



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

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South Deerfield, MA 01373

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District Director
John Briggs

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 5, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Virtual

1. Call to Order and Attendance

- a. The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM.
- b. Commissioners in attendance: Jeanne Galloway, Jennifer Brown, Andrew Lover, and Greg Lewis. Susan Gruen, from the Heath Board of Health, and John Briggs, the director of the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD). Carolyn Shores Ness, a PVMCD Commissioner, joined the meeting at 2:32 PM.

2. Public Comment/Output

- a. Susan Gruen thanked John for attending and presenting at the Heath Select Board meeting.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Vote Required)

- a. **Greg made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Carolyn seconded. Motion passed 5-0.**
- b. Discussion: The amendment was clarified that Jennifer, not Greg, had seconded the motion to adjourn the previous meeting.

4. Operations Update

- a. Surveillance: John reported that there has been a total of 128 positive mosquito pools, with 28 of those pools being positive for eastern equine encephalitis (EEE). John also mentioned that there have been 3 West Nile virus positive pools in Pioneer Valley: two in East Longmeadow, and one in Holyoke.
 - i. John said that there two species of southern mosquitoes were collected in two separate traps. The species found were *Culex erraticus* and *Psorophora columbiae*.
- b. Pilot Mitigation Services: John reported that West Springfield had 150 catch basins treated on July 22nd. Larval ground treatments have started in Northampton and catch basin treatments are scheduled for late August. Amherst and Hadley are scheduled to receive more catch basin treatments before the end of the season.
- c. Pesticide Resistance Monitoring: John said they have been unsuccessful in attracting *Culex pipiens* and that he would move the traps to other areas where the mosquitoes may be present.

5. Membership Update

- a. John received communication from Buckland's Town Administrator that they would no longer need PVMCD's services. In an email received by John from the Town Administrator, it was clarified that the Town did have the funding for fiscal year 2025 membership.

6. Fiscal Overview

- a. FY25 Membership and Mitigation Services Payments Received: Deerfield, East Longmeadow, Granby, Northampton, Palmer, Shelburne, and South Hadley.
- b. Fee Increase Notification: Carolyn recommended that John send out the fee increase notification in November.

7. Eastern Equine Encephalitis Response Plan

- a. Small Group Delegation: Jennifer and Andrew volunteered for participating in the small group discussion.
8. Lease and Facilities Update
 - a. Andrew Lover recused himself from the discussion.
 - b. John would continue to work with UMass Amherst and the State for developing a shared space agreement.
9. Staffing Plan
 - a. Hiring Part-time Staff from August 19 until End of Season: John proposed hiring part-time staff to backfill the Seasonal Entomologist position.
 - b. Carolyn made a motion to support the seasonal hiring adjustment of up to \$4,500.00, and Andrew seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
10. Other Business
11. Date, Time, and Location of Next Commission Meeting
 - a. September 9, 2024, at 2 PM. This meeting will be held virtually.
12. Adjournment
 - a. Andrew had to log off several minutes before the meeting ended.
 - b. Carolyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Jennifer seconded. Motion passed 4-0.