



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE RECLAMATION AND MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD



PIONEER VALLEY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

Commissioners
Jeanne Galloway – Chair
Gregory Lewis
Merridith O’Leary
Carolyn Ness

8 Conway Street
South Deerfield, MA 01373

PVMCD Director
John Briggs

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 12, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Attendance

- a. The meeting was called to order by Jeanne at 2:04 PM.
- b. Commissioners in attendance: Jeann Galloway, Jennifer Brown, Carolyn Ness, and Greg Lewis. Also in attendance was John Briggs, PVMCD District Director, and Andrew Lover from the School of Public Health and Health Sciences at UMASS Amherst.

2. Public Comment/Output

- a. None

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Vote Required)

- b. Carolyn made a motion to approve to December minutes and Greg seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Mission Statement Review

- a. John proposed the following mission statement to the Commission: The Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) is dedicated to safeguarding the health of its member communities in Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire Counties by addressing the public health risks associated with mosquito-borne diseases. Our primary objective is to meticulously monitor and effectively mitigate the transmission of these diseases through the implementation of a robust Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) program. This program is designed to encompass a wide range of environmentally conscious and scientifically proven mitigation strategies, aiming to prevent the need for extensive wide area adulticide applications.

- i. The IMM program employs techniques for mosquito control grounded in a comprehensive
- ii. understanding of mosquito biology and disease dynamics. When implemented correctly,
- iii. these scientifically proven strategies not only reduce mosquito populations but also pose no
- iv. danger to the public and have minimal to no environmental impact.

- b. Discussion: Greg recommended changing the word “reduce” to “prevent” in the mission statement.
- c. Carolyn made a motion to approve the mission with the work “prevent” replacing “reduce” and Jenifer seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Operations Report

- a. Pilot mitigation services
 - i. John mentioned that there are several municipalities that are signed up for services, with several other communities interested in mitigation service for the upcoming season. John would follow-up with each community.
- b. Source reduction update
 - i. John would work with the MDAR and SRB to get a viable ditch maintenance program in place for the latter part of FY25.
- c. Tire recycling

- i. John would focus on Aedes albopictus surveillance in West Springfield and in East Deerfield Railyard.
- ii. Greg asked about the Vermont Tire Recycling program and how this could possibly be implemented in Pioneer Valley.
- iii. Jeanne suggested coordinating with environmental groups for Arbor Day or other April clean up days.
- iv. John would reach out to his Vermont contact regarding the tire slicing machine to determine costs.

d. Move to South Deerfield Update

- i. The move of PVMCD supplies to the South Deerfield office was completed with the assistance of Greg, John, and Brian Fareless.
- ii. John would transfer additional surveillance supplies from his house and the electronics stored at the Southborough MDAR office to the new PVMCD office.

e. Tahoe inspection update

- i. John reported that the Tahoe was inspected.

f. Redundancy plan for summer services

- i. John would look into whether this would fall under a potential mutual aid agreement or under the state's current contract with Clarke.

6. Seasonal Job Posting Update

- a. John reported no major update and mentioned that the candidates would likely be forwarded to him after 14 days from the job posting.

7. Finance Report

- a. Update on member communities with back payments.
 - i. It is expected that Shutesbury's back payment for FY22 would be arriving shortly.
- b. Prorated fee for June for new FY25 members
 - i. Towns joining in a new fiscal year, would receive a prorated fee for any services started during the previous fiscal year.

8. Outreach Update

- a. 2023 Annual Report
 - i. John would touch base with Alex about having the annual report posted on the website, along with the finance report in a separate section. Additionally, John would forward the finance report with the proposed 5% membership fee increase to all member community contacts.
- b. Brochure
 - i. John would reach out to Alex about posting the new PVMCD brochure on the state's website.
- c. FRCOG Meeting
 - i. John met with Maureen O'Reilly from Franklin Regional Council of Governments.
- d. Tick outreach
 - i. John would continue to reach out to local boards of health to determine tick hot spot areas.
- e. Prospective member community update
 - i. John will be attending the Town of Montague's monthly BOH meeting on February 21st, to answer any questions and present background information on the district.

9. Other Business

- a. None

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

- a. March 11, 2024 at 2 PM.
- b. 2024 tentative meeting schedule 1
 - i. 10/14 to be rescheduled to 10/7.
 - ii. 11/11 to be rescheduled to 11/18.

11. Adjournment

- a. Carolyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Greg seconded. Motion passed 4-0.