

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: December 1, 2022, at 10:00a.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting:

1. Call to order and attendance:

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, John Lebeaux at 10:12 a.m. SRB members in attendance included Jim Straub, John Lebeaux, and Nancy Lin. A quorum was met.

2. Approval of meeting minutes from 9/15/22. (Vote Required):

John Lebeaux entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written. There were no further discussions regarding the meeting minutes from 9/15/22. 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). The meeting minutes were approved.

3. Approval to add Stoneham as a member to the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (Vote required):

John Lebeaux noted that everything needed to conduct a vote was in order. Jim Straub asked a question regarding Article 16 within the letter that was provided by the Town of Stoneham requesting entrance into the East Middlesex Mosquito Control District. John Lebeaux clarified the language within Article 16 to address Jim Straub's question. There was no further discussion from the Board members. Nancy Lin made a motion to approve the Town of Stoneham a new member to the East Middlesex Mosquito Control District. The motion was seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call was conducted. Nancy Lin (aye), Jim Straub (aye), John Lebeaux (aye).

4. Review of the FY2024 preliminary State Reclamation Board (SRB) and Mosquito Control District (MCD) budget proposal

FY2023 / 2024 SRMCB and District's budget request summary				PRELIMINARY 10/7/2022
District	FY2023 SRMCB Certified Budget	Percent Increase request	FY2024 Budget request	
Berkshire	\$ 264,573.00	1.853%	\$ 269,475.00	
Bristol	\$ 1,680,932.00	2.500%	\$ 1,722,956.00	
Cape Cod	\$ 2,718,238.00	0.000%	\$ 2,718,238.00	
Central MA	\$ 2,864,581.00	0.000%	\$ 2,864,581.00	
Norfolk	\$ 2,113,220.00	2.500%	\$ 2,166,051.00	
Northeast	\$ 1,998,841.69	3.000%	\$ 2,058,806.94	
Plymouth	\$ 2,041,392.00	0.000%	\$ 2,041,392.00	
Suffolk	\$ 289,860.16	3.000%	\$ 298,555.96	
SRB Admin	\$ 642,650.85	2.000%	\$ 655,503.87	
East Middlesex	\$ 840,038.00	0.710%	\$ 846,000.00	
Pioneer Valley	\$ 97,000.00	0.000%	\$ 97,000.00	
	\$ 15,551,326.70		\$ 15,738,559.77	

Berkshire County Mosquito Control District: Chris Horton, District Superintendent commented that the proposed budget was what was needed to keep going. It was added that the district lost a town, so the preliminary FY24 budget proposal was slightly less. In addition, Chris Horton noted that he may need to increase the FY24 budget if electric vehicles (“EVs”) need to be purchased in the upcoming year.

Bristol County Mosquito Control District: Priscilla Matton, District Superintendent noted that the district asked for level-funding for FY23 and for the upcoming fiscal year they would be requesting a 2.5% increase and that was in order to contend with potential fuel and pesticide increases. Also, looking to utilize some of the rollover funding for the changes that may be necessary for vehicles, building modifications, and replacement of tablets that have been discontinued.

Cape Cod Mosquito Control District: Gabrielle Sakolsky-Hoopers, District superintendent noted that the district would be requesting level funding for the upcoming fiscal year and commented that level-funding would be able to cover everything.

Central MA Mosquito Control District: Tim Deschamps, Executive Director of the District commented that there would be level funding for the upcoming fiscal year; however, the commission would look again at the budget during the February/March time frame to make a final determination and would not have any issues finalizing their budget well before the certification meeting in May.

East Middlesex Mosquito Control District: Brian Farless, District Superintendent noted that there were no big changes in the preliminary budget for the upcoming fiscal year; however, there could be a plan to buy an EV in the upcoming year once they become available.

Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project: Brian Farless, District Superintendent, noted that the district was requesting a 3% increase. John Lebeaux commented that the 3% budget increase request only represented \$9,000. Jim Straub asked a question about what cost increases are being seen. Brian Farless discussed staffing levels and cost increases with pesticides and operations.

Norfolk County Mosquito Control District: Dave Lawson, District Superintendent, noted the potential for a 2.5 % increase and discussed the need for a large truck replacement, which would be in the vicinity of \$128,000. Dave Lawson also referenced standard employee pay increases, cost for Norfolk County retirement, and some inflationary costs related to pesticides.

Northeast Mosquito Control District: Barry Noone, District Director, noted that he was asking for 3% increase in the budget and commented that helicopter costs were increasing.

Plymouth County Mosquito Control Program: Ross Rossetti, District Superintendent commented that he was requesting level funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District: Christopher Craig, District Director, noted that he would be requesting level funding for the upcoming fiscal year and that there were currently 22 member communities for the district, which was the same as last year.

State Reclamation Board Admin: Alex Giannantonio, SRB Operations Coordinator discussed the preliminary budget request for FY24 in the amount of \$655,503.87, which would represent an increase of \$12,853.02 or a 2% increase over the certified FY23 budget. Alex Giannantonio noted that similar to last fiscal year, the 2% increase reflected increases in payroll costs due to union step increases for SRB staff and included a percentage allocation of MDAR staff that provide fiscal, procurement, legal service support, and also reflected the increase in the fringe benefit and payroll tax rate.

5. Update on the EV First Policy and Fleet Right-Sizing initiative as communicated and mandated by the Operational Services Division (OSD):

Alex Giannantonio, SRB Operations Coordinator, noted that additional information was provided by the Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”) on EV charging grant funding. It was added that DOER modified their grant funding requirements, specifically lowering the required lease time frame from 8 years to 5 years and added in language to facilitate the purchasing of mobile charging solutions for those Districts that may not be able to meet the lease facility timeline requirements. Alex Giannantonio commented that a potential next step in this process would be securing a statement of work for installation of charging stations to get a baseline understanding of cost, to be shared with the Division of Capital Asset Maintenance and Management (“DCAMM”) and MCD landlords. There had been expressed interest from some of the districts to explore the grant funding opportunities in addition to scoping the necessary work to be completed for EV charging station installation.

Alex Giannantonio also discussed the fleet-right sizing directive that had been mandated by the Operational Services Division (“OSD”). It was noted that there was one formal meeting conducted by the Office of Vehicle Management (“OVM”) in addition to a few internal meetings to discuss a pathway forward. OSD has requested a 15% reduction in fleet size for the Mosquito Control Districts (“MCD’s”), which equated to 20 vehicles from the MCD’s fleets.

It was mentioned that SRB Legal and Alex Giannantonio conducted a follow up meeting with OSD legal and the OVM Fleet Director to review the uniqueness of MCD funding structure and legislation language; however, OSD did not view either as a legal issue, but rather viewed it as an operational issue. Additional information had been collected from the MCDs to communicate utilization criteria and the criticality of MCD vehicles for OSD to consider in their review of this fleet optimization directive. To date, 6 vehicles were isolated for removal by Districts (two in Plymouth, two in Central, one in Norfolk, and one in the Northeast). Alex Giannantonio noted that there had not been any follow up requests from OVM for additional information. It was added that the SRB would continue to advocate on behalf of MCDs and continue to collaborate with OSD to determine a reasonable resolution that did not negatively impact mosquito control operations.

6. Review of MCD Commission request to increase meeting stipend dollar amount from the current rate of \$100 per meeting:

John Lebeaux commented that the SRB received formal requests to increase the MCD Commissioners meeting stipend dollar amount from \$100 to \$160-175, and that dollar amount was determined using COLA and inflation calculators. John Lebeaux flagged for the SRB that other MDAR Boards were reimbursed at a rate of \$50 per meeting. Jim Straub asked if anyone from the MCD Commissions could provide an overview of what they did. Robin Chappell from the Norfolk County Mosquito Control District Commission and Henry Vaillancourt from the Bristol County Mosquito Control District Commission both provided an overview of the responsibilities and the work conducted by Commission members.

John Lebeaux noted that the SRB needed to be prepared to vote on this at the next SRB meeting. Dave Lawson commented on the cybersecurity training requirements that may be required in the future for MCD Commissioners and Robin Chappell added that Commissioners provide expertise to the commissions and communities in addition to advocating for public health. John Lebeaux noted that he did not want to give the impression that the SRB was unsupportive of the request. Jessica Burgess added that one of the things that needed to be thought about was under state ethics law public officials serving on an MCD Commission may not be able to collect a meeting stipend if they are serving in that role as a public official. Nancy Lin asked a question about funding for conference attendance for Commissioners. Jessica Burgess responded that the meeting stipend was separate and MCD Commissioners were eligible to collect a meeting stipend through statute and any stand-alone cost for MCD Commissioners could be billed back to the MCDs they represented.

7. Review of updated State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board’s Overview of Roles and Responsibilities of Commissioners Serving all Mosquito Control Districts and Projects:

John Lebeaux commented that the 2019 mosquito season brought upon a lot of interest related to mosquito control. It was noted that the document that was sent to SRB board members was updated but there were no changes to the roles and duties of MCD Commissioners since an accountability component had always been in the existing document. It was added that this document was a reminder of what was needed to ensure compliance. John Lebeaux noted that coming out of the meeting the proposal would be to distribute the updated document to all MCD Commissioners with the request that they sign the document by the next SRB meeting which would be December 12th.

Jim Straub noted that the document was clear, but certain words in the document may be open for interpretation. Nancy Lin asked if there were any specific changes that were different from the original document. Jessica Burgess responded that a lot of the language was outdated, and the new document was restructured to reflect the verbiage that is being used now and that the biggest changes were made between the employer employee relationship. Nancy Lin commented that the document was very clear to her related to the duties of Commissioners. John Lebeaux noted that the Board members needed to quickly see if any changes were needed to the document in order to circulate a new version, so it could be distributed to MCD Commissioners for their review and signatures. Henry Vaillancourt asked about voting on the document. John Lebeaux responded that the document did not require a vote, as it was an update to modernize language.

8. Interview for one open Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project Commissioner seat for applicants William Garnett and Elaine Fiore (Vote Required):

John Lebeaux noted that both candidates had provided applications and had letters of recommendations. Elaine Fiore provided an overview of her work with the Town of Kingston and also the work that she conducted while employed at the Plymouth County Mosquito Control District. William Garnett provided an overview of his work for the Town of Carver and noted that he was a 22-year employee for the Town of Carver. Jim Straub asked an interview question. William Garnett responded that he was an Assistant Foreman at the Carver Department of Public Works (DPW), and his personnel management responsibilities could vary from week to week. Elaine Fiore answered the same question and noted that in her professional career she managed a call center for over 20 years and was on the sewer board and worked with supervisors and staff of the wastewater treatment plant. Nancy Lin asked a question about nuisance control. Elaine Fiore provided a response related to providing public education. Bill Garnett discussed nuisance calls related to other calls that may come in from the general public.

John Lebeaux asked both candidates about their experiences interacting with elected officials. Elaine Fiore answered and provided an example of work she had done with local boards of health related to nitrogen issues in Southeast Massachusetts. William Garnett responded that he interacted with the select board and town administrator and through his job as a union negotiator. Jim Straub asked both candidates about their experience dealing with budgets. William Garnett commented that while he does not have exact experience on this issue, he had done work putting together bids for equipment and buildings that required fiscal responsibility for his local fire department. Elaine Fiore discussed her experience on finance committees and balancing budgets, and she noted that as a sworn commissioner she would have to balance budgets each year. Nancy Lin asked a question regarding attending commission meetings. Elaine Fiore responded that she would be attending all commission meetings. William Garnett noted that he would also attend all meetings barring any issues with his current DPW role.

John Lebeaux provided closing comments and noted that both candidates brought knowledge and experience to the open Commission seat. John Lebeaux noted that as a municipal official he appreciated boots on the ground and applauded both for the work they had done. John Lebeaux added that this was a tough decision and commented that he was leaning towards William Garnett, as he felt Mr. Garnett had been involved in operations similar to what has been seen with mosquito control. Both Jim Straub and Nancy Lin commented that they were leaning towards Elaine Fiore because of her skill set, experience with budgets, and her previous work in the Plymouth County Mosquito Control District. Following the SRB deliberation, John Lebeaux commented that it would be appropriate for someone to make a motion to appoint Ms. Elaine Fiore to the Plymouth County Mosquito Control District.

Commission. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. John Lebeaux noted he had made his feelings clear on his candidate of choice but would be voting with the majority. A roll call was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), John Lebeaux (aye). Ms. Elaine Fiore was appointed to the Plymouth County Mosquito Control District Commission.

9. Next SRB Meeting:

John Lebeaux noted that the next SRB meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 12th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

10. Adjourn Meeting:

Hearing no further comments or questions, John Lebeaux 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. John Lebeaux (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye). The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.