

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 Meeting

Date: 11/6/23 from 12:30 p.m. – 2:30p.m.

Location: Meeting held remotely via Zoom

Call to Order and Attendance:

The meeting was called to order by SRB Chair and MDAR Commissioner, Ashley Randle, at 12:32 p.m. Additional SRB members in attendance included Jim Straub (DCR), and Nancy Lin (DEP). A meeting quorum was met.

Approval of meeting minutes from 9/18/23 SRB meeting (Vote Required):

Ashley Randle noted that the meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written. There were no further discussions regarding the meeting minutes from 9/18/23. A motion was made by Nancy Lin. Seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call was conducted. Ashley Randle (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye). The meeting minutes were approved.

Review of the preliminary FY25 budgets for the State Reclamation Board (SRB) and the Mosquito Control Districts (MCDs):

Ashley Randle noted that the FY25 preliminary budget information had been provided to the Board members. SRB Operations Coordinator, Alex Giannantonio, shared his screen in Zoom to present the submitted preliminary FY25 budget data for the MCDs and the SRB.

FY2024 / 2025 SRMCB and District's budget request summary				
District	FY2024 SRMCB Certified Budget	Percent Increase request	FY2025 Budget request	FY25 Preliminary 10/12/2023*
Berkshire	\$ 269,475.00	13.000%	\$ 304,506.75	
Bristol	\$ 1,722,956.00	0.000%	\$ 1,722,956.00	
Cape Cod	\$ 2,718,238.00	12.000%	\$ 3,044,426.56	
Central MA	\$ 2,864,581.00	7.500%	\$ 3,079,424.00	
Norfolk	\$ 2,166,051.00	2.500%	\$ 2,220,202.28	
Northeast	\$ 2,038,818.52	4.000%	\$ 2,120,371.26	
Plymouth	\$ 2,082,220.00	2.000%	\$ 2,123,864.40	
Suffolk	\$ 298,555.96	0.000%	\$ 298,555.96	
SRB Admin	\$ 642,650.85	0.000%	\$ 642,650.85	
East Middlesex	\$ 870,174.61	1.779%	\$ 885,658.00	
Pioneer Valley	\$ 97,000.00	5.155%	\$ 102,000.00	
	\$ 15,770,720.94		\$ 16,544,616.06	

Berkshire: Chris Horton, District Superintendent, discussed his FY25 preliminary budget request and noted that the 13% budget request increase was due to rent, labor costs, and supporting seasonal field technicians to support the

extra work that may be required and the collection of additional mosquito pools. In addition, there was a need to modernize the district fleet of spray and surveillance trucks.

Bristol: Priscilla Matton, District Superintendent, noted that she was requesting level funding for FY25 and mentioned that the districts have heard from vendors related to increase costs for pesticides. It was added that the district would run the numbers again, but at this point would be requesting level funding.

Cape Cod: Gabrielle Sakolsky-Hoopes, District Superintendent, noted that the district was looking at a 12% increase for FY25. It was added that the district was level funded last year; however, there were a few workers comp cases this year that were on-going and could require settlements. Jim Straub had a question related to the increased salary estimates within the budget. Gabrielle Sakolsky-Hoopes answered the question and mentioned that the increased salary requirements were due to the district being fully staffed versus partial staffing in previous years.

Central MA: Tim Deschamps, District Superintendent, noted that the district was asking for a 7.5% increase for FY25. Tim Deschamps discussed that most of the increase was driven by the need to acquire new vehicles. It was added that the district also had some workman's comp claims that would need to be funded and was also preparing for arbovirus risk in the upcoming year. Tim Deschamps mentioned that if new communities join the district, he may come back with a lower budget projection in May.

Norfolk: Dave Lawson, District Superintendent, noted that the district was down some employees, and those open positions were giving the district some cost savings for the year. Dave Lawson added that increases in costs on infrastructure and fleet replacement vehicles remain high, in addition to increases on pesticide products. The district was seeking a 2.5% increases but would reevaluate costs before budget certification in May 2024.

Northeast: Barry Noone, District Director for the Northeast Mosquito Control District was asking for a 4% increase as part of their preliminary FY25 budget. Barry Noone added that most of the increase would come from Cost-of-Living- Adjustments (COLA) for staff. In addition, the increase would cover jet fuel surcharges and increases in aerial larviciding services and EV infrastructure for their facility. The district was also in discussions with DCAMM on a potential lease extension to accommodate EV infrastructure.

Plymouth: Ross Rosetti, District Superintendent, was requesting a 2% increase in their preliminary FY25 budget for payroll and due to increase in their lease facility costs. Ross Rosetti also discussed their aircraft replacement and that their rollover funding would remain intact to account for capital replacements.

Suffolk and East Middlesex: Brian Farless, District Superintendent, was not able to join the call due to internet connectivity issues. Alex Giannantonio provided the updates for the districts and recapped Brian Farless's FY25 preliminary budget narratives, which requested level funding for Suffolk County Mosquito Control and a 1.779% increase for East Middlesex Mosquito Control. Jim Straub asked a question about workman's compensation claims. Jessica Burgess, SRB Legal Counsel, noted that this conversation was best to be had off-line due to confidentiality and added that she would be happy to have this conversation with the Board members in accordance with Open Meeting Law (OML).

SRB Admin: Alex Giannantonio noted that the certified FY24 budget for the SRB was \$642,650.85, which was level funded year over year. The preliminary budget projection for FY25 for the SRB would remain level funded at \$642,650.85. If necessary, the SRB would use rollover funding to pay for payroll expenses related to COLA, union step increases, and potential tax increases. It was added that currently the SRB didn't anticipate incurring additional expenses that would necessitate an increase over the projected budget amount for FY25.

Pioneer Valley: John Briggs, District Director, noted that the district was anticipating a 5.155% budget increase for FY25, which would be from additional revenues collected from adding a new community into the district. John Briggs added that he anticipated hiring a seasonal staff member, renting a vehicle, and would be purchasing pesticide and expanding surveillance into new towns. John Briggs noted that the additional costs would be covered from rollover funding and from revenues collected due to the addition of services to district member communities.

Update and continued discussion on E.O. 594 Leading by Example: Decarbonizing and Minimizing Environmental Impacts of State Government, and the Operational Services Divisions (OSD) EV First Policy and potential impacts to the Mosquito Control Districts (MCD) operations:

Alex Giannantonio noted that Plymouth County and Cape Cod MCDs both had their DOER grant fund applications approved to pay for the costs associated with Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations. Alex Giannantonio also discussed off-site EV charging options and noted that contractual discussions between WEX and ChargePoint were still ongoing to address the terms and conditions of the potential partnership to facilitate an off-site charging solution.

Alex Giannantonio added that available inventory of electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles appeared to still be on schedule through the lease vehicle program that was being offered by the Operational Services Division (OSD). It was also noted that DCAMM was engaged with several of the districts to potentially explore lease extensions on their current lease terms, so those districts could explore EV charging station infrastructure, either through landlord installation or through application for available EV charging grants. Alex Giannantonio mentioned that conversations with DCAMM were evolving, and he hoped to have a more substantive update to provide at the next SRB meeting.

Update on the Generic Environmental Impact Report (GEIR) and the SRB Guidance Handbook:

Alex Giannantonio provided a brief update on the progress that had been made on both the GEIR and the SRB Guidance Handbook. It was noted that the GEIR Statement of Work (SOW) language was in the process of being finalized and that there was a meeting scheduled for next week, so a proposed draft could move to MDARs Contract Administrator to ensure the inclusion of standardized SOW language in preparation for soliciting quotes through the applicable statewide contract.

Alex Giannantonio noted that the SRB Guidance Handbook was still in the development process and content that would be covered in the guidance handbook was continuing to be added. Alex Giannantonio mentioned that he anticipated having a final draft available for review within the next 30-60 days.

Request to admit the Town of Erving as a member community in the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) (Vote Required):

Commissioner Ashley Randle noted that supporting information was shared for the Town of Erving to Join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD). John Briggs added that the Town had been on a wait list to join the district and added that the Town of Erving was very happy to move forward and join the PVMCD. Hearing no further questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the Town of Erving Joining the PVMCD. Jim Straub made a motion to approve the town of Erving joining the PMVCD. The motion was seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Nancy Lin (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Adjourn Meeting

Hearing no further comments or questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Lin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call vote was conducted. Ashley Randle (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye). The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm.