

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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Department of Conservation and
Recreation (DCR)

Mia McDonald, Commissioner
Department of Environmental
Protections (DEP)

OPERATIONS
Jennifer Forman
Orth Environmental Biologist

Jessica Burgess, Esq.
General Counsel

Anita Amin
Operations Coordinator

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

Norfolk County Mosquito
Control District

Northeast Massachusetts
Mosquito & Wetland
Management District

Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control
District

Plymouth County Mosquito
Control Project

State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board Meeting

Date: 5/21/25 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Meeting held remotely via Zoom

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order by SRB Chair and MDAR Commissioner, Ashley Randle, at 1:00 PM. Additional SRB members in attendance included Mia McDonald (DEP) and Jim Straub (DCR). A meeting quorum was met.

2. Approval of November 25, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Mia McDonald

Second: Jim Straub seconded.

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

3. Review and Certification of FY26 budgets for the State Reclamation Board (SRB) and the Mosquito Control Districts (MCDs) as required by M.G.L. c. 252, Section 5A

District	Superintendent	FY 2026 Budget Request	FY2025 Certified Budget	% Increase Request
Berkshire	Chris Horton	\$320,200.00	\$304,506.75	2.5
Bristol	Priscilla Matton	\$1,810,180.75	\$1,766,030.00	2.5
Cape Cod	Gabrielle Sakolsky	\$3,274,287.00	\$3,194,426.56	2.5
Central Mass	Timothy McGlinchy	\$3,158,200.50	\$3,007,810.00.	5
East Middlesex	Brian Farless	\$933,154.00	\$885,658.00	5.36
Norfolk	David Lawson	\$2,275,704.00	\$2,220,199.00	2.5
Northeast	Barry Noone	\$2,205,186.11	\$2,120,371.26	4
Pioneer Valley	John Briggs	\$147,642.34	\$118,258.76	19
Plymouth	Ross Rossetti	\$2,261,915.59	\$2,123,864.40	6.5
Suffolk	Brian Farless	\$298,555.96	\$298,555.96	0
SRB Admin		\$642,650.85	\$642,650.85	0
TOTAL		\$17,327,677.10	\$13,674,521.54	

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Berkshire MCD: Superintendent Chris Horton stated a 2.5% increase was requested in part due to vehicle replacement with capital rollover estimated at \$19,000 and additional seasonal field technicians support \$10,000. No additional questions or comments from the Board.

Motion to Certify: Jim Straub

Second: Mia McDonald

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

Bristol MCD: Superintendent Priscilla Matton requested a 2.5% increase to cover an increase in retirement funds (\$8,000), rise in utilities and a potential lease renewal for 10 years. There is no budget allocation currently for the renewal and additional electric vehicle fleet upgrades. Also, there will be potential building infrastructure improvements once the MCD migrates to EEA IT. No additional questions or comments from the Board.

Motion to Certify: Mia McDonald

Second: Jim Straub

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

Cape Cod MCD: Superintendent Gabrielle Sakolsky requested a 2.5% increase due to associated costs in utility and rent. The Cape Cod MCD moved locations last Fall. The increase in utilities that was hard to estimate prior to the move. Looking to also backfill three open positions. Jim Straub asked Superintendent Sakolsky and the other Superintendents if there was a reduction in costs for pesticides and garden tools. Superintendent Sakolsky stated that the costs were just an estimate and that there was a carry over from the previous year. She did not confirm that the costs of pesticides and other materials were lower than in previous years.

Motion to Certify: Jim Straub

Second: Mia McDonald

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

Central Mass MCD: Superintendent McGlinchy requesting 5% to fill two full-time positions of a Field Biologist and an additional Field Technician. Fleet upgrades in CMMCD: Two hybrid electric and one fully electric vehicle were purchased. Superintendent McGlinchy highlighted the aging fleet with several vehicles over 100,000 miles and the need for a heavy-duty vehicle to tow machinery and equipment. No additional questions or comments from the Board.

Motion to Certify: Jim Straub

Second: Mia McDonald

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

East Middlesex MCD: Superintendent Brian Farless noted the inclusion of Carlisle (voting was held later in the meeting.) 49.5% rent increase and operational costs were also factored into the request increase. Jim Straub questioned the rent increase and Superintendent Farless responded that the facility remained in the same location, but the rent was increased during the bid process. Superintendent Brian Farless discussed the fair market rate of the increases as the landlords only increased the rent 3 times over the last 15 years.

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Motion to Certify: Mia McDonald

Second: Jim Straub

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

Norfolk MCD: Superintendent David Lawson cited ongoing employee costs and fleet upgrades as the need for budget increases. Employee costs are related to COLA adjustments, pay raises, retirement payments to Norfolk County Retirement District. Fleet upgrades – electric charging port being installed. 1 EV tentatively coming in July. More EVs will need to be purchased to replenish the aging fleet for this FY and years to come. No additional questions or comments from the Board.

Motion to Certify: Mia McDonald

Second: Jim Straub

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

Northeast MCD: Superintendent Barry Noone reviewed ongoing operations, enhancing capital equipment plan, fleet upgrades to EV (chargers and vehicles) and infrastructure, larvicide aerial operations increased, and unexpected virus outbreaks. Rising retirement costs, destruction materials, and an unfinalized rental increase contract (10% was anticipate – 16% was the first year) also extended hours to staff to bring NEMCD to 10.2 FTE. No additional questions or comments from the Board.

Motion to Certify: Jim Straub

Second: Mia McDonald

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

Pioneer Valley MCD: Superintendent John Briggs requested increase in revenue. Plymouth is operating at a loss. Costs have been reduced by 3%. Breakeven is anticipated during FY '26. A 5% increase in membership fee was approved and will help offset operation costs. EV growth to at least 1 - 2 more EV/ Hybrid electric. More seasonal staff is needed to support the mission and protection and expanded offerings of Hamden and Franklin Counties. Mia McDonald confirmed the budgetary cost amount.

Motion to Certify: Mia McDonald

Second: Jim Straub

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

Plymouth MCD: Superintendent Ross Rossetti stated there were payroll increases of \$73,000 fringe taxes and retirement costs of \$33,000, and space rental fees increased \$10,000. Part time pilot hired moving forwards in the spring. 2nd of two excavators slated to be delivered in the Spring (capital expense.) No additional questions or comments from the Board.

Motion to Certify: Jim Straub

Second: Mia McDonald

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

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Suffolk MCD: Superintendent Brian Farless requested \$298,555.96 which is a level fund request. Operation requests stayed the same. There was an under 20% rent increase, but other costs stayed the same. No additional questions or comments from the Board.

Motion to Certify: Mia McDonald

Second: Jim Straub

Roll Call (AYE): Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

Roll Call (Absent): Jim Straub (Jim had connectivity issues during the roll call portion of the vote but was able to rejoin during the SRB Admin budget certification.)

SRB Admin: Ngoc-Nu Nguyen, SRB Finance Manager, requested level funding for FY '26. SRB will utilize rollover funding to address COLA increases, step increases, MDAR staff that support the SRB, and fringe benefits. Jim Straub rejoined the meeting after technical issues.

No additional questions or comments from the Board.

Motion to Certify: Mia McDonald

Second: Jim Straub

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

4. Extension of the Memorandum of Agreement between the SRB, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and UMass Amherst for the Testing of Jamestown Canyon Virus through April 30, 2026

This extension would extend the MOA which expired 4/30/2025 to be extended to April 30, 2026, and authorize the Chair to sign the MOA.

Motion to Authorize: Jim Straub

Second: Mia McDonald

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

5. New MCD Membership Approval

Town of Carlisle had a successful vote on 5/20/2025 to join the EMMCD pending the conditional approval vote of the town.

Motion to Approve: Mia McDonald

Second: Jim Straub

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle

6. New Business

Chair Ashley Randle acknowledged and thanked Director LaScola, Esq. General Counsel Burgess, Environmental Biologist Forman Orth, and Deputy Commissioner Bouchard for their continued work after Coordinator Giannantonio moved to the Finance Department. And stated that the coordinator role should be filled shortly. And thanked the districts as well during this transition.

7. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to Adjourn at 1:33 PM was entertained by Commissioner Randle.

Motion to Adjourn: Jim Straub

Second: Mia McDonald

Roll Call (AYE): Jim Straub, Mia McDonald, Ashley Randle