

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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Secretary

JOHN LEBEAUX
Commissioner

State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board Meeting

Date: May 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order and Attendance:

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, John Lebeaux at 10:01 a.m. SRB members in attendance included Jim Straub, John Lebeaux, and Nancy Lin.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 4/11/22 (Vote Required):

John Lebeaux entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written. A motion was made by Nancy Lin. Seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

3. FY23 Budget Certification (Vote Required):

Updated 5/5/22

FY2022 / 2023 SRMCB and District's Budget Request Summary			
District	FY2022 SRMCB Certified Budget	Percent Increase request	FY2023 Budget Request
Berkshire	\$ 259,219.00	2.065%	\$ 264,573.00
Bristol	\$ 1,680,932.00	0.000%	\$ 1,680,932.00
Cape Cod	\$ 2,651,940.48	2.500%	\$ 2,718,238.00
Central MA	\$ 2,794,714.00	2.500%	\$ 2,864,581.00
Norfolk	\$ 2,061,678.00	2.500%	\$ 2,113,220.00
Northeast MA	\$ 1,940,623.00	3.000%	\$ 1,998,841.69
Plymouth	\$ 2,041,392.00	0.000%	\$ 2,041,392.00
Suffolk	\$ 289,860.16	0.000%	\$ 289,860.16
SRB Admin	\$ 626,976.44	2.500%	\$ 642,650.85
East Middlesex	\$ 834,599.00	0.652%	\$ 840,038.00
Pioneer Valley	\$ 91,000.00	6.59%	\$ 97,000.00
	\$ 15,272,934.08		\$ 15,551,326.70

Bristol County Mosquito Control District was requesting level funding for FY23 and District Superintendent, Priscilla Matton, commented that there was rollover from previous years for purchases that could not be completed within the fiscal year due to supply chain issues.

Cape Cod Mosquito Control District was asking for a 2.5% budget increase. It was noted that there were six open positions and part of the Districts rollover would be for capital expenses. John Lebeaux discussed the hiring process and asked what Mosquito Control Districts ("MCDs") were seeing. Cape Cod District Superintendent, Gabi Sakolsky-Hoopers, commented that her District was having problems hiring people and had to pay overtime to fill employee gaps.

Central Mass Mosquito Control District was seeking a 2.5% budget increase. It was added that the rollover was intended to fill five open positions. District Superintendent, Tim Deschamps,

noted that the 2.5% budget increase request would either maintain or elevate the level of service the District could provide.

The budget update for Suffolk and East Middlesex Mosquito Control Districts were done together by District Superintendent, Brian Farless. Brian Farless noted that East Middlesex had a 0.65% increase which was estimated based on voluntary appropriations from the towns within the District. It was added that there was a large rollover that was due to full time position vacancies. Brian Farless also provided an update for Suffolk County Mosquito Control District and noted that the FY23 budget request was for level funding. It was added that there was a rollover due to staffing vacancies and there were no big purchases expected for the fiscal year.

Norfolk County Mosquito Control District noted that they were asking for a 2.5% increase. District Superintendent, Dave Lawson, commented that cost savings were actualized due to losing employees over the course of the year. Dave Lawson added that there were less applicants than normal, but the District succeeded in filling both of their open positions. Dave Lawson mentioned that one big item was the replacement of their Sterling truck, which trailers their excavators. The District was earmarking rollover funds for the purchase. Berkshire County Mosquito Control District noted a slight increase of 2.065% in their FY23 budget. District Superintendent, Chris Horton, did not anticipate anything other than routine expenses. Chris Horton noted that hiring for seasonal employees had been a challenge and added that there would be a slight increase in facility rental costs.

Christopher Craig, District Superintendent for the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District, noted that they expected to keep the same membership this summer with the addition of two new member communities. Additional communities that were trying to join the District would be placed on a wait list. Chris Craig added that he expected to bring in the same amount of revenue as was projected for FY22. Christopher Craig mentioned that the towns of Leyden and Amherst were the towns that were being considered for imminent addition to the District once satisfactory vote documentation was provided. The other four or five communities that were interested in joining the District would be placed on a wait list until the District had the capacity to provide good service.

Plymouth County Mosquito Control District noted that they were requesting level funding for FY23. Plymouth County Mosquito Control District Superintendent, Ross Rossetti, noted that the Districts rollover funding should be able to cover any increases. Ross Rossetti added that there were two big purchases that should be able to be processed within the current fiscal year or the upcoming fiscal year.

SRB chair, John Lebeaux, provided an update on the SRB Administration Account and noted an increase request of 2.5% over FY22 due to payroll costs.

The Northeast Mosquito Control District noted a 3.00% budget increase over FY22 due to facility lease, operational expenses, and the hiring of two full time and three seasonal employees. District Superintendent, Barry Noone, also discussed an increase in fringe benefit and retirement costs by 7% and capital purchases of a truck and equipment.

John Lebeaux noted that the presentation of the individual MCDs and SRB Administration budgets was concluded and the SRB Members would move towards certification of the total FY23 budget in the amount of \$15,551,326.70. Jessica Burgess clarified that under the statute the SRB would need to certify each individual budget amount with individual motions for certification of each MCD or SRB budget for FY23. Seeing no other questions or comments,

John Lebeaux entertained a motion to certify the FY23 budget amount listed in the above table for Berkshire County Mosquito Control District. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

Seeing no other questions or comments, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to certify the FY23 budget amount listed in the above table for Bristol County Mosquito Control District. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

Seeing no other questions or comments, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to certify the FY23 budget amount listed in the above table for Cape Cod Mosquito Control District. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

Seeing no other questions or comments, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to certify the FY23 budget amount listed in the above table for Central Mass Mosquito Control District. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

Seeing no other questions or comments, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to certify the FY23 budget amount listed in the above table for Norfolk County Mosquito Control District. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

Seeing no other questions or comments, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to certify the FY23 budget amount listed in the above table for the Northeast Mosquito Control District. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

Seeing no other questions or comments, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to certify the FY23 budget amount listed in the above table for Plymouth County Mosquito Control District. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

Seeing no other questions or comments, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to certify the FY23 budget amount listed in the above table for Suffolk County Mosquito Control District. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

Seeing no other questions or comments, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to certify the FY23 budget amount listed in the above table for SRB Administration. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

Seeing no other questions or comments, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to certify the FY23 budget amount listed in the above table for East Middlesex Mosquito Control District. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

Seeing no other questions or comments, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to certify the FY23 budget amount listed in the above table for Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District. Jim

Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

4. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Photography Overview:

Taryn LaScola provided background information regarding the MCDs using UAV technology for digital photography. She explained that the MCD's had been requesting to use UAVs for digital photography and highlighted the benefits of using UAV technology, such as, increased safety, access to difficult areas, photography using lower flight heights, lower costs related to the need to hire aerial vendors, and less environmental impacts. She stated that as part of the process to allow MCD's to use UAVs, the SRB would need to have a policy in relation to this. Additionally, the MCD's would have to submit their proposals to EEA for review and approval. Taryn LaScola mentioned that the Department of Agricultural Resources ("MDAR") wanted to move forward with drafting a policy for SRB review and approval to allow the MCDs to use UAVs, John Lebeaux added that this was a topic that should continue to be explored. The SRB members agreed to allow MDAR to move forward.

5. Pioneer Valley Membership Updates (Vote Required):

The Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District was proposing a vote to allow the Town of Leyden ("Town") to join. John Lebeaux noted that there was a certified vote in the meeting packet from the Town of Leyden regarding approval to fund the costs associated with joining the District. SRB General Counsel, Jessica Burgess, noted that discussions were underway with the Town Council to determine if the current vote on file was satisfactory for the Town to join. John Lebeaux noted that an appropriate motion would be to conduct a vote to approve the Town joining under the condition of finalized paperwork from the Town. John Lebeaux entertained a motion to conditionally approve the admittance of the Town of Leyden to the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District. Nancy Lin made a motion. Seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call vote was conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye). The conditional motion passed unanimously.

6. Early Season Updates from the MCDs:

MCD Superintendents provided an overview of their findings at this point in the season. Priscilla Matton discussed the completion of aerial larvicide applications to the Hockomock and to the cattail swamps. Tim Deschamps commented on BTI applications over 1,800 acres and noted that the District was targeting 1,500 acres in 12 communities from the funding that was provided by MDAR. Ross Rossetti mentioned that he has conducted 12,000 acres of spring larvaciding and added that his crews were out and were noticing that water levels were average to low. Ross Rossetti added that they would start taking spray requests on Monday 5/23 with spraying starting after Memorial Day. Dave Lawson discussed supplemental study work and noted that he was looking forward to analyzing the data. Dave Lawson discussed noticing less larvae than normal. Chris Horton noted that numbers were down somewhat, but he was still finding pupae and was prepared to start spraying in the first week in June. Dave Lawson added that the drought notifications had been primarily for Southeastern Massachusetts.

7. Scheduling of Next Meeting:

A definitive date had not been determined for a future SRB meeting. John Lebeaux called to the Board's attention that they would need to meet in June to review and approve the 2022 Municipal opt-out applications and the Emergency Operational Response Plan.

8. Adjourn:

With the completion of the meeting agenda, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Lin made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call was

conducted. John Lebeaux (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Jim Straub (aye). The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.