

**MINUTES OF THE 473rd MEETING
OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
HELD AT THE ASSUNPINK CONSERVATION CENTER**

June 16th 2015

Members Present – Chairman Sarnas, Vice-Chairman Emerson, Mr. Shivery, Mr. Golden, Ms. Reale, Mr. Mayer

Others Present – Dr. Lisa Reed, Scott Crans, Eric Williges, Michael Schuit, James Neher, Fran Smith, Dr. Roy Meyer, Vicki Thompson

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

Roll Call –

Chairman Sarnas – present

Vice-Chairman Emerson - present

Mr. Shivery - present

Mr. Surmay - absent

Dr. Robson (representing Executive Dean Goodman, NJ Agricultural Experiment Station) - absent

Ms. Reale (representing Commissioner O’Dowd, Department of Health) - present

Mr. Mayer (representing Secretary Fisher, Department of Agriculture) - present

Mr. Golden (representing Commissioner Martin, Department of Environmental Protection) - present

Open Public Meeting Announcement –

Secretary Eric Williges reported that on June 5th 2015 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the June meeting to be held at the Assunpink Conservation Center. A copy of the announcement was also sent to the Newark Star Ledger, the Atlantic City Press, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Press Office and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Office of Communication and Legislation in compliance with P.L. 1975, c. 231.

Approval of minutes –

A discussion was held on needed changes to the minutes from May 19th, 2015. After this discussion, a motion was made by Vice-Chairman Emerson, seconded by Commissioner Shivery to approve the amended minutes from the May 19th 2015 meeting of the Commission. Motion passed.

Correspondence –

18 May 2015 – Eric Williges received a letter from the Cape May County Division of Mosquito Control giving a description of work done under the Memorandum of Agreement between the County and Commission to test mosquitoes from resting box sites in four counties.

2 June 2015 – Eric Williges received a copy of the copepod rearing protocol from the Beneficial Insects Laboratory.

15 June 2015 – Eric Williges sent a letter to all county mosquito control agencies clarifying the position of the Office of Mosquito Control Coordination regarding the proper procedures for biocontrol using different fish species as supplied by the Commission.

15 June 2015 – Eric Williges received a letter from Jolyn Mitchell of Salem County's Division of Mosquito Control regarding their State owned Revco freezer and needed repairs.

Financial Statement –

The financial report was given by Eric Williges. Major expenses for the month were in support of the State Airspray program, with \$33,337.00 spent on surveillance and treatment of mosquito habitats in counties involved in the airspray program and \$58,924.80 on larvicides used in those treatments. Other expenses were payments related to Memorandums of Agreement with Cape May County Division of Mosquito Control and contracts between the Commission and Rutgers University. Overall Commission finances remain in good shape and projecting potential costs thru the end of FY15 the Commissions budget should be sufficient for all needed services. Major costs outstanding are for payment of existing Memorandums of Agreement for arbovirus testing, and for raising of fish and copepods to support the Commissions biocontrol programs. A motion was made by Mr. Shivery and seconded by Vice-Chairman Emerson to accept the financial statement. Motion passed.

Report from the Secretary –

On May 20th, Eric Williges and Joseph Corleto representing the OMCC met with the Gloucester County Department of Public Works. Gloucester County is in the process of applying for water management permits to restart their mosquito control water management program. The OMCC felt it was important to meet with the County as part of this process and explain what types of project are allowed under the permits they have applied for and how this relates to mosquito control. This was a very productive meeting from both sides and the OMCC heard positive feedback and looks forward to working closely with Gloucester County in the future.

On May 22nd, Eric Williges attended the Biologists Working Group meeting, made up of mosquito control biologists from across the state. Mr. Williges gave a report on the arbovirus testing program that will take place this summer.

Between June 1st and June 5th, Joseph Corleto and Mary Evangelista attended the Mosquito Identification Workshop run by Scott Crans as part of Rutgers Universities Continuing Education Program. The class was very well attended by mosquito control workers from across the state and Mr. Williges thanks the Commission for funding their attendance at this course.

On June 5th, Mr. Williges, along with Vice-Chairman Emerson and others from the New Jersey mosquito control community attended a retirement function for Mr. Bill Reinert who has been involved

in mosquito control for his career and ran Atlantic County's mosquito control program before ending his career as the Director of Public Works for Atlantic County.

On June 10th, Mr. Williges gave a short interview to New Jersey 101.5 regarding mosquito control and how the public can help county agencies in controlling mosquitoes in their local neighborhoods.

Mr. Williges reported that all of the CDBG funded grants have been finalized and work is ongoing in counties that are utilizing the program. The OMCC is working to finalize the reimbursement process and will continue working closely with all counties on these projects.

Report from the Technical Advisor –

Airspray program: There have been nine aerial applications for mosquito control since the last meeting using the Commissions airspray program. On May 21st an application was made in Atlantic County. On May 22nd an application was made in Cumberland County. On June 4th an application was made in Atlantic County. On June 5th an application was made in Morris County. On June 8th an application was made in Ocean County. On June 10th an application was made in Burlington County, along with an application in Essex County. On June 11th an application was made in Cumberland County along with an application made in Atlantic County.

Biocontrol program: Since the last meeting there was no stocking of fish as the hatchery allowed populations to rebuild. This is a normal process in the biocontrol program, and the OMCC plans to give counties the opportunity to utilize this program again in the upcoming months.

The OMCC is working with the Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission on a controlled trial examining feeding rates of different fish species when fed mosquito larvae. This will be the first of three planned replicates to take place over the next few weeks. Mr. Williges will keep the Commission updated as the trials continue.

Equipment Use program: To date, the OMCC has received Equipment Use packages for Fiscal Year 2016 from six counties. The OMCC is trying to make sure these packages are sent to counties earlier than in past year at the counties request.

Steve Csorgo is actively inspecting Commission owned equipment that is assigned to mosquito control agencies across the state. These inspections will continue throughout the summer until Steve has seen all the equipment.

Steve Csorgo spoke briefly with Cumberland County, as they have recently given the Commission a request to purchase a small excavator. Steve explored the possibility that the Commission may be able to transfer equipment from Atlantic County that would serve this purpose instead of purchasing new equipment. Steve and the OMCC will continue to examine this option to find the most efficient use of equipment based on the needs of both counties.

Steve Csorgo will be meeting with the sales manager for Wetlands Equipment in the near future, to discuss equipment the Commission currently owns and any new equipment that is available. He will also be seeing a new amphibious rotary ditcher that Cape May County Division of Mosquito Control purchased thru Wetlands Equipment.

Eric Williges received an email from Jolyn Mitchell of Salem County's mosquito control office as discussed in correspondence. The Commission owned Revco freezer used to store mosquito samples before they are sent for arbovirus testing is currently not working. Salem County had a technician come inspect the freezer and received a quote of \$5,500.00 to repair the freezer to working order. A discussion came up regarding if this repair is appropriate, or what other options may be. Mr. Williges will look into potential options as this issue has come up with Commission owned freezers in other counties recently.

Arbovirus surveillance program: The Commission funded arbovirus surveillance program started this week across the state. The first run of the courier service took place this week, with no major issues reported. No results are available at this time but as the program continues OMCC will keep the Commission informed of any results.

Mr. Williges has had productive conversations recently with the Department of Health PHEL regarding our FY16 contracts. No finalized contract has been made yet but we are confident that an agreement will be reached shortly.

Cape May County Division of Mosquito Control recently reached out to the OMCC and discussed their testing needs for this upcoming year. Since the Division has their own laboratory on site that is capable of testing mosquito samples for all arboviruses of interest, they have offered to test all samples from their county in their lab. The County will continue to provide results to State agencies and Rutgers University to get a complete picture of arbovirus activity across the state. Mr. Williges thanked the County for their help in keeping statewide costs down and allowing more testing in other counties across the state.

Other programs: Three counties applied for and received updated water management permits for their programs. The OMCC has been working with interested counties and NJDEP's Land Use division to update existing mosquito control permits to allow county agencies more flexibility in the types of projects they can undertake to control mosquito populations. Gloucester County received a FWW-GP1 and FHA-GP4, Monmouth County received a FWW-GP1, FHA-GP15, FHA-IP, and Waterfront Development Permit, and Salem County received a FWW-GP1, FHA-GP15, FHA-IP, and Waterfront Development Permit.

So far five different counties have applied for and received the updated FHA-GP15 permit for mosquito control water management projects. This permit has undergone significant revisions in the past year, and we are looking forward to working with a county agency to start projects using this permit in the near future.

Report from the New Jersey Department of Health –

Ms. Reale reported for the Department of Health. There will be a meeting of the vector-borne disease working group on Wednesday June 24th at the Center for Vector Biology. A short discussion of arbovirus testing in avian and other species took place.

Report from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection –

Mr. Dave Golden reported for the Department of Environmental Protection. The Department is currently working on a salt marsh restoration project in Cumberland County and Cape May County on Department owned property. The OMCC looks forward to working with the Department to monitor mosquito populations as these needed projects continue and examine how to best balance mosquito control concerns and concerns over the health of the marshes. The Department is also planning projects in other areas of the state and is actively working with local mosquito control agencies to work together on these types of projects. A short discussion of these projects and general saltmarsh health took place.

Report from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station –

Dr. Lisa Reed reported for the Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Reed published the first two weeks of light trap surveillance reports so far this year, with approximately three quarters of counties reporting. Dr. Reed also produced the first vector surveillance report for the year. So far this year no positive mosquitoes have been found for any viruses and populations overall remain at or below historical levels. A short discussion of mosquito populations and potential arbovirus activity took place.

Old Business –

There was no old business to report.

New Business –

There was no new business to report.

Commissioner Shivery made a motion to close the meeting, with Vice-Chairman Emerson seconding. The meeting was adjourned.