

**MINUTES OF THE 441<sup>st</sup> MEETING  
OF THE STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION  
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM IN THE DEP BUILDING, 501 EAST  
STATE STREET, TRENTON, NJ**

**March 15, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Sarnas, Dr. Kenneth Bruder, Howard Emerson, Dr. Mark Robson, Dr. George Van Orden, Mark Mayer, Tony Petrongolo, Robert Kent, Secretary and Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor. Mr. Surmay, Mr. Konczyk and Dr. Janusz were unable to attend.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Lisa Reed, Eric Williges, Steve Csorgo and Michelle McGuinness.

**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 February 24, 2011 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the March meeting to be held at 501 East State Street, Trenton, NJ. 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 JANUARY 18, 2011 MEETING**

Dr. Bruder moved and Mr. Emerson seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The members approved the motion unanimously. Mr. Emerson abstained from the vote.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 12/01/10 | Correspondence to Commission from Scott Crans. Ref.: Cover letter for signed copies of letters sent from N.J. Agricultural Experiment Station Executive Director Robert Goodman, Ph.D., to Somerset County, Monmouth County, Ocean County, Morris County, Middlesex County, Camden County, Warren County, and Salem County commenting on those counties 2011 Plans and Estimates for mosquito control. |
| 01/18/11 | Memorandum to Amy Cradic, N.J.D.E.P. Assistant Commissioner, from Claudia O'Malley. Ref.: Request to sign equipment use agreements for the fiscal year.  |
| 01/18/11 | Memorandum to William Reinert, Superintendent of Atlantic County Mosquito Control, from Claudia O'Malley. Ref.: Registration for boat trailer.   |

- 01/19/11 Correspondence to Christine Musa, Director of Warren County Mosquito Commission, from Claudia O'Malley. Ref.: Approval of request for repairs to John Deere backhoe and dozer.
- 01/19/11 Copy of correspondence to the Office of Mosquito Control Coordination and to the State Commission from Dennis Mahoney, General Supervisor of Salem County Mosquito Commission addressed to Lee Ware, Director, Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Ref.: Announcement of his retirement.
- 01/20/11 Correspondence to the Chairman, State Mosquito Control Commission, from Dennis Mahoney, General Supervisor, Salem County Mosquito Commission. Ref.: Announcement of his retirement and gratitude for the many years of support from the State Commission.
- 01/20/11 Correspondence to Ary Farajollahi, Superintendent of Mercer County Mosquito Control, from Claudia O'Malley. Ref.: Equipment Use Agreement.
- 01/20/11 Correspondence to Wayne Wurtz, General Supervisor of Gloucester County Mosquito Control, from Claudia O'Malley. Ref: Equipment Use Agreement.
- 01/21/11 Copy of correspondence to State Mosquito Commission signed by Autumn Angelus, Biologist, Jolyn Beal, Office Manager, Salem County Mosquito Commission, addressed to Lee Ware Director, Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Ref.: Potential issues if the Salem County Mosquito Commission is dissolved.
- 02/01/11 Correspondence to Atlantic County, Burlington County, Camden County, Cape May County, Cumberland County, Essex County, Monmouth County, Morris County, Ocean County, and Salem County from Claudia O'Malley. Ref.: Information packet for N.J. State Mosquito Airspray Program.
- 02/03/11 Correspondence to Commission from Christine Musa, Director Warren County Mosquito Commission. Ref.: Repairs to John Deere dozer and invoices.
- 02/04/11 Correspondence to Honorable Kim Guadagno, Secretary of State, from Robert Kent, Secretary. Ref.: Meeting announcement for the February meeting of the Commission.
- 02/04/11 Memo to Commission from Robert Kent, Secretary. Ref.: Meeting announcement for the February meeting of the Commission.
- 02/15/11 Correspondence to Ocean County Mosquito Commission from Office of Mosquito Control Coordination. Ref.: Resources reimbursed to Ocean County as part of annual auditing procedure.
- 02/24/11 Correspondence to Honorable Kim Guadagno, Secretary of State, from Robert Kent, Secretary. Ref.: Meeting announcement for the March meeting of the Commission.

- 02/24/11 Memo to Commission from Robert Kent, Secretary. Ref.: Meeting announcement for the March meeting of the Commission.
- 03/03/11 Correspondence to Warren County Mosquito Commission signed by Robert Kent, Secretary. Ref.: Enclosure of a check for \$4,903.98 for repairs to John Deere bulldozer and backhoe.
- 03/03/11 Correspondence to Dr. Robert Goodman, Ph.D., Executive Director, N.J.A.E.S, from James Cobb, Chairman of Salem County Mosquito Commission, copying Chairman Sarnas. Ref.: Request for survey to evaluate mosquito needs.
- 03/07/11 Correspondence to Robert Gogats, Public Health Coordinator for Burlington County Department of Health, from Robert Kent. Ref.: Information packet for the State Airspray Program.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The financial statement was distributed and reviewed. The Secretary noted the changes, including payments under the "Administration" line-item for the toll-free number, coffee and danish and Mr. Emerson's travel expenses. Mr. Emerson's travel expenses are expected to change when the number is officially approved. In the category of "Equipment," sprayers were purchased to support the expansion of the copepod program. Under "Education," supplies were purchased and the fee for registration for the NJMCA conference in order to provide for the SMCC exhibit. A payment was made to the Department of Health and Senior Services for the testing conducted last year. Payments were also made to the Vector Surveillance Program, the Monitoring of Insecticides, the Statewide Surveillance Program and the Quality Control and Assurance Program contracts with Rutgers University. Dr. Bruder moved and Dr. Van Orden seconded a motion to accept the financial statement. All members approved.

#### **REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY**

The Secretary reviewed several documents that he distributed. Included were: the 2008 NJMCA Proceedings and a copy of a congressional bill regarding the Clean Water Act. Mr. Kent said that the state held a public hearing on Jan. 28 to accept comments on its draft proposal in response to the initiative. At the meeting, it was announced that because the EPA is still drafting its comments, New Jersey will issue its permit on April 9, then stay the permit to temporarily suspend everything until the EPA releases its permit. The Commission members decided to draft a statement with regard to the bill. The motion was moved by Dr. Bruder and seconded by Dr. Van Orden. It was approved unanimously. Also distributed was the semi-annual report from the surveillance QA/QC project, a draft copy for upcoming training at Rutgers, proposals for the three surveillance and the new QA/QC proposal, and a copy of the presidential citation that Chairman Sarnas signed and which was presented to Tom Candeletti for his retirement. Mr. Kent said he met with Jim McDonald, of the Sussex County Department of Health, about taking over the responsibility of the Sussex County Mosquito Control program. In Camden County, Art Jamieson, Supervisor of the Camden County Mosquito Commission, has retired. In Cumberland County, the freeholders are investigating the possibility of terminating their mosquito control staff and privatizing their mosquito control operations as a cost-saving measure. Mr. Kent also noted the issues being faced by the reduced staff at the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery as they try to

maintain operations. Dr. Bruder moved and Mr. Mayer seconded a motion to draft a resolution in support of the hatchery. It was approved unanimously. When discussing the retirement of the Camden County Mosquito Commission's General Supervisor, Mr. Emerson noted that he had been communicating with the Camden Commissioners with regard to how their program will be directed. On the subject of Cumberland County's suggestion to privatize their program, Ms. Lomberk asked Mr. Kent for assistance in the form of points significant to such action in view of the IPM requirements of any mosquito control program. Mr. Emerson noted that he had discussed this situation with Ms. Lomberk while at the recent NJMCA meetings in Atlantic City. He sent her newspaper stories of counties hiring, at considerable expense, contractors to clean streams where mosquito control agencies used to routinely perform that work.

#### **REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISOR**

Ms. O'Malley said she scheduled a surveillance flight in Essex and Morris counties for March 24 to ensure that county personnel are familiar from the air with treatment sites. She said she hopes county personnel will also become familiar with treatment sites in the neighboring county. Ms. O'Malley said she is also scheduling a helicopter calibration exercise. She said she has received notification from the Office of Management and Budget releasing funds for a truck purchase to replace the courier vehicle. However, the state contract to purchase the vehicle expired on Feb. 27, so it is unclear whether or not the purchase can still be made. OMCC staff will hold a meeting on April 20 at the Beneficial Insects Lab for all counties interested in the availability of copepods for use as control agents. The Commission will be exhibiting at Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst Earth Day celebration on April 30 and at the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Outdoor Expo on Sept. 17 and 18.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Legislative- No report.

Equipment – Dr. Bruder said there was one request submitted from Warren County for repairs to the ultra-low-temperature freezer that will cost \$1,113. The committee recommended funding the request. It was approved unanimously.

Research and Development – Dr. Van Orden said the committee has received reports from Dr. Brattsten on the work she has been doing, particularly in relation to toxicity.

Budget – Mr. Kent said they will be level funded if the Governor's proposed budget is enacted.

Public Relations – There was extended discussion regarding a Public Relations initiative for the Commission. The Chairman suggested broader participation in the League of Municipalities Conference, annually. The Secretary noted that he and Ms. Semple have discussed the development of a concise publication for distribution which outlined the programs of the Commission. This discussion led to the topic of attrition in the Office of Mosquito Control Coordination and the impacts on the statewide program and the Commission. The development of a committee to examine such impacts was considered, with recommendations to be made to the Governor.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES**

No report.

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Mr. Mayer said the copepods are doing very well and more should be available for distribution this mosquito season. He said the gypsy moth program will not create competition for in-common (with the mosquito program) aircraft this year. Mr. Mayer said the Department of Agriculture's budget was recommended for a 1 percent cut this year.

## **NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION**

Dr. Robson said the budget will retain level funding this year. Dr. Robson emphasized that Rutgers University and the Experiment Station's role is to assist whatever agency is in charge of mosquito control, whether that be a commission or a departmental entity. Dr. Van Orden commented on Dr. Brattsten's presentation on pesticides and mosquito resistance to them.

## **ASSOCIATED EXECUTIVES OF MOSQUITO CONTROL WORK IN NEW JERSEY**

As Dr. Robson discussion the station's effort to work with certain counties, and stated that 2 of his staff were visiting Salem County MEC today. Dr. Robson then left the meeting to satisfy a teaching commitment at UMDNJ. Mr. Emerson elevated the discussion to the State Commission's position regarding counties such as Cumberland and Salem, in concert with the position of the Office of Mosquito Control Coordination, and input to those counties. He inquired to the Commission's position. The Chair indicated that the Commission's position was to help and assist counties without interfering in their internal politics. He noted that several counties, due to the economy are reinventing themselves.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Sarnas recommended the following committee changes: Mr. Mayer was moved from the legislative committee to the equipment committee; Dr. Robson was moved from the equipment committee and moved to public relations. Chairman Sarnas also formed a new committee to look into the problems ongoing in Salem, Sussex, Camden and Cumberland counties. The committee will consist of Dr. Bruder, Mr. Emerson and Ms. Semple. Chairman Sarnas recommended increasing the budget of two existing line items as a result of recommendations from the Research and Development Committee: \$10,000 for the expanded copepod project at the bio-control program and \$6,000 for additional specimen testing from Rutgers. Dr. Bruder and Mr. Emerson from the Budget Committee also recommended accepting the changes. The recommendation was unanimously approved. Chairman Sarnas recommended drafting a letter in support of expanding the staff of the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery. More effective notification for meeting cancelations was also discussed. Mr. Emerson revisited the subject of Salem County Mosquito Commission. The discussion included the options available to a county government that wants to perform mosquito control via Title 29: Chapter 9 of the Public Health Statutes. Mr. Emerson noted that since the study of a merger was announced in the newspaper he had inserted himself into the discussions and meetings at Salem County, as have Dr. Williams and Tadhgh Rainey, both representing the Associated Executives. He noted that the Board of Freeholders have initiated a study, to be concluded April 1<sup>st</sup>, to determine the best course of action. When asked how does the County Board know who or what to ask for input into such a study, the Secretary noted that the State Commission has not yet received any formal notification that such a study or consideration of abolishing the Commission has been received. Mr. Kent, as Administrator of the Office of Mosquito Control Coordination, has met with the Salem county Administrator when news of the study was first reported. Assurance that a professional mosquito control manager would be eventually directing the program was sought at that meeting. Also, a communication method was discussed with regard to meeting cancellations and how best to alert members during foul weather, etc. It was determined that an announcement

via the Office of Mosquito Control Coordination's phone message system would be established during such time.

**COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.