

**MINUTES OF THE 435th MEETING
OF THE STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
HELD AT THE N.J. DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
AREA AT ASSUNPINK
UPPER FREEHOLD, NJ.
July 20, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Sarnas, John Surmay, Shereen Semple, Howard Emerson, Dr. Kenneth Bruder, Dr. Mark Robson, Dr. George Van Orden, Tony Petrongolo, Mark Mayer, Robert Kent, Secretary and Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor. Mr. Konczyk did not attend due to business conflict.

OTHERS PRESENT

Scott Crans, Tadhgh Rainey, Jenn Gruener, Steven Csorgo, Dr. Lena Brattsten and Dr. Lisa Reed.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sarnas called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kent called the roll.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretary Kent reported that on July 6, 2010 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the June meeting to be held at the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area. 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 JUNE 20, 2010 MEETING

Dr. Bruder moved and Mrs. Semple seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The members approved the motion unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 6/18/10 Memo from Claudia O'Malley to all mosquito control agencies, Rutgers University and the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife. Ref.: Equipment Use Agreements for the fiscal year 2011.

- 6/21/10 Letter to Robert Kent, Secretary from Peter Bosak, Ph.D., Superintendent, Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control. Ref.: Repairs to state-owned six-inch water pump.

- 7/6/10 Letter from Robert Kent, Secretary to the Honorable Kim Guadagno, Secretary of State. Ref: July 20 meeting announcement.

- 7/6/10 Memo from Robert Kent, Secretary to Commissioners. Ref: July 20 meeting announcement.
- 7/8/10 Letter to George Hamilton, Chairman, Department of Entomology, Rutgers University from Robert Kent, Secretary Ref.: Intention to support service contracts with funds for fiscal year 2011.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The end-of-the-year financial statement for fiscal 2010 was distributed and reviewed. The Secretary noted changes from the prior month's report which involved considerable activity with the State Airspray Program's aerial operations. There was also significant transfer and/or cancellation of prior year encumbrances of funds from several different line items in order to support ongoing operations in surveillance and control. Commissioner Surmay inquired with regard to the application of asterisks in the report. After an extended discussion, it was suggested that another method be used to signify the monthly changes and resultant, new line-item balances. The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the report. Mrs. Semple moved and Dr. Bruder seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

The Secretary distributed several articles from the Journal of Vector Ecology. The latest issue of the "Legislative Index" was also distributed to Commissioner Surmay. Several solicitations to obtain public relations items were received; these were passed to the public relations committee chair. W-9 forms were given to public members in order for them to be registered with the state for reimbursement of expenses. The Secretary also noted that the correspondence reflects a new mailing address. The post office box number in the mailing address is now **420**; changed from **400**. There is also a "mail-code" which is **501-3**. The chairman asked that the new address be e-mailed to the members. The Secretary also noted that the vacant Superintendent position in Sussex County has not yet been filled. The Chair assigned the Research and Development Committee the task of investigating the matter.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Mrs. O'Malley distributed a printed report. She reviewed the activity of the State Airspray Program during the prior month. There have been 5 aerial larvicides executed; all coastal as the upland sites remained dry. The Technical Advisor added that 12,000 *Gambusia* were distributed in Bergen County. Several other counties are scheduled in the near future to receive fish. Mrs. O'Malley referred to emergency repairs to the state-owned pump which is assigned to Cape May County. A calibration exercise is scheduled for one of the two fixed-wing aircraft used for adulticiding in southern N.J.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative- Mr. Surmay noted that all legislative committee meetings and hearings refer to budget issues. These matters have an impact on local government. There was an extended discussion on government's ability to provide services to the public. The ability of employees who wish to continue working, while assigned furlough days was discussed. The public health demands inspire government employees to work without compensation. Certain laws and legislation conflict with public servants desire to serve while scheduled to be furloughed.

Equipment – Dr. Bruder referred to the aforementioned repairs to the pump in Cape May County. Mr. Emerson inquired with regard to the repair of compressors in state-owned, ultra-low temperature freezers. Mrs. O'Malley addressed the question.

Research and Development – Dr Van Orden noted that three Rutgers service contracts for surveillance were reviewed and approved at their last meeting. There were some questions regarding the contract for surveillance quality assurance.

Budget – The committee will meet after today's meeting.

Public Relations – Mrs. Semple acknowledged the previously distributed information on available public relations media. While unlikely to be pursued this season, it will be considered in the near future.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES

Mrs. Semple's report clarified the time-line that her weekly reports cover. Her Friday-issued reports include information spanning all results for the week, up to Thursday evening. PHEL does not test on Fridays. As counties often archive specimens, the "date-collected" status does not influence her reports. As of July 15th there have been 38 birds submitted for testing from ten counties. Last year at this time there were approximately the same amount submitted. Ocean County has been especially aggressive in submitting birds. Two birds from that county (a crow and a grackle) have been confirmed positive for West Nile virus. Both were collected in the Toms River area. Last year the first positive bird was not discovered until August 1st. There have been 1,658 pools of mosquito specimens submitted from 20 counties. Cumberland County has not yet sent in any pools to be tested. Forty pools have been confirmed as positive from ten different counties. Last year at this time there were only 4 pools confirmed. In a conference call with representatives from other northeast states, it was clear that activity is significant in the northeastern U.S. With regard to Eastern Equine encephalitis, 383 pools of mosquitoes were tested; nine counties submitted specimens. There were two positive, both from Cape May County. In 2009, at this time of the season, there was one positive pool. With regard to St. Louis encephalitis: 99 pools have been tested from 5 counties. All are negative. There were none positive in all of 2009. Two counties have submitted a total of 17 pools to be tested for LaCrosse virus; all negative. There were also no positives for this virus last year. With regard to human activity, there were no human cases at this time last year; the first human in '09 had onset of symptoms on August 18. There were three total humans in 2009: one in Hunterdon and two in Camden County. Any human specimens approved for testing by the lab so far this year are negative. Two horses had onset of symptoms in 2009, also on August 18. One West Nile; one Eastern Equine encephalitis. In other states, 2010 is yielding a lot of activity. New York City is reporting more positive specimens at present than they reported for all of 2009. Only Vermont is reporting no WNV activity in the northeastern states. Massachusetts and New York State have reported EEE activity. One NY county also reported activity in two bridge vector species. The first WNV pool was reported in a press release. The inability to predict the future results in less interest from the news media. Massachusetts uses a risk map. Mrs. Semple continued her report by noting that no news has been received regarding the restoration of funding for the CDC. Dr. Bruder asked if there was any response from any of the many government officials to whom letters were sent regarding this funding. No response has been received. Mrs. Semple continued her report stating that she sends results to ARBONET and they are posted on Monday night. Updates are also posted on the State Health Department website. Mr. Emerson had some positive comments on the press release and mosquito control awareness week. Mrs. Semple added to her report by noting that the proposed move of the PHE Lab will likely not take place during this season due to flooding issues at the new site.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Mayer reported that copepod production has been very successful. Over 14,400 have been raised and inoculated in five different counties. Last year 2,500 were released. There will continue to be copepods produced and released. There was continued discussion with regard to how copepods are transported and released. The peat cells which were developed for this purpose were described by Mrs. O'Malley and Mr. Mayer. He concluded by adding to Mrs. Semple's previous comments about the flooding at the new PHEL site. It was caused by a broken distilled water pipe.

NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Dr. Robson reported that the Rutgers budget will be reduced by 15% but is appreciative that the mosquito surveillance contracts will not be reduced. He is optimistic regarding the pilot project which will support the surveillance program and while it is a modest budget the work will be very useful. A statement has been prepared which will describe the purpose and benefits and that statement will be shared with the mosquito control community. Rutgers is also bringing back the quarterly biologist meetings. The first one will be on August 10 at the EcoComplex. Rutgers has now joined other mosquito agencies by being brought into the initiative brought forward via the OPRA process, the Passaic River watershed and the usage of DDT.

Dr. Reed noted that she will be indicating the time-frame that the data in her surveillance reports involve. The number of birds involved with WNV this year at this point in time is well ahead of those reported at this time last year. The virus is still restricted to ornophilic species. Dr. Reed has graphed the time-line of encephalitis reports. The numbers are well ahead of this time last year. With regard to EEE, the two isolations so far caused her to investigate the historical data from 1998 to 2009. Graphically the curve clearly indicates how early encephalitis has appear this year. Mr. Surmay asked whether or not Dr. Reed and Dr. Van Orden have collaborated on developing a risk model using the data. Time constraints have delayed that work, but it will be pursued.

Mr. Crans commented on the EPA-sponsored Webinar that took place on the subject of the Clean Water Act. There was a surveillance training class on June 13 at which 13 people attended. Mr. Crans spoke at a course on the environment and public health. Dr. Jack Peterson (from Florida A & M) is on sabbatical and will be participating in training workshops for larval bio-assays, perhaps in September or October. Mr. Crans continues his work with spinosad.

Dr. Brattsten thanks Mr. Reinert for introducing her to a new collecting site at Brigantine. Improving their laboratory cultures reduced their egg-hatch failure rate by almost 20 %. Trials indicate however that in four counties, the toxicity of spinosad to lab-reared and colonized mosquitoes declined by as much as 2 to 4 fold. She suspects that the same resistance response to other insecticides could be responsible. With regard to B.T.I., toxicity response is similar to data collected last year. Mosquito populations in Atlantic County however, appear to be six times less susceptible to temephos. All four county-collected mosquito specimens also appear to be less susceptible to methoprene as well. Dr. Brattsten is imploring counties to rotate their insecticides in order to manage against resistance.

ASSOCIATED EXECUTIVES OF MOSQUITO CONTROL WORK IN NEW JERSEY

Ms. Gruener reported on the many economic restrictions that counties are dealing with this year. Such restrictions are what is driving their selection of used insecticides. The organization met at

Headlee Labs on July 7. The pending NJPDES permits arising from the Clean Water Act was a topic of discussion. The legislative committee met and composed comments on the matter which were submitted to the EPA. She continued her report by noting that Sussex County still has no superintendent; Essex County has added Mr. Eric Williges to be their new superintendent. The next meeting will be on August 4 at Headlee Labs. Dr. Peterson has been attending the meetings. Mr. Rainey added that perhaps Dr. Brattsten's summary data could be added comments to the "Recommendations" which are published by Rutgers annually. He further inquired with regard to synergists and a company's interest relative to their addition to compounds to aid in efficacy. There was an extended discussion on the topic of resources available to each county mosquito control agency.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Emerson recounted his experience involving reimbursement to him for travel expenses.

NEW BUSINESS

A suspected human case of Dengue in Miami Beach, Florida was reported. The individual had no travel history out of the area. Several cases have already been reported in Key West.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.