

**MINUTES OF THE 446th MEETING
OF THE STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
HELD AT THE NJ AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION,
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ**

SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Sarnas, Howard Emerson, Mark Mayer, Dr. George Van Orden, Tony Petrongolo, George Shivery, Dr. Mark Robson, Shereen Semple, Robert Kent, Secretary, and Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor. Due to various scheduling conflicts, John Surmay and Dr. Kenneth Bruder were unable to attend.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Marc Slaff, Dr. Lisa Reed, Dr. Jack Petersen, Brian Johnson, Dr. Lena Brattsten, D.A.G. Michael Schuit and Eric Williges.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sarnas called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kent called the roll.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretary Kent reported that on September 15, 2011 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the September meeting to be held at the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station in New Brunswick. A copy of the announcement was also sent to the Newark Star-Ledger, the Asbury Park Press, the Associated Press, the Atlantic City Press, the Bridgeton Evening News, the NJDEP Press Office and the NJDEP Office of Communication and Legislation in compliance with P.L. 1975, c. 231.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 16, 2011 MEETING

Dr. Van Orden moved and Mr. Petrongolo seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed with Ms. Semple abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

08/15/11 Correspondence from Michael Romanowski, Ass't. Superintendent, Ocean County Mosquito Commission to Claudia O'Malley. Ref.: Transfer of ultra-low temperature freezer from the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station.

08/17/11 Memorandum from Robert Kent, Secretary to Rich Cubberly, NJDEP Office of Trust Fund Management. Ref.: Submission of Capital Project Report and Priority for FY 2013

08/29/11 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Vicki Thompson, Ass't. Superintendent, Monmouth County Mosquito Commission. Enclosure of check for payment of NJMCA meeting "Proceedings".

08/29/11 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Ms. Sarah Gazi, Business Manager, American Mosquito Control Association. Ref.: Payment of dues as a "Sustaining Member" for 2011-2012.

08/30/11 Correspondence from Claudia O'Malley to John Kranz, Superintendent, Middlesex County Mosquito Commission. Ref.: Equipment Use Agreement for the fiscal year 2011-2012.

08/30/11 Correspondence from Claudia O'Malley to Tadhgh Rainey, Director Hunterdon County Mosquito and Vector Control. Ref.: Equipment Use Agreement for the fiscal year 2011-2012.

09/02/11 Correspondence from Claudia O'Malley to Christine Musa, Warren County Mosquito Commission. Ref.: Insurance card for vehicle assigned to that county.

09/02/11 Correspondence from Claudia O'Malley to James McDonald, Sussex County Mosquito Control. Ref.: Insurance card for vehicle assigned to that county.

09/02/11 Correspondence from Claudia O'Malley to William Reinert, Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control. Ref.: Insurance card for vehicle assigned to that county.

09/02/11 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Guy Bramonte, NJDEP Office of Management and Budget. Ref.: Memoranda-of-Agreement for northern and southern Vector Surveillance Program courier.

09/02/11 Memorandum from Robert Kent, Secretary to Amy Cradic, Ass't. Commissioner, NJDEP, NHR. Ref.: Memorandum-of-Agreement for Vector Surveillance Program specimen testing with the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services.

09/02/11 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary, to Christine Musa, Superintendent, Warren County Mosquito Commission. Ref. Thank-you for hosting the members and touring their facility after the August general business meeting of the State Commission.

09/06/11 Memorandum from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor to Amy Cradic, Ass't. Commissioner, NJDEP, NHR. Ref.: Signature for Equipment Use Agreements for FY 2011-2012. .

- 09/12/11 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Secretary of State Hon. Kim Guadagno. Ref.: Announcement of the September Commission meeting at the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station.

- 09/12/11 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Commission members. Ref.: Announcement of the September Commission meeting at the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station.

- 09/14/11 Memorandum from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor to all county mosquito control agencies/commissions. Ref.: Fully executed Equipment Use Agreements.

- 09/15/11 Memorandum from Robert Kent, Secretary to Christine Musa, Superintendent, Warren County Mosquito Commission. Ref.: Payment for Vector Surveillance Program northern courier route.

- 09/15/11 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Ms. Fana Campbell, Rutgers University Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs. Ref.: Service Contracts (3) for the fiscal year 2011-2012.

Chairman Sarnas diverted from the usual order of business in order to accommodate a presentation by graduate student Brian Johnson. Mr. Johnson has been studying urban/suburban mosquito populations, their relationship to wetlands and the risk of West Nile virus transmission. After the presentation and a question and answer period, Dr. Robson asked to have the presentation posted on the Rutgers website. On the Commission's behalf, Chairman Sarnas expressed his appreciation for the presentation on the work, some of which was supported by Commission resources.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The September financial statement was distributed and reviewed. The Secretary noted that there were several purchases of insecticide due to the flurry of aerial applications that have taken place and those that are anticipated to season's end. With regard to last month's commitment to transfer the ultra-low temperature freezer from Headlee Laboratories to the Ocean County Mosquito Commission, it was learned that a commercial equipment transfer company should be solicited to move the sensitive scientific equipment. Such a vendor has been secured for an amount of \$740.06. This has been reflected in the financial statement. The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the financial statement. Ms. Semple moved and Dr. Van Orden seconded such a motion which carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

The Secretary noted several issues, which will require his attendance at several meetings, in order gain resolution on behalf of the counties and the state. The Clean Water Act National Pollution Discharge Elimination System General Permit for pesticides application will become effective on October 31. The technical committee that the Secretary has been working with in DEP is recommending that on that date, the draft state permit be issued and immediately stayed. This will give the state the time necessary to adjust the state draft permit to comply with whatever changes the final federal permit may have. On the topic of wetlands management, the Secretary will be attending several meetings with regard to Open Marsh Water Management, Barnegat Bay

preservation, state-owned marsh lands which provide habitat for mosquitoes, impacts on shellfish, storm water facilities and rain gardens. The secretary will also pursue the possibility of qualifying for reimbursement of expenses resulting from Hurricane Irene, from FEMA.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Ms. O'Malley distributed her report. Since the last meeting, there have been several helicopter applications the Passaic River floodplain. Cumberland County Superintendent Heather Lomberg called for one larvicide and a multi-day adulticide; both totaled over 9,000 acres combined since the Commission last met. Mrs. O'Malley clarified the parameters of the State Airspray Program with regard to adulticiding. There has been no additional stocking of fish since the August meeting but there has been activity with regard to the copepod aspect of the Bio-Control Program. Ten thousand were distributed in Burlington County. Over 50,000 copepods have been stocked in ten counties this season. There will be a post-season meeting to evaluate the program's success during this full season of statewide participation. Finally, Mrs. O'Malley single-handedly set up and was stationed at the mosquito exhibit at the recent NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife "Outdoor Expo". The week-end event was very well-attended by over 5,000 people. The technical advisor answered several questions about the operations of the Airspray Program. Mr. Emerson added that he had attended the Cumberland adulticide operation and noted the many aspects involved of the on-the-ground tasks performed by the field staff. He complimented both Mrs. O'Malley and the Cumberland County staff for their efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative – Mr. Emerson searched for any impacting legislative activity and found none to report.

Equipment – Mr. Petrongolo asked Mrs. O'Malley for report details. She noted the necessity to officially commit an amount of \$740.06 for the transfer expenses associated with moving the ultra-low temperature freezer from Rutgers to Ocean County. Mr. Petrongolo offered this as a committee recommendation. The Chairman asked for approval of the recommendation; all members approved.

Research and Development – Dr. Van Orden noted the committee met to discuss the June 15th letter from Burlington County on the subject of salt marsh surveillance and larval control. The committee developed many points which may be used to craft a response. Dr. Van Orden distributed the points for the membership to review and comment on. The membership discussed the points and the manner in which the letter will be transmitted. Dr. Van Orden added that in order to resolve the question of mosquito production in the area, a study will be required. Ms. Semple added that Burlington County has a new epidemiologist (Dr. Kristen Bartlett-Healy) who may bring a stronger appreciation to the county with regard to surveillance and control of potential vectors developing in the area. Dr. Van Orden added that the committee reviewed several proposals submitted for funding. He emphasized the need to study and develop mitigation strategies associated with constructed storm-water facilities. The committee also recommended that there may be no need to fund the "Efficacy of Insecticides" contract annually but perhaps only every second or third year, as needed. The Chairman asked for approval of the committee report; all members voted in the affirmative.

Budget – No report.

Public Relations – No report.

Ad-hoc County Assistance – Mr. Emerson had spoken to Salem, Cumberland and Camden counties. There are no new demands or cuts. As previously reported, Cumberland County has responded well to the mosquito populations resulting from the hurricane. Gloucester and Salem County were the subjects of some favorable newspaper articles.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES

Ms. Semple reported the following: West Nile virus (WNV) has been identified in twenty of the twenty-one counties, with none in Cumberland County. There are four human cases to date; three West Nile fever; one neuro-invasive disease. Impacted counties are Mercer, Middlesex, Morris and Ocean; the Morris County case was infected out-of-state. There are no fatalities. There is one presumptive viremic donor in Burlington County. Eighty-eight birds from nine counties have been tested and 25 birds have been declared positive from 6 counties. All twenty-one counties have submitted pooled mosquito specimens WNV involving 7,190 pools 427 of which were positive. There have been 1,747 pools tested for Eastern Equine encephalitis (EEE) from 10 counties; no positives. There have been 1,201 pools tested for St. Louis encephalitis from 4 counties with none declared positive. There have been 113 pools tested for LaCrosse virus from 4 counties also with no positives. No reported equine cases to date. Ms. Semple noted that she is writing the new ELC grant to be submitted to the Centers for Disease Control. Level funding is expected. She may be adding some education and outreach elements to the work which would include a webinar. This would allow for a comprehensive review of the department's surveillance program. She will also request a public service announcement be developed. Ms. Semple also noted a joint press release with the NJDEP. Mr. Sarnas inquired with regard to the human case in Ocean County and its proximity to the salt marsh in Burlington County.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Mayer reported that there will be one more year of surveillance for the Asian Longhorn Beetle performed in order to declare it eradicated from the state. The traps for Emerald Ash Borer have been retrieved for the season. The samples have undergone identification. A fungal disease which infects Black Walnut trees has been identified. This fungus is transmitted by Ambrosia Beetles. These have been identified in Bucks County Pennsylvania. Importation into NJ is inevitable. Mr. Mayer concluded his report by stating that copepod production at the Beneficial Insect Laboratory continues to go well.

NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Dr. Robson announced that reports will be presented from several individuals and then excused himself in order to oblige his teaching commitments. He presented Dr. Jack Petersen who, during the new business portion of the meeting will offer information of the bio-assay initiative that was mentioned at the August meeting. Dr. Reed began the reports by confirming the vector surveillance data previously reported and the heightened activity from recent rainfall events. She noted a rise in *Culiseta melanura* populations, though still below historical levels. The absence

of EEE is of interest. Dr. Reed distributed the final weekly report for the statewide surveillance program and will have the final report for the vector surveillance program distributed soon.

Dr. Brattsten offered her report. She noted that all the insecticides used by the state are working well in operational aspects except for methoprene. This failure is not due to the active ingredient but rather due to the formulations and the timing of applications. Variation in the data, even in a laboratory, is normal observation. There are no trends observed which would suggest any tolerance or resistance in the compounds used.

Dr. Marc Slaff reported that he had visited ten counties and a report has been sent to the Secretary and to Dr. Robson. He added that the data is not easily quantifiable. There were several observations to report however and he reviewed the quality of surveillance in consideration of the types and number of traps in use, the number of personnel and the nature of surveillance protocols. All visited counties had at least one Rutgers certified identification specialist on staff. Dr. Reed added several observations regarding what she has concluded from the available data. The number of light traps used, for example, may be adjusted. Other trapping techniques provide good data as well. The Secretary added that the intent of the two, funded surveillance service contracts was to provide accurate data of a practical nature and that by using such new information, data from other surveillance techniques may eventually be incorporated into the program.

ASSOCIATED EXECUTIVES OF MOSQUITO CONTROL WORK IN NEW JERSEY

Mr. Williges reported that the Associated Executives did not meet this month due to the hurricane and the busy schedule of all members.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Jack Petersen, who is a visiting scientist at the Center for Vector Biology, presented information about the field monitoring, bio-assay technique that he and Mr. Crans are developing. The protocol will involve the development of a dose/ response curve from data collected on Spinosad formulations. They will use terminology which relates to ounce per acre applications rates rather than the use of parts per billion levels. He hopes to develop half label rate, 1 minimal label rate and 2 label rate information. There will be a workshop at Cape May. The work has been funded by Clarke Mosquito Control. It is hoped that an application for funding submitted to the Northeast Cooperative Extension Program will be looked upon favorably.

In other **New Business**, Mr. Sarnas appointed a nominating committee of Mr. Emerson and Mr. Shivery to develop a slate of officers at the October meeting.

Chairman Sarnas discussed possible meeting sites for the October meeting, likely to be held near Trenton.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

