

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: 5/31/23 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30p.m.

Location: Meeting held remotely via Zoom

1. Call to order and attendance:

The meeting was called to order by MDAR Commissioner, Ashley Randle, at 11:34 a.m. additional SRB members in attendance included Jim Straub (DCR), and Nancy Lin (DEP). A meeting quorum was met. Ashley Randle noted that Board member Nancy Lin was reappointed to the SRB by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Heiple on April 28, 2023.

2. Approval of meeting minutes from 4/13/23 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 4/13/23. A motion was made by Jim Straub. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call was conducted. Ashley Randle (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye). The meeting minutes were approved.

3. Proposal to engage in a search for a contractor to update the Generic Environmental Impact Report (GEIR) (Vote Required)

SRB Operations Coordinator, Alex Giannantonio, commented that the intent of the GEIR was to gather information on methods of mosquito control in Massachusetts, and the environmental impacts of those methods. The GEIR in its current form was listed on the SRB site: <https://www.mass.gov/generic-environmental-impact-report-geir>. It was noted that the GEIR had not been updated since 2009/2010 and that MDAR/SRB staff would like to propose that the Board provide approval to explore a contracted vendor to engage in a project to update the GEIR material. Alex Giannantonio commented that there were various consultation services and vendors available through statewide contract PRF74 and the statewide contract would potentially be an available resource to engage consultation services to review and complete the update of the GEIR.

All SRB members agreed that the update of the GEIR was timely and a good idea. Ashley Randle entertained a motion to support the approval of moving forward to explore consultation services to update the GEIR. Jim Straub made the motion. Nancy Lin seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

4. Proposal to draft an SRB handbook to address regulatory, policy, and process related questions that would require SRB review and input

Alex Giannantonio noted that MDAR/SRB staff were proposing to create an SRB guidance handbook that would be used to clarify process, policy, and regulatory requirements that may need to be brought to the attention of the SRB

by MDAR/SRB staff and the MCD's. In addition, the guidance handbook would include a central area where all applicable statutes, regulations, and policies could be housed, with the objective of reducing the need to search for information across multiple sources. SRB General Counsel, Jessica Burgess, commented that information that would be documented in the guidance handbook would relate to existing processes and the intent would be to consolidate content to make life easier for MCDs and MDAR. Jim Straub commented that the guidance handbook should be electronic and searchable. Nancy Lin agreed that the guidance handbook should be made available in an electronic format. Ashley Randle and Jessica Burgess discussed the process of moving forward with next steps of the SRB guidance handbook creation. Ashley Randle requested a motion to move forward and approve the creation of an SRB guidance handbook. Nancy Lin made a motion. The motion was seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

5. Commissioner Meeting Stipend Increase Proposal (Vote Required)

Ashley Randle noted that the MCD Commissioner meeting stipend increase was discussed at the 12/1/22 and 12/12/22 SRB meetings. In addition, formal meeting stipend increase request letters were previously received from the Norfolk County MCD Commission, Northeast MCD Commission, and Plymouth County MCD Commission. Jessica Burgess discussed the voting process related to the meeting stipend increase for Commissioners and added that historically the SRB had set the rate for the MCD Commission meeting stipend dollar amount. Jessica Burgess clarified the motion language to mention that the increase in the meeting stipend amount would impact those MCD Commissioners that were eligible to submit for a meeting stipend in compliance with State ethics laws.

Hearing no further comments on the agenda topic, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve an increase in the MCD Commissioner meeting stipend rate for those MCD Commissioners that were eligible to submit for a meeting stipend. Nancy Lin made a motion to increase the stipend amount, provided that the MCD Commissioners were eligible. Jim Straub seconded the motion. Alex Giannantonio noted that the meeting stipend range that had been requested by the formal letters that had been received provided a range from \$160-\$200 dollar. The motion was amended to increase the MCD Commissioner meeting stipend rate from the current rate of \$100 to \$160. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

6. Pioneer Valley MCD (PVMCD) request to add the Town of Northfield as a member community (Vote Required)

The Pioneer Valley District Director, John Briggs, discussed adding the town of Northfield to the PVMCD as the twenty-third member community within the district. Ashley Randle noted that the Board members had received all supporting documentation from the Town of Northfield with applicable vote and appropriations to join the district. Ashley Randle made a motion to add the town of Northfield to the PVMCD. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

7. FY24 State Reclamation Board (SRB) and Mosquito Control District (MCD) Budget Certifications (Vote Required)

FY2023 / 2024 SRMCB and District's budget request summary			
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	2.000%	\$ 2,038,818.52
Plymouth	\$ 2,041,392.00	2.000%	\$ 2,082,220.00
Suffolk	\$ 289,860.16	3.000%	\$ 298,555.96
SRB Admin	\$ 642,650.85	0.000%	\$ 642,650.85
East Middlesex	\$ 840,038.00	3.588%	\$ 870,174.61
Pioneer Valley	\$ 97,000.00	0.000%	\$ 97,000.00
	\$ 15,551,326.70		\$ 15,770,720.94

Berkshire County MCD: Chris Horton, Berkshire County Superintendent noted a slight increase in the FY24 budget request over the previous year, which was for increases in facility rent and other operational expenses. The increase request was 1.853%, or \$4,900 higher than the certified FY23 budget dollar amount. Hearing no further questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the FY24 budget for Berkshire County Mosquito Control District in the amount of \$269,475.00. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Bristol County MCD: Alex Giannantonio, provided the FY24 budget update due to District Superintendent, Priscilla Matton, not being able to attend the meeting. Alex Giannantonio noted that the Bristol County MCD level funded in FY23 to spend down rollover funds and that the district was asking for a 2.5% increase for FY24 which equated to a \$42,023 increase year over year. Alex Giannantonio added that the increase for FY24 would address rising costs for retirement, fringe, payroll taxes, utilities, fuel, and pesticides, in addition to preparing for replacements of older vehicles which the district would be looking to replace in FY24. Hearing no further questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the FY24 budget for Bristol County Mosquito Control District in the amount of \$1,722,956.00. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Cape Cod MCD: Gabi Sakolsky-Hoopas, Cape Cod Mosquito Control District Superintendent, noted that the district was requesting level funding for FY24 and would be using rollover funding to address cost increases in the upcoming fiscal year. Hearing no further questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the FY24 budget for Cape Cod Mosquito Control District in the amount of \$2,718,238.00. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Central MA MCD: Tim Deschamps, Central MA Mosquito Control District Superintendent, noted that that the district would be level funding for FY24 and had rollover funding that they would be spending down in FY24. Hearing no further questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the FY24 budget for Central MA Mosquito Control District in the amount of \$2,864,581.00. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Norfolk County MCD: Dave Lawson, Norfolk County Mosquito Control District Superintendent, was requesting a 2.5% increase and noted that extra aerial larviciding work was completed within Norfolk County which resulted in spending more rollover funding than had been anticipated. Hearing no further

questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the FY24 budget for Norfolk County Mosquito Control District in the amount of \$2,166,051.00. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Northeast MCD: Barry Noone, District Northeast Mosquito Control District Mosquito Control District Director, was requesting a 2% increase in operational cost over FY23. Barry Noone added that the FY24 increase will help adequately fund district operations. Barry Noone discussed that the district had entered talks with DCAMM on electric vehicle charging infrastructure and ways to make their facility greener. Hearing no further questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the FY24 budget for the Northeast Mosquito Control District in the amount of \$2,038,818.52. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Plymouth County MCD: Ross Rossetti, Plymouth County Mosquito Control District Superintendent, was seeking a 2% increase in their FY24 budget over the prior year. Ross Rossetti added that most of the 2% increase in FY24 would go towards the replacement of their existing aircraft. Hearing no further questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the FY24 budget for the Plymouth County Mosquito Control District in the amount of \$2,082,220.00. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Suffolk County MCD: Brian Farless, Suffolk County Mosquito Control District Superintendent, requested a 3% increase over the FY23 certified budget. Brian Farless noted that the last budget increase for the district was in FY20, and the district was previously spending down their rollover funding. Hearing no further questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the FY24 budget for the Suffolk County Mosquito Control District in the amount of \$298,555.96. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

SRB: Alex Giannantonio, SRB Operations Coordinator, noted that the certified FY23 budget for SRB Administration was \$642,650.85, which represented a 2.5% increase year over year. It was added that the 2.5% budget request increase for FY23 was triggered by filling open SRB positions and the implementation of a COLA increase for unionized employees that work directly for the SRB or provide support services to the SRB via MDAR. The budget request for FY24 was for \$642,650.85, which was a level funding request. Alex Giannantonio noted that the SRB would utilize rollover funding to address increases in payroll costs or any expenditures related to the updating of the GEIR. Hearing no further questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the FY24 budget for the SRB Admin in the amount of \$642,650.85. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

East Middlesex MCD: Brian Farless, East Middlesex Mosquito Control District Superintendent, noted that the district was asking for a 3.58% increase, or \$870,174.61 for FY24 and added that more than half of the increase was due to Stoneham joining the district. Brian Farless commented that there had been rollover funding for the past four years due to open positions and supplemental funding during the EEE outbreak that the district has been spending down. Hearing no further questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the FY24 budget for the East Middlesex Mosquito Control District in the amount of \$870,174.61. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Pioneer Valley MCD: John Briggs, Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District Director, noted that the district was requesting level funding for FY24, which equated to \$97,000. John Briggs added that the district currently had twenty-two member communities and would be adding Northfield to the district in FY24. John Briggs discussed the future facility for the district and commented that there were currently five communities on the wait list that the district would be looking to bring on-board in the years to come. Hearing no further questions or comments, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the FY24 budget

for the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District in the amount of \$97,000. Jim Straub made a motion. Seconded by Nancy Lin. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

8. Next Meeting

Alex Giannantonio noted that 6/14/23 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm was tentatively scheduled for the next SRB meeting. Agenda information for the meeting would be posted and distributed in the coming days. Ashley Randle addressed a question in the Zoom chat related to when the Commissioner meeting stipend increase would go into effect. Jessica Burgess noted that from an authority perspective the Commissioner meeting stipend increase effective date would be from the current date and moving forward.

9. 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 12:21 pm.