



Commissioners  
Jennifer Brown  
Jeanne Galloway – Chair  
Gregory Lewis  
Dr. Andrew Lover  
Carolyn Shores Ness

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

State Reclamation & Mosquito Control Board

## Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District

8 Conway Street

South Deerfield, MA 01373

Web: [www.mass.gov/pioneer-valley-mosquito-control-district](http://www.mass.gov/pioneer-valley-mosquito-control-district)

Email: [john.c.briggs@mass.gov](mailto:john.c.briggs@mass.gov)



District Director  
John Briggs

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, July 1, 2024

**Time:** 2:00 PM

**Location:** Virtual

1. Call to Order and Attendance
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM.
  - b. Commissioners in attendance: Jennifer Brown, Jeanne Galloway, Greg Lewis, Andrew Lover, and Carolyn Ness. Also in attendance: John Briggs, Director of Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD); James Tsalah, PVMCD Seasonal Entomologist; and Susan Gruen, Heath Board of Health.
2. Public Comment/Output
  - a. None
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Vote Required)
  - a. Jennifer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the previous month and Greg seconded. The vote passed 5-0.
4. Operations Update
  - a. Surveillance: John reported that Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) positive mosquitoes had been detected in Rhode Island, and West Nile virus positive mosquitoes were confirmed in Connecticut during the previous week.
  - b. MA Dengue Cases: John would clarify with member community contacts that none of the 50 human cases of dengue in Massachusetts were acquired locally.
  - c. Asian Tiger Mosquito: John reported that 8 *Aedes albopictus* adult female mosquitoes were collected in a surveillance trap in West Springfield.
    - i. Control measures, if feasible, would be explored soon and this topic would be added to the agenda for next month's meeting for further discussion.
  - d. James went over the current mapping projects that he and John have been working on. James is utilizing GIS software and a deep learning model to locate red maples swamps and tire piles throughout the Pioneer Valley region.
    - i. James may be able to return in the fall or winter to run a workshop or present on utilizing GIS software and a deep learning model for finding potential mosquito vector habitat.
5. Staffing Updates
  - a. Seasonal Staff Pay Increase (Vote Required)
    - i. John stated that the seasonal entomologist had acquired their MA Catch Basin Applicator License and are set to receive a \$1/hour increase in pay per their contract. Approximately \$96 would be awarded to the seasonal entomologist in retroactive pay that was accrued during FY24.
    - ii. A consensus among the Commissioners regarding the seasonal entomologist's job description and hourly rate was established during the December 11, 2023, PVMCD Commission meeting. The Commission endorsed the hiring of a seasonal entomologist at a rate ranging from \$22.00 to \$24.00 per hour during the December 11, 2023, PVMCD Commission meeting. During the

December 11 meeting, the Commission also agreed to an additional \$1.00 per hour increase for a seasonal entomologist who obtains their MA Catch Basin Applicator License.

**iii. Carolyn motioned to formally vote and approve the consensus reached during the December 11, 2023, PVMCD Commission meeting regarding the seasonal entomologist's pay, and any accrued retroactive pay. Andrew seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0.**

iv. A tentative PVMCD Commission meeting would be held on July 8, 2024, at 2 PM virtually to approve and/or discuss the minutes from this meeting.

b. End Dates for Seasonal Staff and Intern

i. The seasonal entomologist has a tentative end date for August 30, 2024.

ii. The field and lab tech intern's last day will be August 16, 2024.

iii. John would investigate whether a Commissioner could be allowed to undertake voluntary work for the district during September and part of October.

6. Finance Report

a. John reviewed FY25 encumbrances.

i. John mentioned that Goodyear Tire had not sent an invoice for FY24 and that the district would have until the end of August to pay any outstanding balances.

7. Outreach Update

a. John reported that the field and lab tech intern had finished the Dragonfly Flier and that he would forward the flier to the Commissioners shortly.

b. John would attend the Heath Select Board meeting on July 16, 2024, at 6 PM.

8. June 12th State Reclamation Board Meeting Overview

a. The State Reclamation Board voted and approved the District's ability to create an interagency service agreement with other Mosquito Control Districts and Projects and to utilize the State's Clarke contract in response EEE.

9. Eastern Equine Encephalitis Response Plan Review

a. The Commission agreed that any action thresholds and the language used to describe them should be in line with the MA Department of Public Health's and not deviate too much from it.

b. Policies and messaging regarding the District's response to EEE would be standardized.

i. A small work group would be established and tasked with standardizing these policies and all related messaging.

10. Other Business

a. None

11. Date, Time, and Location of Next Commission Meeting

a. Tentative virtual meeting to be held on July 8, 2024, at 2 PM.

b. August 5, 2024, at 2 PM. This meeting will be held virtually.

12. Adjournment

a. Carolyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jennifer seconded the motion.