

**MINUTES OF THE 470th MEETING
OF THE STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
HELD AT THE RUTGERS CENTER FOR VECTOR BIOLOGY, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ**

August 19th 2014

Members Present: Chairman Sarnas, Vice-Chairman Emerson, Mr. Shivery, Mr. Mayer, Mr. Petrongolo, Dr. Robson. Due to scheduling conflicts Ms. Semple and Mr. Surmay were unable to attend.

Others Present: Dr. Lisa Reed, Scott Crans, Steve Csorgo, Dr. Greg Williams, Michael Schuit

Call to Order: Chairman Sarnas called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

Roll Call:

Chairman Sarnas - present
Vice-Chairman Emerson - present
Mr. Shivery - present
Mr. Surmay -
Dr. Robson - present
Ms. Semple -
Mr. Mayer - present
Mr. Petrongolo - present

Open Public Meeting Announcement:

Secretary Williges reported that on August 11th 2014 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the August meeting to be held at the Center for Vector Biology. A copy of the announcement was also sent to the Newark Star Ledger, the Atlantic City Press, the NJDEP Press Office and the NJDEP Office of Communication and Legislation in compliance with P.L. 1975, c. 231.

Approval of minutes: Motion was made by Mr. Shivery, seconded by Mr. Emerson to approve minutes from the April 15th 2014 meeting of the Commission. Mr. Sarnas abstains, motion passes.

Correspondence:

- June 24th, the Commission sent a letter to Matthew McDermott of the Governor's office informing them of the Commission vacancies and asking them to appoint new members as soon as possible.
- July 7th, the Commission received a letter from Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission thanking the Commission and Joe Corleto specifically for the help he has given them in applying for this permit.
- July 23rd, Mr. Williges sent a letter to Linda Hurd at her request attaching a copy of the Commissions annual report from Fiscal year 2012.
- July 26th, Mr. Williges sent a letter for Dr. Robson informing him of the Commissions' intent to fully fund two proposals from Rutgers for Fiscal year 2015, specifically "Surveillance for the

Mosquito Vectors of Arboviruses in New Jersey” and “An Adult Mosquito Surveillance Program”.

- July 31st, the Commission sent a letter to Matthew McDermott of the Governor’s office supporting the appointment of Mr. William Reinert who had put his name forward for consideration as a Commissioner.
- August 1st, the Commission was copied on a letter from the New Jersey Mosquito Control Association to Mr. McDermott supporting the appointment of Mr. Reinert.
- August 1st, the Commission was copied on a letter from the Associated Executives of Mosquito Control in New Jersey supporting the appointment of Mr. Reinert.
- August 12th, the Commission received a letter from Rutgers Libraries inquiring about the Commissions annual reports. Mr. Williges called in return and explained the Commissions turnover and that annual reports were in progress and would be sent to the library as soon as they were completed.
- August 16th, the Commission received an invitation from the Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission celebrating their 100th year anniversary on September 17th from 4-7pm at their Donald Sutherland Memorial facility.

Financial Statement:

Financial statement for August 2014 was supplied to the commissioners. The appropriate for FY15 of \$1,346,000.00 was approved, along with \$733,212.74 of money carried forward from FY14. A significant portion of money from FY14 has already been appropriated but not yet spent, with projected funds remaining of \$911,872.41. Major expenses from the month included \$129,984.30 paid to Downstown Aero Services for their work in the State Airspray program, and \$91,807.20 to Clarke Mosquito Control for pesticide purchases. A detailed report was given to the Commissioners.

An updated contract was aerial surveillance and treatment services was advertised by the Department of the Treasury and a bid was received from Downstown Aero Services. This contract increased pricing and added minimum hours to spray services. This will lead to a significant increase over the next three years, which would require budget changes moving forward. A discussion of how this potentially will affect the airspray program took place, Mr. Williges will update the Commission at the next meeting.

FY15 Memorandums of Agreement are in progress. Courier services will be contracted with Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission for \$8,000 and Atlantic County Mosquito Control for \$11,000. Equine testing will be contracted with the Department of Agriculture for \$1,500. The mosquito fish program will be funded with the Division of Fish and Wildlife Hatchery for \$35,000, and the copepod program will be funded with the Beneficial Insects Laboratory for \$10,000. A contract for resting box collections and mosquito testing will be funded with Cape May Department of Mosquito Control for \$63,000. A contract with the Department of Health, PHEL is in progress. The commission is waiting on updated pricing from PHEL and will be able to move forward once that is received. Contract with Rutgers are in progress for Vector Surveillance and Adult Surveillance. A third proposal was received from Rutgers for a Quality Assurance and Control program that was passed along to the Research and Development committee. This program is supported by county mosquito control agencies across the state.

A motion to accept the financial report was made by Mr. Shivery and seconded by Mr. Emerson. Motion passes.

Report from the Secretary

There is a need to redefine the Commissions committee's after recent resignations and changes in Commission makeup. Chairman Sarnas asked that Commissioners think of which committees they would like to be on and talk to him after the meeting. He will make up a formal list and give to Mr. Williges. A discussion took place between Mr. Schuit and Dr. Robson to clarify if Dr. Robson was able to be a member of the Research and Development committee. As some of the proposals that would be reviewed by the committee are Rutgers projects, Dr. Robson will recuse himself from votes on those proposals.

As the fiscal year is ending Mr. Williges is starting to put together a FY14 Annual report. He asks the commissioners to contact him with any suggestions they may have on formatting the report or anything that should be included. As soon as a draft is available Mr. Williges will forward it to the commissioners for their comments and make present it to the Commission at a future meeting. When the FY14 report is completed, Mr. Williges will create a FY13 annual report and present that to the Commission as well.

Mr. Williges brought up to the commission the upcoming regional meetings. Upcoming is the Northeastern Mosquito Control Associations annual meeting from December 8-10th in Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association from January 13-15th in Savannah Georgia. Mr. Shivery made a motion for Mr. Williges to apply to travel to both meetings and present an overview of New Jersey mosquito control activities. Motion was seconded by Mr. Emerson and passed by the group.

Mr. Williges brought up the recent 100 year anniversaries of counties around the state. He suggested the Commission send letters of recognition to the counties. He will write letters to be sent by the Chairman before the next Commission meeting.

The Office of Mosquito Control Coordination will be attending the Wildlife Expo held by the Division of Fish and Wildlife in Jackson, NJ on September 13-14. The Office will coordinate with the NJMCA and Associated Executives in presenting consistent information to the public.

Mr. Williges has given a few interview regarding Chikungunya in the state, however those interview requests have dropped off as Ebola has started to become more of a headline. He has been working closely with the Department of Health to make sure we are putting out a consistent message between our departments.

Report from the Technical Advisor:

Mr. Williges gave the technical report from the Office of Mosquito Control Commission.

The aerospray program has been busy since the last meeting. Steve Csorgo has been very active in observing applications and working closely with the counties in the program to ensure the program runs as smoothly as possible. Overall there have been 17 total applications treating 26,842 acres across the state. Mr. Shivery asked if there have been any applications made in Gloucester, Camden, or Salem

counties. A discussion took place between members of those counties potentially being involved next year. That will be something to discuss over the winter in preparation for the next season.

The bio-control program has stocked over 56,000 fish since the last meeting. This took place over eight stockings between six counties.

The equipment use program is in the process of selling two pieces of equipment that were given up from county agencies. Both the rotary ditcher from Ocean County and plate washer from Rutgers have been given back to the state and are no longer the property of the Commission.

Dr. Greg Williams submitted a request to purchase a UAV system for mosquito control, and offered to present that proposal to the commission in the future. That request was given to the Equipment committee for their review.

Two Beecomist ULV machines were transferred from Cumberland county to Salem county and Passaic county.

The state virus surveillance program is ongoing. There have been 223 positive WNV pools from 17 counties across the state, and 6 positive EEE pools from three counties. Pools have been tested for LAC from 3 counties with no positive results so far. The OMCC has asked counties to increase their LAC testing submissions after Burlington County was notified of a potential positive pool sampled on the Joint Military base in their county. Chikungunya and Dengue testing has started across the state with pools tested from 11 counties so far with no positive results. There has been one human case of WNV in the state so far with testing ongoing. There has been 51 travel related cases of Chikungunya with additional cases under investigation, and 18 travel related cases of Dengue. There have been no positive EEE or WNV equine cases so far this year.

Mr. Csorgo has been working with the Department of Corrections to have new resting boxes made and delivered to Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control for use in their surveillance program. The Office took delivery of a prototype NJ Light Trap that the Department of Corrections has made for us after working with Mr. Csorgo. The Office is continuing to work with the Department of Corrections on pricing and making this available to any counties that are interested.

Dr. Reed asked the Commission about the Chikungunya / Dengue testing program funded by the Department of Health. There was some confusion as to a sample submitted was tested for only Chikungunya or Dengue as there was a discrepancy between total numbers of samples tested for each disease. After discussion it was clarified that each sample submitted will be tested for West Nile virus, Chikungunya, and all 4 serotypes of Dengue.

Committee Reports:

Equipment Committee – Mr. Mayer reported for the committee.

- Sussex County requested repair to SMCC #42, Chevy flatbed for \$5,560. Approved
- Morris County requested repair to the SMCC Revco freezer for \$3,200. Approved
- Rutgers Center for Vector Biology requested repair to the SMCC Revco freezer for \$2,587. Approved.

- Ocean County requested repair to SMCC #116, Argo Conquest for \$2,465.85. Approved.
- Hudson County requested purchase of a SenseFly eBee Ag UAV. Will be considered by the committee and brought before the Commission at a future meeting.

Legislative Committee – Mr. Emerson reported that there is a bill introduced that will have all licensed pesticide operators undergo some sort of training regarding pesticide applications and bee populations. There is no firm activity needed at this moment, and after discussion the bill overall seemed like one that may be worthy of support in the future.

Report from the New Jersey Department of Health –

Krista Reale reported for The Department of Health reported that most virus activity information was covered earlier in the meeting. Chairman Sarnas asked if there were any cases of Chikungunya nationally, and Krista explained that there have been five locally acquired cases of Chikungunya in Florida but none outside of that.

Report from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture –

Mr. Mayer reported that this year gypsy moths surveillance has seen 13,133 acres of defoliation, so it is very unlikely that there will be any treatments made in the next year. The Department is looking for Emerald Ash Borer, and has found one presumptive positive site in Burlington County. A sample was sent to the US Environmental Protection Agency for confirmation. Copepod rearing is ongoing without any issues. Mr. Mayer met with Dr. Van Orden recently and inspected a site that had a copepod release last season. There were significant populations of copepods still present at the site, but unfortunately there were mosquito larvae present as well and a larvicide was required.

Report from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station –

Dr. Robson asked Scott Crans and Dr. Lisa Reed to present information from the Agricultural Experiment Station. Mr. Crans reported that there is a finalized agenda for the October pesticide recertification training session that he will be running. The session is open to anyone interested, contact him for more information. There are six talks currently scheduled and the agenda is being finalized. UAS field trials are ongoing, along with Union County field trials.

Dr. Reed gave the Commission an overview of Eastern Equine encephalitis activity in *Culiseta melanura* across the state. Overall *Cs. melanura* populations are lower than historical values, but virus activity is still being detected. This demonstrates that even with very low adult mosquito populations virus detections can occur and we must be vigilant in our surveillance.

Report from the Associate Executives of Mosquito Control in New Jersey –

The Associated Executives met during August, and Mr. Williges was replaced as Secretary by Teresa Duckworth. Overall counties across the state are having a typical summer with no major problems to report.

Old Business –

Mr. Emerson discussed the statewide submission of Chikungunya mosquito pools across the state. In looking at pools submitted and populations of state residents from effected countries, it appears that some counties that have not submitted many pools have high populations of residents from those countries. Mr. Williges explained that as testing has just started, many counties have not submitted samples or have been holding back samples. In the near future as testing continues hopefully those counties will increase their submissions.

New Business –

Mr. Williges brought up that there will be a mosquito identification training course in the spring, and he will be asking the Commission in the future to approve sending Joe Corleto and Mary Evangelista.

Mr. Petrongola thanked Mr. Williges for the work he has done in taking over as the Administrator of the Office of Mosquito Control Coordination.

Mr. Emerson brought up that Dr. Dina Fonseca sent out an informal survey to all counties asking for their feedback on work done by the Asian Tiger Mosquito program, and whether it was helpful to counties or not. A short discussion took place among members, with no action necessary. Overall it was felt the survey and program overall was very helpful to county agencies.

Dr. Williams gave a short explanation of his request for a UAS system to be purchased by the Commission. This system consists of a remotely operated plane with multiple camera systems, which could be helpful in mapping coastal areas of the state on a fine scale basis to find new and existing mosquito habitats. The request will be considered by the equipment committee and the Commission may ask Dr. Williams for a more in depth presentation in the future.

Mr. Shivery moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:15am. Meeting adjourned.