

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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### **State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board ("SRB") Meeting**

**Date: June 22, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Location: Zoom Meeting:**

1. Call to order and attendance:

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, John Lebeaux at 1:00 p.m. SRB members in attendance included Jim Straub, John Lebeaux, and Nancy Lin.

2. Approval of meeting minutes from 5/16/22. (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. Review of the communities that have submitted 2022 municipal opt-out applications. M.G.L. Chapter 252, Section 2A(b)(2) allows a municipality to apply to opt out of spraying, either aerial or other mosquito control spraying, conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board ("SRMCB" conducted under M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A(a). (Vote Required):

Alisha Bouchard and Alex Giannantonio provided background information on the overall management of the 2022 opt-out process. Alex Giannantonio noted that an opt-out team from the Department of Agricultural Resources ("MDAR") and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs ("EEA") fielded questions, inquires, and comments from a number of individuals and municipalities, which then resulted in the submission of applications from 25 Commonwealth communities, with the largest concentration of applications coming from communities in the Western part of the State. Application guidance information was distributed and posted on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Opt-out applications were due to EEA by Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>, with final decisions communicated to municipalities on Wednesday June 15<sup>th</sup>. 20 municipalities were approved, and 5 municipalities were denied. Two communities denied, Hardwick and Pepperell, were considered moderate risk based on the 2022 historical regional EEE risk classification. Three communities denied, Essex, Pelham, and Upton were considered high regional risk based on the 2022 historical regional EEE risk classification.

Opt-out process clarification questions were asked by Board Member Jim Straub and Board Member Nancy Lin. It was noted by Alex Giannantonio that regional risk levels were determined using historical risk level indicators, including the presence of mosquito habitat and local and regional incidences of positive EEE test results of mosquito samples, animals, and humans. In addition, any municipality classified as high regional risk had to demonstrate it could perform significant mosquito management and control measures that would address risk levels otherwise requiring state action, including the ability to perform work equivalent to that undertaken by the SRMCB in the event of a public health hazard related to arbovirus.

John Lebeaux noted that the 2022 municipal opt-out process applied to spraying activities, aerial or on the ground, conducted by the SRMCB and it did not impact any spraying that would take place from Mosquito Control Districts (“MCDs”). Jessica Burgess added that EEA approved the 2022 municipal opt out decisions and noted this was more of a vote to acknowledge the EEA approvals versus approving the opt-out decisions. Hearing no other comments, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to acknowledge the approval of the 2022 municipal opt-outs as determined by EEA. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. No further discussion. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

Municipality Application Submitted <input type="button" value="↓↑"/>	2022 Historical Regional EEE Risk Classification <input type="button" value="↓"/>	2022 Decision <input type="button" value="↓"/>
Buckland	Low	Approve
Chilmark	Low	Approve
Conway	Low	Approve
Essex	High	Deny
Gill	Low	Approve
Great Barrington	Low	Approve
Greenfield	Low	Approve
Hadley	Low	Approve
Hardwick	Moderate	Deny
Heath	Low	Approve
Leverett	Low	Approve
Leyden	Low	Approve
Middlefield	Low	Approve
Montague	Low	Approve
Northampton	Low	Approve
Pelham	High	Deny
Pepperell	Moderate	Deny
Plainfield	Low	Approve
Rockport	Low	Approve
Rowe	Low	Approve
Shutesbury	Low	Approve
Sunderland	Low	Approve
Swampscott	Low	Approve
Upton	High	Deny
Whately	Low	Approve

4. Review of the updated Massachusetts Emergency Operations Response Plan for Mosquito-Borne Illness. (Vote Required):

Alisha Bouchard provided an introduction related to the progress that had been made on the Emergency Operations Response Plan for Mosquito-Borne Illness. Jennifer Forman Orth, MDAR Environmental Biologist, discussed that the response plan was in the final stages of review and provided a high-level summary of what had changed within the Massachusetts Emergency Operations Response Plan for Mosquito-Borne Illness. Jennifer Forman Orth added that there was a detailed explanation of the adulticide review process, and a section of the plan was removed that was similar to the Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) water supply testing. There were no further questions from the Board members. John Lebeaux noted that there would be more on this topic at future SRB meetings.

5. Review and approval of adulticide products to be used by the SRB in the event there was a declaration of a public health hazard by the Department of Public Health (“DPH”) due to elevated arborvirus risk. (Vote Required):

Alisha Bouchard discussed the product review that was conducted by multiple State Agencies and noted that MDAR also looked at other States and did not find new products that should be listed. It was added that Agencies were asked to provide comments on a back-up product in the event there were supply issues. Alisha Bouchard noted that MDAR supported the continued use of Anvil 10+10. It was added that the MDAR toxicology experts were not available for today’s meeting but if there were questions that needed to be addressed that they could be taken up at a July SRB meeting. John Lebeaux commented that the Board members were looking to approve a primary product and a back-up product. Jim Straub asked which back-up product was better. Alisha Bouchard proposed a vote on a primary product and a vote on a secondary product could be moved to next month. Nancy Lin commented that DEP suggested Anvil 10+10 as the first product, and Duet and Merus 3.0 as suitable alternative products. John Lebeaux noted that as Board Chair he would be o.k. voting for Merus 3.0 as a back-up product at the current meeting. Jim Straub commented that after hearing Nancy’s comments he would have no problem voting on Merus 3.0. Hearing no other questions or comments from the group, John Lebeaux entertained a motion to approve Anvil 10+10 as the primary insecticide and to establish Merus 3.0 as an alternate product if there was not an adequate supply of Anvil 10+10. Nancy Lin made a motion. Seconded by Jim Straub. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

6. Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (“PVMCD”) membership request for the Towns of Amherst and Leyden (Vote Required):

John Lebeaux noted that further documentation had been received from the town of Leyden as a follow up to the conditional vote that was conducted at the May SRB meeting. John Lebeaux also noted that the Board had received a copy of a vote from Amherst to join the PVMCD. Jessica Burgess added that it appeared that the town of Leyden had everything needed to join the PVMCD and noted that Christopher Craig was working very hard with Amherst to get all the needed information. Jessica Burgess proposed the idea of a conditional vote to join the PVMCD for Amherst, so Christopher Craig could start to provide services. John Lebeaux entertained a motion to conditionally approve Amherst joining the PVMCD. Nancy Lin made a motion. Seconded by Jim Straub. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye).

7. Adjourn Meeting:

John Lebeaux acknowledged a general question in the Q&A chat from Allison Brum, Public Health Nurse with the City of Attleboro. John Lebeaux discussed that the SRB conducted spraying when a public health hazard had been declared and provided a historical timeline of when the SRB had conducted spraying operations. It was added that MCDs conduct a lot of activities, such as removing mosquito breeding areas and applying larvicide. John Lebeaux mentioned that greater detail could be provided about SRB activities and Priscilla Matton was also qualified to answer questions on SRB spraying. There were no further questions or comments. With the completion of the meeting agenda and Q&A, 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 1:38 p.m.