



Commissioners
Jennifer Brown
Jeanne Galloway – Chair
Gregory Lewis
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

Email: john.c.briggs@mass.gov



District Director
John Briggs

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Virtual (due to the COVID-19 Pandemic)

1. Call to Order and Attendance
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 2:05.
 - b. Commissioners in attendance: Jennifer Brown, Carolyn Ness, and Jeanne Galloway. Greg Lewis, a Commissioner, joined the meeting at 2:37. John Briggs, the Director of Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) was also in attendance, along with Susan Gruen from the Heath Board of Health.
2. Public Comment/Output
 - a. None.
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Vote Required)
 - a. **Carolyn made a motion to approve the minutes and Jennifer seconded. Vote passed 3-0.**
4. Seasonal Staff Update
 - a. The seasonal entomologist position has been filled and will start May 20th.
 - b. There is a possibility of a PVMCD paid internship position through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Interviews would be conducted by John if the position is cleared for funding.
5. Fieldwork Overview
 - a. John surveyed cedar swamps in both Central and Western MA to assess populations of *Culiseta melanura*, the primary vector for Eastern Equine Encephalitis. John reported the numbers to be healthy but noted there were no baseline data established.
 - b. The catch basin pilot program will start late May and early June and will be targeting *Culex pipiens*, the primary vector for West Nile virus.
6. Mitigation Services Update
 - a. Northampton will receive mitigation services during FY25 and not at the end of FY24.
 - b. Carolyn recommended that the district go through local Conservation Commissions initially before implementing any ditch maintenance work.
 - i. **Carolyn made a motion to move forward with the State Reclamation Board (SRB) regarding the ditch maintenance program and Greg seconded. Vote approved 4-0.**
 - c. John would provide the Commissioners with a detailed EEE response plan for next month's meeting.
 - d. The Commissioners requested that a separate meeting be scheduled in May to discuss the EEE response plan.

7. Resistance Testing
 - a. The district will participate in pesticide resistance research this season if there are enough staff.
8. Finance Report
 - a. The FY25 proposed budget would be presented to the State Reclamation Board during the June budget certification meeting.
 - b. COLA Update (Vote Required)
 - i. **Carolyn made a motion to approve the cost-of-living adjustment of 5% to go into effect July 1, 2024 and Greg seconded. Vote passed 4-0.**
9. Outreach Update
 - a. A Spring newsletter will be distributed member communities shortly.
10. Commissioner Update
 - a. A candidate has applied for the 5th Commissioner position and will likely be interviewed during the next SRB meeting.
11. Other Business
 - a. The district's ability to respond to the prevalence of Eastern Equine Encephalitis was discussed. John would assess the district's equipment needs and its ability to respond to a critical arbovirus event.
12. Date, Time, and Location of Next Commission Meeting
 - a. Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 2 PM and Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 9 AM to discuss the EEE response plan and options.
13. Adjournment
 - a. **Greg made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jennifer seconded. Vote passed 3-0.** Carolyn left shortly before the meeting had adjourned.