

**MINUTES OF THE 453rd MEETING
OF THE STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
HELD AT THE RUTGERS ECO-CENTER
BORDENTOWN, NEW JERSEY**

July 17, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Lisa Reed, D.A.G. Michael Schuit, Eric Williges, Scott Crans, Tadhgh Rainey, Dr. Larry Katz, and Dr. Serpil Guran.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sarnas called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kent called the roll.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretary Kent reported that on July 7, 2012 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the July meeting to be held at the Eco-Center, Bordentown, 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.

Dr. Robson introduced Dr. Larry Katz and Dr. Serpil Guran. Dr. Katz welcomed and greeted everyone and discussed rain gardens, 4-H soil compaction issues and how Rutgers is developing "NJ Youth Soil Conservation Corps." The mission is to educate the public on water runoff and soil. Dr. Serpil Guran welcomed everyone and stated that the Eco-Center was created in 2001 as an extension center and they would like to add an alternative energy component to the work group.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 19, 2012 MEETING

Mrs. Semple noted a correction in her report. The correct language concerning vaccine applied to a horse should be "a horse received an inadequately in-activated vaccination and subsequently developed clinical illness." Mr. Emerson noted that in his "ad-hoc" committee report that he had reported that the Cumberland County Department of Mosquito Control budget was "slightly" less than last year and that Salem County is still facing "one" lay-off. With these corrections noted, Dr. Bruder moved and Mr. Emerson second a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed, with Dr. Van Orden abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

06/20/12 Correspondence to James R. McDonald, Sussex County Office of Mosquito Control, from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor. Ref.: Approved their request to surrender the Beecomist sprayer and Adapco Monitor.

- 07/03/12 Correspondence to Jeffrey Ridgway, Director of Public Works from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor, SMCC. Ref.: Surrendering state-owned equipment including the 20-ton equipment trailer.
- 07/05/12 Memorandum from Robert Kent, NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination to Peter Bosak, Ph.D., Superintendent, Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control. Ref.: Memorandum-of-Agreement for fiscal year 2012-2013.
- 07/05/12 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Administrator to Dana Chort, Assistant Superintendent, Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control. Ref.: Vector Surveillance Courier Route for Fiscal year 2013.
- 07/06/12 Memorandum from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor to SMCC Equipment Committee. Ref.: Items for consideration at the July 17th SMCC meeting.
- 07/10/12 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Hon. Kim Guadagno, Secretary of State. Ref.: Announcement of the July Commission meeting at the Rutgers Eco-Center
- 07/10/12 Memorandum from Robert Kent, Secretary to Commission members. Ref.; Announcement of July State Mosquito Control Commission Meeting.
- 07/12/12 Correspondence from Gregory M. Williams, President, Associated Executives of Mosquito Control Work, to Robert Kent, Secretary, SMCC. Ref: Request data regarding copepods.
- 07/12/12 Correspondence to George Hamilton, Chair, Department of Entomology, from Robert Kent, Secretary. Ref: NJ State Mosquito Control Commission support of two service contracts.
- 07/13/12 Correspondence from Christine Musa, Superintendent, Warren County Mosquito Control Commission to SMCC. Ref. Requesting a microscope offered by the SMCC.
- 07/13/12 Correspondence from Ary Farajollahi, Superintendent, Mercer County Mosquito Control to New Jersey State Mosquito Control Commission. Ref: NJ Copepod Program.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial statement was distributed and reviewed. The addition of the fee for the monthly legal ad, coffee and danish, and travel expenses (submitted from Mr. Emerson and Mr. Sarnas) appear under the "Administration" line-item. Payment was made to Cape May County for services provided for the season and from Warren County for the northern courier for the month of May. Dr. Bruder moved and Ms. Semple seconded a motion to approve the financial statement. All members approved.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

The Secretary distributed the 55th Annual Report from FY 2011. Also distributed was a press release from colleagues in New England: Connecticut will undertake a study of the decline in the population of lobsters in Long Island Sound. There have been claims that mosquito pesticides have been responsible for the decline. The Secretary will be meeting with the Department of Health regarding testing, and submission of pools for virus identification. Last month there was a discussion regarding the staffing at the Office of Mosquito Control Coordination in the future. Mr. Kent met with Assistant Commissioner Boornazian on a variety of topics including the future of mosquito control, the Department of Health and

other departments' commitment and roles in mosquito surveillance and control. The Secretary will keep this commission informed.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Ms. O'Malley stated that despite a higher than normal full moon tide on July 3, the Airspray Program was not required to make any applications to the coastal salt marshes. The new moon tide is predicted for July 18. Ocean County made a small application with our spinosad on July 5. The mosquito species present was *Aedes sollicitans*. Ocean County personnel also reported that copepods and various other crustaceans and insect species were present within the treatment site but were unaffected by the application. No additional fish stocking has taken place since the June Commission meeting, but Sussex County has requested approximately 1000 *Gambusia*, to be picked up from the Hackettstown hatchery on July 18. The Secretary and Ms. O'Malley participated in a copepod demonstration at the Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control on 6/22 attended by various members of the print & television media, Dr. Peter Bosak of Cape May County Mosquito Control, 2 of the Cape May County Freeholders, the Secretary of the N.J. Department of Agriculture and Mark Mayer represented the Department of Agriculture, Beneficial Insect Laboratory. An excellent event; the positive public relations derived, especially with regard to showcasing the need for mosquito control, almost overwhelmed the intent of the copepod project. Copepod stocking also took place in Burlington County, with that organization's entomologist Tom Verna, on July 12. Ms. O'Malley has been working on the "request for proposal" for the new state contract for insecticides. The current contract consists of 76 lines; Ms. O'Malley added 25 new lines and deleted 5 lines; the new contract may contain 96 lines. Of these, the Airspray Program would only utilize approximately 13 lines. In discussing the origin of state contract for insecticide she pointed out that Mr. Kent developed it to serve the needs of the Airspray Program. The equipment surrendered by Sussex County (ULV machine & monitoring system) has been offered to all county mosquito control agencies. There have been no requests, therefore the equipment will be disposed of according to state equipment guidelines.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative – Mr. Emerson stated that an amendment to the "Farm Bill" may include language pertaining to the "Clean Water Act." Several addendums not relating to mosquito control were recently added. There is also separate state legislation dealing with the reporting of Lyme Disease.

Equipment – Dr. Bruder reported on several items for consideration by the committee. Salem County would like to surrender a 20-ton trailer that is not being utilized at this time. The committee recommends approval of the surrender and making it available to other counties. On May 17, \$17,500.00 for major repairs was approved for a 1987 hydraulic excavator. Further diagnostics reveal the need to replace a pump which is an additional \$6,295.00. With regard to a 2001 Revco freezer assigned to Bergen County, repairs were performed, totaling \$3,975.00. The committee recommends reimbursement minus the \$1,000.00 deductible. Warren County has requested one of the field microscopes recently surrendered by Rutgers. The committee recommends approval. Mercer County surrendered to PHEAL the 2002 Revco freezer that is not working properly. There may be a request to repair the freezer at a later date. On the question of accepting the committee recommendations, all members approved.

Research and Development – Dr. Van Orden stated that the committee did meet and discussed the proposal "Surveillance Data Standardization Assurance." They need to meet with Dr. Robson and Dr. Slaff to further discuss the proposal. Dr. Van Orden added that he will meet with Mr. Kent in order to put together a group of representatives from several agencies to address stormwater "Best Management Practices." Chairman Sarnas suggested that "Rain Gardens" and "Rain Barrels" be included in the recommendations.

Budget – Mr. Sarnas recommends that a meeting be held within the next few months.

Public Relations – No report.

Ad-hoc County Assistance – Howard Emerson reported that Cumberland County has a slight (\$1,000.00) decrease in the budget. Salem County's one layoff was a transfer; the person moved from mosquito control to another department. The Secretary requested that the scheduling of "ad-hoc" committee meetings be shared with the Chairman (as a member of all committees). Mrs. Semple requested (as a committee member) to be notified of the content of reports prior to the general business meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Mrs. Semple stated that as of 7/13, 56 birds were tested from 11 counties. There were 5 positive from 4 counties which were Burlington (1), Monmouth (2), Morris (1), and Ocean (1). At this time last year 23 birds were tested; no positives. With regard West Nile virus 3,048 pools were tested; 18 counties have positive pools (a total of 119 positive pools). The counties that have not had any activity yet are Atlantic, Cumberland, Sussex, and Salem. Last year at this time there were 21 positive pools in 10 counties. There have been 9 counties that have submitted pools for testing for EEE they are: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, Monmouth, and Ocean. There were 636 pools in 9 counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Monmouth, Salem, and Ocean). There are 3 counties with EEE positive pools: Camden (3), Cape May, and Salem. Regarding tests for La Crosse virus there were 6 pools submitted from 3 counties: Cumberland, Salem, and Union, with no positives. The Cape May lab has been testing; they tested 42 pools with no positive activity. St. Louis encephalitis testing totaled 584 pools in 4 counties (Burlington, Camden, Essex, and Hudson); no positive activity. No human cases identified yet but 2 specimens were submitted for testing in the State lab; one was negative, the other is pending. Mrs. Semple said that she will be attending a future Associated Executives meeting in order to discuss the possibility of entering into confidentiality agreements, with regard to the use and sharing of human specimen data.

Mrs. Semple described her experience working with Mr. Williges at Essex County Mosquito Control and the Livingston Health Department with regard to the collection and submission of crows for WNV testing. There was some mis-information on local internet "patch" news reports regarding the timing of bird submissions. With regard to proposed legislation associated with the reporting of Lyme Disease, Mrs. Semple said that diagnosed cases of Lyme Disease are reported as outlined in N.J. Health Code language. Legislation that would modify reporting requirements by statute would result in problematic reporting and/or the ability to change reporting protocols.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mark Mayer gave a report on how well copepod production continues. A Gypsy Moth survey was completed; no eggs masses were found. The staff in their Division believes this will be a light year for Gypsy Moths. For the season, 50,000 copepods have already been shipped; compared to last year the lab facility has exceeded those totals.

NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Dr. Robson noted that Rutgers University has a new President, Robert Barchi, who will begin serving as President as of September 1. He stated that the administration hopes to continue its good relationship with the Departments of Health, Agriculture and Environmental Protection. He also looks forward to expanding the roll of Cooperative Extension. Dr. Robson thanked the commission for being so attentive,

offering positive feedback and support regarding the surveillance QA/ QC contract. He added that part of good Quality Assurance is education. He added that the component of improving education, as has been discussed as part of a future Rutgers contract, would be important to pursue.

Mr. Scott Crans stated that a 2 day workshop will be offered called "Insecticide Resistance" and also in August they will be offering, to all counties, a media training event on risk communication (which is presented by the N.J. Department of Health). There will be a presentation in September on "How to prepare a Presentation from A to Z" that is also available to all counties. Starting in January there will be a course on mosquito biology. Dr. Robson added that he and Mr. Crans are visiting county mosquito control agencies.

Dr. Lisa Reed state that EEE positive pools have been restricted to *Culiseta melanura* mosquitoes, so far. The minimum field infection rates are high although population numbers are low. Reporting of EEE at this time is historically early. With regard to WNV, Dr. Reed noted particularly high numbers of isolations in Bergen & Ocean Counties. The Secretary had a question with regard to the increase in *Culex* populations in the "Delaware River" region.

ASSOCIATED EXECUTIVES OF MOSQUITO CONTROL WORK IN NEW JERSEY

Mr. Williges reported that they met on July 11 at Union County to see a display of their 100 year anniversary. Good historical information was available. They will meet at Monmouth County in August. They had discussed the West Nile virus testing protocols and the use of copepods. With regard to county use of the WNV website, Mrs. Semple noted that data-entry errors can be corrected prior to the shipping of specimens to the lab. Once shipped, data-correction is time-consuming and labor intensive.

OLD BUSINESS

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sarnas recommends that the R & D committee address the correspondence received regarding the use of copepods and how to best evaluate their efficacy for mosquito control. As county's experience with copepods vary, the committee is well suited to evaluate the available information.

Dr. Robson noted the inherent difficulties in developing biologically-based program and related studies. He volunteered his services to assist in any way. He added that the benefits gained from all of the positive exposure for the mosquito control community from the media, regardless of the on-going, continued development of the program is valuable. The chairman asked for the R & D chairman to maintain communication with him. In other new business, future meeting sites were considered.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Mr. Williges commented on the copepod program and the difficulty that a county, which is not involved in the bio-control program, has when asked to justify why they are not. He asked that press releases be curtailed until more is presented to all counties with regard data evaluation and publication of information. Mr. Mayer indicated that the interest by members of the Governor's Cabinet is valuable and that the Department of Agriculture has adequate staff to evaluate the efficacy of bio-control agents. Ms. Semple suggested that media training would be valuable when attempting to communicate to lay-people the details of the science of mosquito control, in general.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 a.m.