

# 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: 9/18/23 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00p.m.**

**Location: Meeting held remotely via Zoom**

1. **Call to order and attendance:**

The meeting was called to order by SRB Chair and MDAR Commissioner, Ashley Randle, at 1:04 p.m. Additional SRB members in attendance included Jim Straub (DCR), and Nancy Lin (DEP). A meeting quorum was met.

2. **Approval of meeting minutes from 6/14/23 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 6/14/23. 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.

3. **Follow up 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:**

SRB Operations Coordinator, Alex Giannantonio noted that Executive Order (E.O.) 594 and the Electric Vehicle (EV) First Policy were initially discussed during the December 1, 2022, SRB meeting. It was added that the E.O. was focused on decarbonizing and minimizing the environmental impacts of State government and was issued in April 2021. Alex Giannantonio referenced the E.O. targets that were established for State fleet vehicle and facility electrification.

| Zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) as portion of total state fleet | 2025          | 2030         | 2040         | 2050          |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
|   | 5% of fleet   | 20% of fleet | 75% of fleet | 100% of fleet |
| EV charging stations at state facilities                      | 2025          | 2030         | 2040         | 2050          |
|   | 350 stations* | 500 stations | TBD          | TBD           |

Alex Giannantonio commented that operating in parallel to the E.O. was the Operational Services Divisions (OSD) EV first Policy: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/electric-vehicle-first-acquisition-policy/download> and that the policy went into effect at the start of FY23. Alex Giannantonio discussed the challenges that the MCDs were facing related to facility and fleet electrification. It was added that most of the MCDs were in leased facilities that were bound by existing lease terms with their landlords. Alex Giannantonio commented that two MCDs, Plymouth County and Cape Cod, had submitted for grant funding through the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Leading by Example (LBE) grant program and were awaiting notification regarding their application status.

Alex Giannantonio discussed the new vehicle acquisition process and the feedback the MCDs were receiving when trying to replace necessary vehicles in their fleet. Alex Giannantonio added that part of the EV First Policy that was being enforced

referenced that EV's needed to be considered for acquisition regardless of the status of EV charging station equipment at MCD facilities. Alex Giannantonio noted that the EV First Policy did have exemption criteria for certain acquisition circumstances; however, the inability to charge at a state facility was not currently one of the reasons for exemption.

Acceptable exemption example reasons are as follows:

| Criteria             | Description  |
|----------------------|--|
| Emergency Response   | The vehicle is used primarily to respond to emergencies and use of an EV would pose a justifiable safety risk. Agencies must demonstrate the acquisition of an EV would obstruct said response.                            |
| Prohibitive Upfits   | The vehicle's primary job function requires upfits or modifications that cannot be accommodated by the EV options currently available on SWC.  |
| Vehicle Range        | Expected daily mileage, verified whenever possible through telematics data, exceeds the EPA estimated range of suitable EV options and adequate charging infrastructure is not in place to support mid-trip fast charging. |
| Vehicle Availability | No currently produced EV option on SWC meets agency's needs.   |

Alex Giannantonio discussed vehicle manufacturer inventory and referenced potential future impacts from the United Auto Workers (UAW) union strike. Alex Giannantonio noted that according to the Office of Vehicle Management (OVM) that there should be available EV inventory arriving between now and March 2024. It was added that this vehicle inventory would only be available through the OSD lease program.

| Category      | Vehicle                   | Qty | Availability  |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----|---------------|
| Pickup        | F150 Lightning            | 11  | January-March |
| Pickup        | F150 Lightning w/Tow Pkg  | 5   | January-March |
| Pickup        | F150 Lightning Ext. Range | 11  | January-March |
| Sedan         | Bolt                      | 2   | Now           |
| SUV/Crossover | Bolt EUV                  | 3   | Sept-Oct      |
| SUV/Crossover | BZ4X                      | 15  | Sept-Oct      |
| SUV/Crossover | Mustang Mach-E            | 2   | Now           |
| SUV/Crossover | RAV4 Prime (PHEV)         | 5   | Nov-Dec       |

Alex Giannantonio discussed the roadblocks that needed to be overcome when trying to operationalize the requirements within E.O. 594 and added that the SRB/MDAR operations team was meeting with the MCDs to discuss the challenges, potential solutions, and available next steps to be in a better position to acquire needed replacement vehicles that were critical to mosquito control operations. Alex Giannantonio noted that this agenda item would be a standing agenda item at SRB meetings going forward to ensure that Board members were updated on implementation challenges and progress.

4. Follow up on Jamestown Canyon Virus pilot program and request from UMASS's New England Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases (NEWVEC) on further characterization of the virus and development of manuscripts for publication:

Alex Giannantonio commented that the Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) pilot testing program proposal was initially discussed with the Board at the 4/13/23 SRB meeting and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between all applicable parties, which included UMASS, DPH, the MCDs and the SRB was fully executed on 7/3/23. Alex Giannantonio noted that 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 proposing the following course of action with respect to the mosquito samples that were submitted by the MCDs over the course of the pilot program.

First, Dr. Rich and the New England Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases (NEWVEC) were interested in further characterizing these viruses by whole genomic sequencing of the samples and would do this in conjunction with their collaborators at Yale University. The samples would be labelled with relevant minimal metadata (e.g., the lab as the source, mosquito species contained within the pool, and the town/state from which samples were collected). Further genomic characterization of these viruses would confirm the identity (and possibly detect variant forms) and be helpful for future publication prospects. It was noted that Dr. Rich and the New England Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases (NEWVEC) were not requesting to share any information outside of the collaborating Yale lab at this time nor were they requesting or

suggesting that they publish at this time.

Second, Dr. Rich wanted to note that since the work was funded by an award from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to the New England Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases (NEWVEC), that Dr. Rich wanted to request permission to report the findings to CDC contacts in one of his future monthly progress meetings. Furthermore, Dr. Rich wanted to remind principals to cite and mention the New England Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases (NEWVEC) as the entity that conducted this laboratory testing. Dr. Rich acknowledged that the MOU that was executed was with UMass (with Dr. Rich acting as the agent), However, it was important to highlight the actual unit within the University that did the work, for example, in a press release.

Alex Giannantonio noted that Dr. Rich was currently in the meeting as an attendee and could be brought in as a panelist if needed to address any questions from the Board. Dr. Rich commented that he was happy to address any questions regarding the work that was conducted. Hearing no questions or comments from the Board, Ashley Randle commented on making a motion to vote on the agenda item. Jessica Burgess, SRB Legal Counsel, clarified the requirements for the motion language. Jim Straub made a motion to move forward with next steps in allowing NEWVEC to share information with Yale and CDC for further characterization of the virus and development of manuscripts for publication in accordance with the requirements of the executed MOU. Nancy Lin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. Jim Straub (aye), Nancy Lin (aye), Ashley Randle (aye).

#### 5. Next Meeting

Alex Giannantonio commented that he was working on coordinating an SRB meeting in October and would be targeting the weeks of 10/23 or 10/30. It was added that some of the tentative October meeting agenda items would be focused on the review of preliminary FY25 budgets, and to provide progress updates on the Generic Environmental Impact Report (GEIR) and SRB Guidance Handbook, which were initially discussed at the 5/31/23 SRB meeting. Jim Straub and Nancy Lin noted that they would not be available until the first week of November. Alex Giannantonio responded that he would try to find some time in early November for the next SRB meeting.

#### 6. 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 1:38 pm.