



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
The State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board
NORFOLK COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
 144 Production Road, Suite C, Walpole, MA 02081
 (781) 762-3681 fax: (781) 769-6436
 www.NorfolkCountyMosquito.org



ROBIN L. CHAPEL **NORMAN P. JACQUES** **MAUREEN P. MACEachern** **LINDA R. SHEA** **RICHARD J. POLLACK, PHD**
 Commissioners

DAVID A. LAWSON
 Director

CAROLINE E. HAVILAND
 Field Operations Manager

July 22nd, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of The Norfolk County
Mosquito Control District Commission
Held by Zoom Conference

Commissioners present: Robin Chapell, Norman Jacques, Maureen MacEachern, Richard Pollack, Linda Shea

Commissioners absent:

Quorum: A quorum was established.

Others in attendance: David Lawson, Director Caroline Haviland, Field Operations Manager
 Melissa Kiriacopoulos – Clerk, Franklin BOH, Clint Richmond – MA Sierra Club, Sreekar Gollapalle – Braintree resident

Note taker: David Lawson

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

1) Agenda Item: Approval of the minutes of the June 24th, 2021 Commission Meeting

Action: The minutes of the June 24th, 2021 Commission meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Mrs. Chapell, with a roll call vote.

2) Agenda Item: Budget Overview

a. Overview of FY 2021/beginning of FY 2022

The Director, previous to the meeting, sent a budget overview document to the Commissioners. This sheet showed an overview of the FY 2021 appropriation of \$2,001,629, the FY 2020 rollover of \$102,194, and a rebate of \$3,608, for a total available funds in FY 2021 of \$2,107,431. The Director noted an estimate of year end expenditures at about \$2,017,841, making the current rollover estimate \$89,590. Even though the FY2021 fiscal year has ended, multiple line items are still to be finalized before there is a complete close out of the fiscal year. The Director feels great about the projected rollover amount. There is nothing of note to report regarding the beginning of the FY 2022.

b. District website/IT review

The Field Operations Manager and Director updated the Commission on the Districts recent contract with the Ockers Company which will handle IT support, computer backups, and security for the Districts computers and network.

Dr. Pollack asked if the District could get information on the numbers of visits to the Districts website. The Director and Field Operations Manager will look into this. Dr. Pollack suggested it would be interesting to see how many residents are seeing educational information from the website.

Action: The Budget Overview report was unanimously approved on a motion by Mrs. Chapell, with a roll call vote.

3) **Agenda Item: Fieldwork Overview**

a. Overview of 2021 year to date:

The Director, previous to the meeting, sent a spreadsheet highlighting field work accomplished for the calendar year 2021 so far. The Director noted that the field crew has been mostly treating catch basins and conducting ULV applications, but recent heavy rains have led to a decent amount of ground larviciding that has been initiated both directly by the District and by requests from residents.

b. The Field Operations Manager updated the Commission on issues with telematics devices, with little new to report.

c. The Field Operations Manager also updated the Commission on the work of developing a departmental contract for tire recycling. There is nothing new to report at this time.

Dr. Pollack shared with the group about recent site visits he has made where he is noting lots of used tires stored outside at service stations. It was recommend that the Director reach out to the local Boards of Health and encourage them to reach out to service stations with a reminder about how common it is for abundant mosquitoes to breed in used tires and to remedy the situation by either covering tire piles or having the removed quickly.

Action: The Fieldwork Overview report was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Jacques, with a roll call vote.

4) **Agenda Item: Surveillance/Virus update**

The Director shared about the current state of mosquito surveillance, noting that mosquito counts are rapidly increasing due to recent rain. In particular, flooding of the Neponset River floodplain has led to severe outbreaks in neighborhoods along the river. Requests for spraying are up everywhere. There are WNV isolates from mosquitoes in other parts of the Commonwealth, but none in the NCMCD at this time.

The Director shared about the notable rise in widespread catch of *Psorophora ferox* in the Districts traps this season. It appears to be a continuation of a rise in catch over the previous few years. The entomologist suspects it is related to overall warming of the climate. Dr. Pollack suggested that solid evidence for a cause might be lacking at this time, with climate a reasonable explanation, but other causes may be at least contributing to the phenomenon.

Action: No action taken.

a. **Agenda Item: Mosquito Control for the 21st Century Task Force**

The Director noted that seemingly little activity is available to report on in regard to the task force group. The Eastern Research Group recently reached out to SRMCB and the Districts with a set of further questions. The Director shared his responses with the Commission by sending a digital copy to them before the meeting. The Director noted that of seeming primary interest in the new questions was trying to ascertain the percentages of “nuisance” vs. “arbovirus” control work the Districts do when they are applying pesticides. The Director invited to Dr. Pollack to share with the group further on the working principal, that is it near impossible to put percentages on these actions since “nuisance” and “vector” control overlap. One can never know whether any particular mosquito is carrying a pathogen at any particular time, so all control measures are potentially vector control applications.

Action: No action taken.

Other Notes or Information

New Business: PFAS continues to be an issue of concern. There was some extended discussion regarding the topic, with the Commission expressing their hope that we can finally get definitive confirmation that our application products do not contain PFAS chemicals.

The Commission set the next Commission meeting to be held virtually on Thursday, August 26th, at 12:30 pm.

At 2:37 p.m. the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Jacques.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Shea, Chairman