



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
The State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board
NORFOLK COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
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ROBIN L. CHAPPELL **NORMAN P. JACQUES** **RICHARD J. POLLACK, PHD** **LINDA R. SHEA** **KYLEE C. FOLEY**
Commissioners

DAVID A. LAWSON
Director

CAROLINE E. HAVILAND
Operations Manager

**September 12th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes of The Norfolk
County Mosquito Control District Commission**
Held via Zoom

Commissioners present: Robin Chapell, Norman Jacques, Linda Shea, Kylee Foley, Richard Pollack

Commissioners absent:

Quorum: A quorum was established.

Others in attendance: David Lawson – Director, Caroline Haviland - Operations Manager

Note taker: David Lawson and Lisa Golden

- 1) **Call to Order – Establishment of Quorum.** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by Chair Chapell.
- 2) **Agenda Item: Public Comment:** No public comment was made.
- 3) **Agenda Item: Approval of the minutes of the August 15th, 2024, Commission Meeting:**

Action: The minutes of the August 15th, 2024 Commission meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Jacques, second by Commissioner Foley.

4) **Agenda Item: Budget Overview**

a) **Overview of FY 2024**

The Director displayed a sheet with an overview of the FY 2024 finances. Final FY 2024 numbers are out. The FY 2024 rollover into FY2025 is \$202,932.

b) **Projections for FY 2025**

The Director noted that we have just started FY 2025 and there is nothing of significance to report. He highlighted 2 items for FY25: EV purchases and charging accommodations at headquarters; and increases in payroll.

c) **Implementation date of MGT pay scale changes that were approved 8/15/2024.**

The Director offered two potential upcoming dates for implementation of the recently approved pay scale adjustments, which are 9/23 or 10/7. The Director recommended the latter to give HR folks in Boston a large enough lead time to accommodate.

Action: The Implementation date of MGT pay scale changes to start on Oct. 7 was unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Shea, second by Commissioner Foley.

5) **Agenda Item: Field work overview**

The Director shared the Field Work Accomplished report with the Commission. In addition, the Director shared a sheet with all the virus isolation data from the season. He also presented the current DPH produced EEE and WNV risk map.

Action: The Fieldwork overview report was unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Pollack, second by Commissioner Shea.

6) **Agenda Item: Resistance Testing updates– Field Trial reports**

The Director highlighted the pause in additional information related to the results from the trial due to the busy season for all the parties involved. The Director did share some limited information that validated the current flow rate the District uses for the ULV applications.

Action: No action taken.

7) **Agenda Item: Update on Pending Legislative Bills**

The Director noted that there has been no new information regarding the pending legislative bills since April of 2023 when bills were sent to committee.

Action: No action taken.

8) **Agenda Item: Update on EV First and Fleet Rightsizing initiatives from OVM**

The Operations Manager informed the Commission that she has had communication with the Districts' landlord and continues to work towards an upgrade that will allow two charging stations for 4 vehicles in the shop. The landlord wants to keep the District in a lease renewal and is working toward implementing EV infrastructure in some way in the near future. Landlord is working with a vendor. She is waiting on a response from their last discussion.

Action: No action taken.

9) **Agenda Item: Discussion of the status of UAV use by EOEA and Massachusetts Mosquito Control Districts**

Commissioner Pollack discussed possibility of drone utilization for surveillance and applications. When asked, the Director stated that he thinks that it would be more effective as a monitoring/inspection tool vs an application tool, but both aspects would be helpful in the District's operations. Commissioner Pollack presented a UAV rough draft for addressing the SRB to facilitate approval and use of UAV's, first for monitoring, and later as application tool.

Action: Commissioner Pollack made a motion to encourage approval of the use of UAV's, first for monitoring, and later as an application tool to SRB.

Use of unmanned aerial vehicles for mosquito surveillance and intervention

UAVs have become useful, safe, and economical platforms for conducting diverse ecological and environmental monitoring efforts. Onboard cameras and GPS devices increasingly facilitate diverse efforts such as those to: assess the land cover classification and the growth status and health of farmed crops; demarcate the current paths of rivers streams; and inspect the condition of bridges and buildings. Mosquito management personnel have used aerial imagery collected by satellites, airplanes, and helicopters to efficiently assess boundaries of floodplains that would not practically be reached by boat, road, or by foot. The same kinds of imaging equipment can be carried aloft by a relatively small UAV controlled by a licensed operator within direct sight of the UAV. Such a strategy would provide critical data in a manner that is more timely, safer, and more economical than by use of other airborne platforms. UAVs are also available to carry a payload of mosquito larvicides and can more efficiently target such applications in wetlands where it is impractical or inefficient to treat by use of other methods. Accordingly, the NCMCD Commission encourages the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board to facilitate approval of the use of UAVs, first for monitoring purposes, and later as a means to facilitate interventions meant to protect the health of residents within the communities serviced by the NCMCD.

Seconded by Commissioner Shea, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item: Next Meeting Date

The next Commission meeting was set for October 17th at 1:00 pm to be held by Zoom Conference.

Other Notes or Information

The Director shared about correspondence he had with Tim MacDonald (BOH Needham) regarding ideas about how the Town of Needham might contribute extra funds to the District for a potential emergency in the future. The Commission discussion eventually came to a consensus that accepting additional funds from communities posed a challenge to implementation and fairness. Commissioner Pollack suggested some ways that Needham might be able to expend funds internally to accomplish mosquito control goals.

At 2:21 p.m. the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Jacques.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Chapell, Chair