

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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Ashley E. Randle
COMMISSIONER

State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board Meeting

Date: 6/12/24 from 12:00 a.m. – 2:00 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 12:02 pm. Additional SRB members in attendance included Jim Straub (DCR), and Mia McDonald (DEP). A meeting quorum was met.

Approval of meeting minutes from 4/10/24 SRB meeting (Vote Required):

Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written. There were no further discussions regarding the meeting minutes from 4/10/24. A motion was made by Mia McDonald. Seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call was conducted. Ashley Randle (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Mia McDonald (aye). The meeting minutes were approved.

State Reclamation Board (SRB) and Mosquito Control District (MCD) FY25 budget certification (Vote Required):

FY2024 / 2025 SRMCB and District's budget request summary			
District	FY2024 SRMCB Certified Budget	Percent Increase request	FY2025 Budget request
Berkshire	\$ 269,475.00	13.000%	\$ 304,506.75
Bristol	\$ 1,722,956.00	2.500%	\$ 1,766,030.00
Cape Cod	\$ 2,718,238.00	17.518%	\$ 3,194,426.56
Central MA	\$ 2,864,581.00	5.000%	\$ 3,007,810.00
Norfolk	\$ 2,166,051.00	2.500%	\$ 2,220,199.00
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	21.916%	\$ 118,258.76
	\$ 15,770,720.94		\$ 16,682,331.54

Berkshire County MCD: District Superintendent, Chris Horton, noted that the district was requesting a 13% budget increase for FY25. Chris Horton added that the budget increase would be used to address a facility rent increase, hiring more seasonal help as a response from member communities that wanted more surveillance and larvicide work, and preparing for needed vehicle replacements. Chris Horton discussed putting more budgetary resources into source reduction and increased surveillance then in past fiscal years. Hearing no questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to certify the FY25 budget for Berkshire County MCD in the amount of \$304,506.75. Jim

Straub made a motion to certify the FY25 budget for Berkshire County MCD in the amount of \$304,506.75. The motion was seconded by Mia McDonald. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashely Randle (aye).

Bristol County MCD: District Superintendent, Priscilla Matton, noted that the district was requesting a 2.5% budget increase over the FY24 certified budget. Priscilla Matton discussed that that the district had acquired a vehicle, which was initially requested as a gas-powered vehicle; however, the district had to acquire an electric vehicle that was not initially requested. Priscilla Matton provided the monthly lease fee for the newly acquired electric vehicle and added that the budget increase would also be used to purchase new technology equipment to keep up with the updates to the recording program for larvicide and adulticide programs. Hearing no questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to certify the FY25 budget for Bristol County MCD in the amount of \$1,766,030.00. A motion was made by Mia McDonald to certify the FY25 budget for Bristol County MCD in the amount of \$1,766,030.00. The motion was seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashely Randle (aye).

Cape Cod MCD: District Superintendent, Gabrielle Sakolsky-Hoopers, noted that the FY25 budget request was larger this year due to workers comp claims and leave costs that were accrued when the employees in question were out on workers comp. It was added that one workers comp settlement was paid out in FY24. Gabrielle Sakolsky-Hoopers noted that the FY25 budget was Increased by an additional 5% from the original 12% budgetary increase to cover the underfunded accounts for the district in FY25. The Extra 5% increase brought the total budget request to 17.5% for FY25. Hearing no questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to certify the FY25 budget for the Cape Cod MCD in the amount of \$3,194,426.56. Jim Straub made a motion to certify the FY25 budget for the Cape Cod MCD in the amount of \$3,194,426.56. The motion was seconded by Mia McDonald. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashely Randle (aye).

Central MA MCD: District Executive Director, Tim McGlinchy, noted that the FY25 budget request was a 5% increase over the certified FY24 budget for the district. Tim McGlinchy added that if the Electric Vehicle (EV) charging equipment grant was approved he hoped to bring on two EV's in FY25 in addition to a new dump-truck. Tim McGlinchy noted that the district requested level funding in FY24. Hearing no questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to certify the FY25 budget for Central MA MCD in the amount of \$3,007,810.00. A motion was made by Mia McDonald to certify the FY25 budget for Central MA MCD in the amount of \$3,007,810.00. The motion was seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashely Randle (aye).

Norfolk County MCD: District Superintendent, Dave Lawson, noted that the 2.5% budget increase request for FY25 revolved around an increase for payroll costs. Dave Lawson added that the district put off vehicle purchases and was trying to get set up for EV charging. Dave Lawson added that the district will need to make vehicle purchases in the next year or two and those vehicle acquisitions factored into the budget increase. Hearing no questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to certify the FY25 budget for the Norfolk County MCD in the amount of \$2,220,199.00. Jim Straub made a motion to certify the FY25 budget for the Norfolk County MCD in the amount of \$2,220,199.00. The motion was seconded by Mia McDonald. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Northeast MCD: District Director, Barry Noone, noted that the district was requesting a 4% increase in FY25, which represented increases in fringe costs, vehicle replacements, a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for the staff and hiring a full time and seasonal employee. In addition, Barry Noone was expecting an increase in aerial larvicide costs for the upcoming fiscal year. Hearing no questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to certify the FY25 budget for the Northeast MA MCD in the amount of \$2,120,371.26. A motion was made by Mia McDonald to certify the FY25 budget for the Northeast MA MCD in the amount of \$2,120,371.26. The motion was seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashely Randle (aye).

Plymouth County MCD: District Superintendent, Ross Rossetti, noted that the district was looking for a 2% increase in FY25 to cover fringe costs and payroll. Ross Rossetti added that the district would also need to replace excavators that were stolen, and the district would be acquiring an additional EV. Ross Rossetti discussed that any increase above 2% would come from the district's rollover funding. Hearing no questions, Ashley Randle entertained a

motion to certify the FY25 budget for the Plymouth County MCD in the amount of \$2,123,864.40. Jim Straub made a motion to certify the FY25 budget for the Plymouth County MCD in the amount of \$2,123,864.40. The motion was seconded by Mia McDonald. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Suffolk County MCD: District Superintendent, Brian Farless, noted that the district was requesting level funding for FY25, and he was not expecting any major changes. Brian Farless added that the district had rollover funding and was expecting a 14% increase in lease facility costs. Hearing no questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to certify the FY25 budget for the Suffolk County MCD in the amount of \$298,555.96. A motion was made by Mia McDonald to certify the FY25 budget for the Suffolk County MCD in the amount of \$298,555.96. The motion was seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

East Middlesex MCD: District Superintendent, Brian Farless, noted the district was requesting a 1.77% increase for FY25. Brian Farless added that he was expecting a significant increase in lease facility costs that would be covered by the district's rollover and FY25 budget increase. Hearing no questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to certify the FY25 budget for the East Middlesex MCD in the amount of \$885,658.00. Jim Straub made a motion to certify the FY25 budget for the East Middlesex MCD in the amount of \$885,658.00. The motion was seconded by Mia McDonald. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

SRB Admin: Operations Coordinator, Alex Giannantonio, noted that the certified FY24 budget for SRB Administration was \$642,650.85, which represented level funding year over year. SRB administration was requesting level funding again for FY25, which equated to \$642,650.85. Alex Giannantonio added that the SRB would utilize its rollover funding to address increases in payroll costs due to union COLA's, salary step increases, salary percentage allocations for MDAR staff that support the SRB, and to address increases in the fringe benefit and payroll tax rate for the new fiscal year. Alex Giannantonio discussed that within FY25, the SRB could also use rollover funding to complete any necessary projects that would need to be completed within the fiscal year. Hearing no questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to certify the FY25 budget for SRB Admin in the amount of \$642,650.85. A motion was made by Mia McDonald to certify the FY25 budget for SRB Admin in the amount of \$642,650.85. The motion was seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Pioneer Valley MCD: District Director, John Briggs, noted that the district was seeing a 21.91% increase in FY25 and mentioned that the additional revenue is from adding new member communities and instituting pilot service programs for selected communities within the district that would pay for the added services. John Briggs discussed additional costs that would be incurred for the district's facility lease and increases in pesticide costs. Hearing no questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to certify the FY25 budget for the Pioneer Valley MCD in the amount of \$118,258.76. Jim Straub made a motion to certify the FY25 budget for the Pioneer Valley MCD in the amount of \$118,258.76. The motion was seconded by Mia McDonald. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) operational update and implementation of a ditch and stream maintenance program:

District Director, John Briggs, discussed the initiatives he worked on over the past fourteen months since he had taken the position as District Director. John Briggs noted that the district added two towns and that there were currently twenty-four member communities within the PVMCD. John Briggs discussed his goal of expanding mosquito surveillance to the communities that he services. John Briggs noted that the acquisition of a facility in Deerfield was paramount to expanding outreach and communication efforts and that having seasonal staff has allowed the district to implement pilot mitigation services to six communities within the district. John Briggs added that the PVMCD Commission approved a 5% increase in membership fees starting in FY26 and ending in FY29. John Briggs discussed the purpose of implementing a ditch and stream maintenance program, which would be a direct service for towns that sign up for the program. John Briggs added that all ditch and stream maintenance work would be conducted by hand and no heavy machinery would be used for the ditch and stream maintenance work that would be done to mitigate mosquito habitat within the district.

Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) request to utilize MCDs or Contractor for targeted adulticide operations for member communities that vote and pay for adulticide spraying due to the emergence of mosquito-borne disease. (Vote Required):

District Director, John Briggs, discussed the abundance of mosquitoes he was seeing in the district at the start of the season and noted that it would be prudent for the PVMCD to have a EEE response plan in place to address surveillance and monitoring and to assist towns that may be impacted by EEE. John Briggs added that he was looking to gain approval from the Board to have the ability to set up an Intergovernmental Service Agreement (ISA) with other MCDs or to utilize the Clarke contract through MDAR. John Briggs noted that he would like to have both options available to respond to EEE in the event EEE became an issue during the season. John Briggs added that the proposed EEE response plan would only be utilized to address EEE if a town chose to partner with the district to provide adulticide service. Ashley Randle commented that this agenda item would require a vote of Board to approve these services. Jim Straub made a motion for the PVMCD to utilize MCDs or a contractor for targeted adulticide operations for member communities that vote and pay for adulticide spraying due to the emergence of mosquito-borne disease. Mia McDonald seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

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

Taryn LaScola provided an overview of the review and approval process of aerial adulticide products that could be used in an aerial application due to the declaration of a public health hazard. Taryn LaScola noted that a packet of information was sent to the Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and the Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). Taryn LaScola added that every year the mentioned departments review products and available efficacy data to suggest aerial adulticide products for use in an aerial application.

Taryn LaScola summarized that the information was reviewed and each of the departments completed memos relative to SRB aerial adulticide product selection. The products that were reviewed were Anvil 10+10, Duet, Merus 3.0, Zenivex, and Imperium. Taryn LaScola added that overall, it appeared that Anvil 10+10 was the preferred aerial adulticide product and noted that there was also a request for departments to select a back-up product, which was the result of experiencing supply issues in previous years. The back-up product that was selected for the upcoming mosquito season was Merus 3.0. Hearing no further questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve Anvil 10+10 and Merus 3.0 as the adulticide products to be used by the SRB in the event there was a declaration of a public health hazard by DPH due to elevated arborvirus risk. Mia McDonald made a motion to approve Anvil 10+10 and Merus 3.0 as the adulticide products to be used by the SRB in the event there was a declaration of a public health hazard by DPH due to elevated arborvirus risk. The motion was seconded by Jim Straub. A roll call vote was conducted. Mia McDonald (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) Commissioner interview for Andrew Lover (Vote Required):

Ashley Randle acknowledged that Dr. Andrew Lover was in attendance and would be interviewing for the open Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) commissioner position. The Board members asked Dr. Andrew Lover a series of seven questions related to his relevant skills, knowledge, and experiences interfacing and addressing topics related to public health, communications, mosquito control, working with elected officials, and budgeting processes. Dr. Andrew Lover provided detailed information and examples that answered the interview questions that were posed by the Board members and addressed how his current involvement in academia and his previous work experience would be a value to the mosquito control district and to the PVMCD commission in relation to safeguarding public health. Hearing no other questions or comments from the group Ashley Randle entertained a motion to approve Dr. Andrew Lover's appointment to the PVMCD commission. Jim Straub made a motion to approve Dr. Andrew Lover's appointment. The motion was seconded by Mia McDonald. A roll call vote

was conducted. Mia (aye), Jim Straub (aye), Ashley Randle (aye). The Board members congratulated Dr. Andrew Lover on his appointment to the PVMCD commission.

Adjourn Meeting:

Hearing no further comments or questions, Ashley Randle entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mia McDonald 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), Mia McDonald (aye). The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.