

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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COMMISSIONER

State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board Meeting

Date: 12/19/23 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.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 11:01 am. Additional SRB members in attendance included Jim Straub (DCR), and Nancy Lin (DEP). A meeting quorum was met.

Approval of meeting minutes from 11/06/23 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 11/06/23. 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.

Cape Cod Mosquito Control District request to provide Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) data to two Federal Agencies, Cape Cod National Seashore (NPS) and the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (FWS) for the purpose of applying for the district's annual Special Use Permits (Vote Required):

Alex Giannantonio, SRB Operations Coordinator, noted that the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project was requesting to share the Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) data that was collected this season with two federal agencies that they work with. It was added that the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project was required to apply for Special Use Permits (SUPs) annually for work that is conducted within the boundaries of the Cape Cod National Seashore (NPS) and the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (FWS). The Mosquito Control Project is asked to update any county arbovirus information when submitting the SUP application and the project would like to provide the JCV test results to the federal agencies that were mentioned above. Alex Giannantonio mentioned that the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project would only provide the JCV data that pertained to samples that were collected within the Barnstable County communities they service.

Alex Giannantonio noted that In-line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed for this JCV data collection pilot, the Department of Public Health (DPH) was informed of this request and approved with the sharing of the JCV data. In addition, Dr. Stephen Rich, Professor of Microbiology at UMASS Amherst and the Executive Director of the New England Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases (NEWVEC), was informed and approved in the sharing of JCV data with Cape Cod National Seashore (NPS) and Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (FWS). Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project Superintendent, Gabrielle Sakolsky-Hoopers added that the SUP application process was conducted each year, and it was helpful to the district to relay this information. Hearing no other questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the request for the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project to share the Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) data with the Cape Cod National Seashore (NPS) and the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (FWS). Jim Straub made a motion. The motion was seconded by

Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Nancy Lin (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashley Randle (aye). The vote was passed unanimously.

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 there were a few updates to report on since the last SRB meeting In November. It was mentioned that the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project's Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station installation was completed last week. Alex Giannantonio discussed the ongoing conversations with the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) regarding the possibility of exploring allowable lease agreements with existing landlords with an end goal that would facilitate EV charging infrastructure installation at leased facilities. Alex Giannantonio added that Installing EV charging station infrastructure at Mosquito Control District facilities that only had a few years left on their lease term, continued to be a major hurdle and roadblock in EV Adoption.

Alex Giannantonio noted that there had been some dialogue with the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) about potentially reducing the lease term requirement for their EV charging grant program from the current five-year lease term requirement to a one-year lease term requirement. It was added that this proposed change to the EV charging grant program had yet to be finalized, but it was positive that this change was being contemplated.

Alex Giannantonio discussed the offsite electric vehicle charging payment solution that was being proposed through Statewide contract VEH117 and noted that the agreement was still being negotiated between legal teams; however, there was still optimism that an agreement would be reached. It was added that conversations and follow up would continue with DCAMM, DOER, and OSD on any open items and Alex Giannantonio would report any updates to the MCDs and the Board members when they become available.

Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) Commissioner Interview for Jennifer Brown:

Ashley Randle acknowledged that Jennifer Brown was in attendance and would be interviewing for the open Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) commissioner position. The Board Members asked Jennifer Brown a series of questions that related to her relevant skills, knowledge, and experiences interfacing and addressing topics related to public health, communications, mosquito control, working with elected officials, and budgeting processes. Jennifer Brown provided detailed information and examples that answered the interview questions that were posed by the Board Members and addressed how her work experience as a municipal public health professional would be a value to the district and to the PVMCD commission.

Hearing no other questions or comments from the group Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve Jennifer Brown's appointment to the PVMCD commission. Nancy Lin made a motion to approve Jennifer Brown's appointment. The motion was seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call vote was conducted. Nancy Lin (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashley Randle (aye). The Board members congratulated Jennifer Brown on her appointment to the PVMCD commission.

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 11:23 am.