

**MINUTES OF THE 454th MEETING  
OF THE STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION  
HELD AT THE CITY OF ELIZABETH'S STEVE SAMPSON MULTI-PURPOSE  
BUILDING  
ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY**

**September 18, 2012**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Sarnas, Howard Emerson, John Surmay, Mark Mayer, Dr. George Van Orden, George Shivery, Tony Petrongolo, Dr. Alice Shumat (Department of Health), Robert Kent; Secretary, and Claudia O'Malley; Technical Advisor. Due to various scheduling conflicts, Dr. Kenneth Bruder, Shereen Semple and Dr. Mark Robson were unable to attend.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Lisa Reed, Eric Williges and Mark Calaccio.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Sarnas called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Kent called the roll.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Secretary Kent reported that on September 11, 2012 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the September meeting to be held at the City of Elizabeth's Steve Sampson Multi-Purpose Building, 800 Anna Street, Elizabeth, 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 JULY 14, 2012 MEETING**

Mr. Emerson moved and Mr. Shivery second a motion to approve the minutes. All members approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- 07/18/12 Correspondence to Gregory Williams, President, Associated Executives of Mosquito Control Work in New Jersey, from John Sarnas, Chairman, SMCC. Ref.: The state mosquito bio-control program and the use of copepods.
- 07/18/12 Correspondence to Ary Farajollahi, Superintendent of Mercer County Mosquito Control from John Sarnas, Chairman, SMCC. Ref.: The state mosquito bio-control program and the use of copepods.
- 07/18/12 Correspondence from John P. Sarnas, Chairman, SMCC to Jeffrey Ridgway, Director, Salem County Department of Public Works. Ref.: Available State Mosquito Control Commission supported state-aid projects; high mosquito population in the "Delaware River Region."

07/19/12 Correspondence from John P. Sarnas, Chairman, SMCC to Bob Martin, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Ref.: Vacant positions within the Office of Mosquito Control.

07/20/12 Memorandum from Robert Kent, Administrator to Carol Clark, NJDEP Management and Budget. Ref.: Intra-Governmental Payment to the Department of Health for specimen testing.

07/30/12 Memorandum from Robert Kent, Administrator, Office of Mosquito Control Coordination to Nadine Sheppard, Bureau of Accounting Operations. Ref: Transfer of funds for payment to Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries for hatchery services.

07/31/12 Memorandum from Robert Kent, Secretary to Christine Musa, Superintendent, Warren County Mosquito Commission. Ref.: North Courier payment.

07/31/12 Correspondence from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor to Peter Pluchino, Division Director, Bergen County Division of Mosquito Control. Ref.: The state-owned ultra-low temperature freezer.

08/08/12 Memorandum from Robert Kent, Secretary, SMCC to Dana Chort, Assistant Superintendent, Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control. Ref: South Courier payment.

08/09/12 Memorandum to Rich Boornazian, Ass't. Commissioner, Natural and Historic Resources from Robert Kent, Administrator. Ref: Spending Plans and MoA for FY 13.

08/09/12 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary, SMCC to Dr. Serpil Guran, Director, Rutgers EcoComplex. Ref: Thank you letter for hosting the July meeting.

08/11/12 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Hon. Kim Guadagno, Secretary of State. Ref.: Announcement of the August Commission meeting at the City of Elizabeth's Steve Sampson Multi-Purpose Building.

08/13/12 Memorandum from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor to SMCC Equipment Committee. Ref: Items for consideration at the August 21<sup>st</sup> SMCC meeting.

08/17/12 Correspondence from Gregory M Williams, President, Associated Executives of Mosquito Control Work to Robert Kent, Secretary, SMCC. Ref: Follow-up request for copepod data.

09/10/12 Memorandum to SMCC Equipment Committee from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor. Ref: Items for consideration at the September 18<sup>th</sup> SMCC meeting.

09/10/12 Memorandum from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor, SMCC to Christine Musa, Director, Warren County Mosquito Control Commission. Ref: Insurance card for SMCC #43.

- 09/10/12 Memorandum from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor, SMCC to James R. McDonald, III, Sussex County Office of Mosquito Control. Ref: Insurance card for SMCC #42.
- 09/10/12 Memorandum from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor, SMCC to William Reinert, Director, Atlantic County Public Works, Office of Mosquito Control. Ref: Insurance card for SMCC #89.
- 09/11/12 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Hon. Kim Gudaguo, Secretary of State. Ref: Announcement of September Commission meeting of the City of Elizabeth's Steve Sampson Multi-Purpose Building.
- 09/11/12 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Commission members. Ref.; Announcement of September State Mosquito Control Commission Meeting.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The financial statement was distributed and reviewed. The first two payments were made in the new fiscal year for the toll-free number. The financial statement shows deductions for the sustaining membership for the AMCA and for the refreshments at the July Commission meeting. Money has been encumbered for aircraft support and insecticide purchases for the fiscal year. As a result of action taken at the July meeting, funds have been encumbered for the indicated equipment repairs. There was a brief discussion regarding the expenses associated with the north and south courier for transportation of collected mosquito specimens. John Surmay moved and George Van Orden seconded a motion to approve the financial statement. All members approved.

### **REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY**

Mr. Kent reported on a very nice "thank you" card received from Freeholder Maura DeNicola following the stocking of copepods in Bergen County last month. He and Ms. O'Malley were accompanied by the Freeholder and staff from Bergen County to several sites. The Secretary also reported on the grave condition of former Chairman, Dr. Len Spiegel. Len was a member of the Commission for 30 years. The Secretary met with N.J. Department of Health Assistant Commissioner Rinn and PHEAL Director Dr. Bishop to discuss the details of the next memorandum of agreement for specimen testing. Mr. Kent also met with DEP Commissioner Martin with regard to increasing the capacity of testing specimens for the counties. There has been no progress with regard to 'rebuilding' the Department of Health WNV website. There was a moment of congratulations for John Surmay who recently was the recipient of the N.J. Pharmacist Association 2012 William H. McNeil Award. Dr. Brattsten's final report was distributed. The Secretary stated that last month he assembled the Capital Budget & Planning Commission request which includes \$537,000 for Open Marsh Water Management Work on the Forsythe Refuge. The request also included approximately 2 million dollars to replace large equipment that is distributed throughout the counties.

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

Ms. O'Malley stated that the Airspray Program had a very strange season along the coastal salt marshes. We have not had to treat Atlantic County marshes since mid-June. Instead of flooding followed by a drying down period, the marshes have remained wet curtailing production of *Ae. sollicitans*. Ocean and Cape May counties have also been experiencing this condition. There have been 3 counties that have been provided with fish prior to the July SMCC meeting. For bio control program, total number of fish distributed is 135,800, among 12 counties. The copepod data being provided by Burlington County is very encouraging. This data reinforces the theory that stocking early in the season with high numbers of copepods is most efficient. The Secretary and Claudia O'Malley tended a mosquito control exhibit at the

Division of Fish & Wildlife New Jersey Wild Outdoor Expo held at the Collier's Mills WMA this past weekend. There was an excellent turnout of at least 7,500. The state insecticide contract RFP contains new language which went into effect on April 2, 2012. Ms. O'Malley described the new law that will result service fees to agencies that use state contracts for purchasing.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Legislative – Mr. Surmay stated that there has not been any action of concern with regard to legislation. Mr. Surmay will continue to review general legislation via the committee for general legislation of the League of Municipalities.

Equipment – Mr. Petrongolo reported on four items for consideration by the committee. Salem County has surrendered a 1987 20-ton trailer in July that has been requested by the Division Fish & Wildlife (to be used for moving a variety of pieces of heavy equipment throughout the state). No county has requested it. The committee recommends approval of the transfer to the Bureau of Land Management. With regard to a 2002 ultra-low temperature freezer, the committee recommends waiving the \$1,000.00 deductible and reimbursing the \$6,000.00 repair cost, to the Department of Agriculture. The Experiment Station would like to surrender a 1988 biosafety cabinet, 2003 microplate washer, and a 2003 plate reader. This surrender and transfer to Monmouth County must be made contingent upon Monmouth County's insurance carrier agreeing to provide insurance coverage for the equipment. Salem County is repairing a long reach hydraulic excavator; \$13,200.00 was approved at the May meeting. They had additional repairs of \$2,177.11 and are requesting reimbursement for a system controller and new electronic board. They did not follow proper procedure, so at this time the committee recommends denying the request. Salem County also properly requested a repair on a wire harness. The committee recommends reimbursement for that repair at an amount of \$2,400.00. On the question of accepting all of the committee recommendations, all members approved.

Research and Development – Dr. Van Orden stated that the committee did meet twice and discussed the Rutgers University proposal "Surveillance Data Standardization Assurance." They are still waiting to put together a group of representatives from several agencies to address stormwater "Best Management Practices." The committee also discussed the data collected from the use of copepods. They recommend establishment of a sub-group to examine data from 2 select counties. The group will be composed of various individuals from within and without the R&D committee, including Mr. Mayer, Dr. Bruder and Dr. Robson.

Budget – No report.

Public Relations – Mr. Surmay noted that the committee has not met. He recommended that it meet in order to discuss various public relations options. There were questions about the website, toll free number, and media articles.

Ad-hoc County Assistance – Howard Emerson reported that Camden County has lost one person due to medical leave but also brought back one inspector who had been laid off. They will keep that position for a net gain of one person.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Dr. Alice Shumat reports that there are West Nile virus positive specimens in some mosquito species in every county as of the end of 9/14/12. We have EEE in 8 counties: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Gloucester, Monmouth, Salem and Ocean counties. There are 22 human cases of West Nile virus and 1 fatality. Additional specimens are coming in for testing weekly. At this time 104 birds out of 248 tested positive for West Nile in 13 counties. In mosquito pools, 906 positive pools out of 8422. With

regard to EEE: 26 out of 1911 mosquito pools, 8 of the 9 counties that have submitted have tested positive. There have been 6 EEE positive horses and 2 positive West Nile horses. No specimen tests are positive for La Crosse or St. Louis encephalitis. There is significant EEE activity in other northeastern states. There was discussion regarding the testing of horses for encephalitis.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Mark Mayer stated that the technician that was helping with the rearing the copepods has resigned. Potential candidates are being interviewed. They will be well trained. There will not be a spray program this year for Gypsy Moth because there are only minimal populations anticipated. The fungus that kills them as a biological control agent will build up in the event of frequent rainfall. There were some questions regarding the ability of copepods to over-winter.

#### **NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION**

Dr. Reed noted that she spoke to Dr. Robson with regard to the next proposal to continue the Quality Assurance / Quality Control for Surveillance project. Dr. Reed subscribed to the previous conversation with regard to the protocol regarding horses and encephalitis. She noted that a positive horse prior to August is a harbinger for multiple cases in the season, based on historical data. Dr. Reed compared 2012 data to 2010 and the drought. Dr. Reed recovered some of this seasons collected data. She will be submitting 2 poster presentations for the upcoming AMCA meeting.

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

Mr. Williges reported that they met on September 5 (without a quorum). There was much concern about *Aedes albopictus* populations. They will meet again on October 3, 2012. The Commission Secretary discussed the notation in the August Associated Executives minutes with regard to comments relative to the State Contract for Insecticides and the State Commission. The role of the Administrator of the Office of Mosquito Control Coordination was reviewed with regard to the establishment and management of all state contracts.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

No report.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Future meeting sites was raised by Mr. Surmay and he repeated his offer to host future meetings. Mr. Surmay commented on the fine job Dr. Reed does on her reports. Mr. Surmay invited those in attendance to enjoy the refreshments provided by the facility.

Mr. Sarnas appointed Mr. Mayer, Dr. Van Orden and Mr. Emerson to the nominating committee.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.