Control  
Project

Norfolk County Mosquito  
Control District

Northeast Massachusetts  
Mosquito & Wetland  
Management District

Plymouth County Mosquito  
Control Project

Suffolk County Mosquito  
Control Project

## Meeting Minutes of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB)

### Cape Cod Regional Transportation Authority

215 Iyannough Rd, 1st Floor, Hyannis, MA 02601

10/19/2016

### Board Members & Guests in Attendance:

Alisha Bouchard, Chairwoman, Gary Gonyea, Taryn LaScola, Jessica Burgess, Jennifer Forman Orth, Juan Carlos Gutierrez, Alexander Gill, Brian Farless, Arthur Neill, Ellen Bidlack, Stephen Gillett, Dorothy Smith, Emily Hibbard, Chris Horton, David Henley, Christine A. Fagan, Priscilla Matton, Caroline Haviland, David Lawson, John Moak, William Mehaffey, Gabrielle Sakolski.

- 1. Call to Order:** Alisha Bouchard, representing Commissioner Lebeaux called the meeting to order at 10:09 am.
- 2. Attendance:** Chairwoman Bouchard noted the Board has a quorum.
- 3. Public Comment/Input Period:** No comments heard.
- 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The Board considered approval for the meeting minutes from the June 12th, 2016 Board meeting. **Action Taken:** Gary Gonyea made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Alisha Bouchard and the minutes were unanimously voted for approval.
- 5. FY18 Budget Requests:** The Board reviewed the FY18 budget request spreadsheet (attached) for each of the mosquito control districts and the SRB. **Discussion:** Alex Gill assisted the Board by reviewing the

spending plan submissions and answering any of the Board members questions. Action Taken: None. See attached budget worksheet.

6. **Budget Policy Review:** The Board reviewed the current Budget Policy (attached). **Discussion:** Various mosquito control districts reported that holding public meetings has resulted in very limited public participation; all the Districts concur with these remarks. Mr. Gonyea noted that the intent of the policy was to give towns the opportunity to see the District's services provided and to allow them to see how funds are being spent, explain operations and provide overall general information.

The board discussed portions of the budget policy and asked the District's for their feedback. As a result the board decided that it will look into the policy and redraft it incorporating new public record law requirements. This change will include the budgets provided on the MDAR website and suspend the annual District budget meetings and postings. Policy will be redrafted and circulated to superintendents for comments, it will be finalized by the board at January meeting. Gary Gonyea requested that each project submit lists of attendees at previous public meetings and send summaries to Juan Carlos Gutierrez for record keeping. **Action Taken:** Gary Gonyea made a motion to suspend budget policy review meetings until redraft is completed. The motion was seconded by Alisha Bouchard and budget notification policy suspension was unanimously voted for approval

7. **OSD/OVM Chargebacks:** The Fiscal Office's, Alex Gill updated the Board/Districts noting misapplications from the FY16 OVM chargeback will be fixed in FY17. The issue was related to inaccurate District's vehicle information. OVM's list was not up to date; any Districts that were undercharged won't be billed. **Discussion:** Berkshire County asked about heavy duty vehicles and if they fell outside OVM's jurisdiction. Districts again expressed their displeasure with the chargeback and asked if OVM could update them on what services they are getting for the chargeback cost. Alisha Bouchard reminded the Districts that OVM staff attended previous SRMCB meetings specifically to address their concerns and answer questions. Both SRMCB and OVM have repeatedly reached out to the Districts to answer questions concerning OVM chargeback. **Action Taken:** None.
8. **Updates on Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control efforts:** Taryn LaScola provided an update on progress and information from the September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. Taryn recognized Chris Horton and Dave Henley for their attendance and assistance at the September meeting. Pioneer Valley (PV) will potentially apply for the Community Compact Grant, the towns feel this may be an option to provide the "startup" funding for a new project or hire a consultant for advice.

Gary Gonyea noted on record that the Board is supportive of Pioneer Valley's Community Compact application to assist in starting up a District. **Action Taken:** Gary Gonyea made a motion to support PV's CCC grant application, the motion was seconded by Alisha Bouchard and application support was voted unanimously for approval.

**Discussion:** Chris Horton noted that PV was receptive to East Middlesex Project's organizational model.. The next meeting is scheduled for 12/13/16.

**9. Legal updates:** Attorney Jessica Burgess provided the Board an update on various matters including the public hearing for exclusion rights.

- a. Process of online platform which will allow the public to exclude themselves from spraying. It will give districts 14 business days, or days, from receipt. SRB is working internally to have this process available by January 2017.
- b. Chris Horton noted 14 business days may not be enough time, Jessica Burgess explained the process being proposed in the amended regulations.
- c. Organic farms still covered separately, will continue its own processes
- d. MDA/SRB will share platform forms with districts in order to receive feedback, which will facilitate with the language in order to have every position covered. Jessica Burgess noted could take questions in another time so that discussions on other matters could continue.

**10. Regional updates:**

- a. Northeast Mass - The Project switched over to CDC CO2 traps this season, and collected 59% more mosquitoes than average. Drought conditions led to a 23% increase in gravid trap collections, but also to an 89% decrease in *Culiseta melanura* collections from resting boxes. The Project added 3 new vehicles this year, along with some new machinery.
- b. Norfolk County - The District reported that drought brought high numbers of mosquitoes to gravid traps; other than that, the season was quiet in comparison to past years, with the lowest number of service requests in the past 7 years. Gary Gonyea noted that this time of year, with low water levels, removing logs and other woody debris from streams should be avoided because they provide habitat for small fishes. The District noted that they acquired the Cold

Water Fisheries GIS data layer and will hold back on doing maintenance in that habitat type until December.

- c. Bristol County – As a result of work done in cooperation with MDPH, the Project noted the expansion of Asian Tiger Mosquito populations from New Bedford to Fall River, Westport, Fairhaven, and Acushnet. The Project continues to keep track of these sightings and is working on a Citizen Science project to involve volunteers in collection data on Asian tiger mosquito.
- d. East Middlesex/Suffolk County – The Projects saw a significant number of WNV+ mosquito pools and human WNV cases this past season, focused within the 128 belt, with several in Boston. The East Middlesex entomologist did pesticide resistance testing for *Bacillus sphaericus* applied to catch basins, and both Projects expanded Asian tiger mosquito surveillance, though no mosquitoes of that species were found. Catch basins in South Boston are now being treated if there are in proximity to where ships dock.
- e. Berkshire County – The Project reported a very quiet mosquito season. The Sherwood Greens Road Improvement and Maintenance District, a small area with the town of Becket, was added to the Project's coverage area.
- f. Nantucket – The Island had an average mosquito season and was not as impacted by drought as the rest of the state. There were 51 mosquito pools tested for WNV and EEE over the course of the season, through a lab at UMass Amherst; all results were negative.
- g. Cape Cod – The Project had its 4th ever EEEv + mosquito pool this past season, in the town of Yarmouth. The Project also ramped up surveillance for Asian tiger mosquito, following finds in nearby Plymouth County.
- h. Plymouth County - The drought kept service requests for adulticiding down compared to 2015. A project to map catch basins in the County moved forward, with over 97% now mapped (47,000). Levels of *Culex* spp. were high this past season, while *Culiseta melanura* levels were very low. Surveillance was ramped up following the discovery of a population of Asian tiger mosquito in the town of Wareham this season, but no new finds occurred.
- i. Central Mass – The Project collected 1700 mosquito pools, with more than 35,000 mosquitoes sent in for testing. Following the discovery of several WNV+ mosquito pools in the Worcester area this summer, the city of Worcester had some discussions with the

Project about joining, but the Project has not heard back. The Project's tire collection program is now in full swing, as is a new lease program.

j.

**11. Date, time and location of next Board meeting and the 2017 quarterly meeting dates:**

The Board set the 2017 meeting dates and asked staff to create a PDF of the below dates and to post on the SRB website.

- January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – North Attleboro
- March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Cape Cod
- May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - Walpole
- October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Westborough

- a. **Other:** Request OVM Meeting Attendance: The Bristol District requested to have an OVM representative be present at the next meeting.
- b. District's Budget Meeting Lists: Gary Gonyea asked for budget meeting lists to be submitted to Juan Carlos Gutierrez by November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**12. Adjournment: Action Taken:** Mr. Gonyea made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bouchard. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:42pm.