



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

DAVID A. LAWSON
Director

CAROLINE E. HAVILAND
Field Operations Manager

**September 27th, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes of The Norfolk
County Mosquito Control District Commission**
Held by Zoom Conference

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

Commissioners absent:

Quorum: A quorum was established.

Others in attendance: David Lawson – Director, Caroline Haviland - Field Operations Manager, Leandra Maclean – BOH, Sharon

Note taker: David Lawson

- 1) **Call to Order – Establishment of Quorum.** The meeting was called to order at 1:30 P.M. by Chair Chapell.
- 2) **Public Comment** No public comment was made.
- 3) **Agenda Item: Approval of the minutes of the July 13th, 2023, Commission Meeting**

Action: The minutes of the August 17th, 2023, Commission meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Shea, second by Commissioner Pollack, with a roll call vote.

4) **Budget Overview**

a) **Employee Updates**

The Director informed the Commission of the resignation of Eric Tarala (Field Technician) and Kim Sklar (Administrative Assistant). Discussion ensued regarding posting to replace these employees. The Director was actively working with HR on getting a posting set up for the Administrative Assistant position. The Field Technician position will be posted after the holidays in the new year. The Director shared about The Districts experience this summer regarding the connection between the excessive rainfall, high levels of mosquitoes trapped, and the seeming lack of requests that District Staff would normally consider commensurate with the level of rain and numbers of mosquitoes caught in the field. As discussed previously, the working explanation

for this observation is that the proliferation of private mosquito control companies has likely co-opted residents who would have previously been contacting The District for service. With this summer's experience behind, the Director is planning to maintain six Field Technicians instead of the seven that was the norm for the last decade. This led to further discussion and questions about how The District might consider ways to utilize seasonal employees and Field Technicians in alternate ways to increase The District's ability to effectively control mosquitoes. The Director explained that hiring and licensing hurdles would make hiring multiple seasonal employees for short term contracts an extremely difficult prospect.

b) Final Close of FY 2023

The Director shared a budget overview sheet with the Commissioners. FY2023 closed 6/30/23. The final rollover into FY 2024 was \$186,862.

c) Overview of FY 2024

The Director noted that the appropriation for FY 2024 was certified at the May 31st SRMCB meeting. Currently, the estimated rollover into FY2025 is approximately \$195,000. This estimate is an upward adjustment since the last meeting that considers the delayed hiring of a Field Technician and maintaining the Field Crew level at six employees.

d) Projections for FY 2025

The Director stated that based on projected employee level adjustments, the initial budget proposal sent to SRMCB was 2.5%. There are a lot of unknowns in the coming years in regard to vehicle purchases with EV mandates in play which will likely have significant impacts on budgets and projections.

Action: The Budget Overview report was unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Jacques, second by Commissioner Pollack, with a roll call vote.

5) Field work overview

The Director shared the Field Work Accomplished report with the Commission. The Director and Field Operations Manager noted that the Field Crew has transitioned from the ULV evening shift to the regular day shift. Attention was paid to the relatively low numbers of service requests for a season of such high rainfall. The Field Crew conducted record amounts of ground larviciding this season in response to the relentless rain.

The Director shared a photograph of a tire pile located at Jimmy's Tire in Quincy and shared about the presence of high numbers of *Aedes albopictus* there. The Director also shared about his coordination with Tim Marble from the BOH and 2 applications of VectoBac GS that The District conducted on the tire pile. Extended discussion ensued about the emergence of *Aedes albopictus* (Asian Tiger Mosquito) in Quincy, and how The District, working with the Quincy BOH, has dealt with Jimmy's Tire. There was discussion about how to ensure that Jimmy's Tire gets all the tires removed and/or covered by next season. Various commissioners shared recommendations on how to proceed in the near-term and going into next season.

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

6) Vector Borne Disease Findings

The Director shared a spreadsheet that showed the six WNV isolations from mosquitoes in the municipalities of Quincy and Canton. There was some discussion regarding the emergence of EEE isolations in both bird biting and mammal biting mosquitoes in other parts of the state and in

Connecticut and Rhode Island with a certain amount of concern for the likelihood of increased risk next summer season.

7) **Discussion of Pending Legislative Bills**

The Director noted that there is no new information regarding the pending legislative bills.

Action: No action taken.

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

The Field Operations Manager updated the Commission on the recent movement by The District's landlord to reengage on EV infrastructure, as well OVM updates regarding policy updates, vehicle availability, and charging options. Concerns about charging in public places with ULV equipment per Homeland Security regulations was discussed as well.

Action: No action taken.

9) **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting has already been set for Thursday, November 9th at 1:30pm to be held by Zoom conference.

Other Notes or Information

At 2:34 p.m. the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Pollack.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Chapell, Chair