

**MINUTES OF THE 455th MEETING  
OF THE STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION  
HELD AT THE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL  
LABORATORIES  
EWING, NEW JERSEY**

**January 15, 2013**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Sarnas, Howard Emerson, Dr. Kenneth Bruder, Mark Mayer, Dr. George Van Orden, Paulette Nelson (representing D.E.P.), Shereen Semple, Robert Kent; Secretary, and Claudia O'Malley; Technical Advisor. Due to various scheduling conflicts, John Surmay, George Shivery and Dr. Mark Robson were unable to attend.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Lisa Reed, Scott Crans, Dr. Greg Willians, Eric Williges and D.A.G. Mike Schuit.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Emerson called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Kent called the roll.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Secretary Kent reported that on January 4, 2013 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the January meeting to be held at the Public Health Environmental and Agricultural Laboratories. 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 NOVEMBER 20, 2012 MEETING**

Dr. Bruder moved and Mr. Mayer seconded a motion to approve the minutes. All members approved; Dr. Van Orden abstained.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- 11/23/12      Memorandum to Carol Clark, Financial Management, from Robert Kent, Administrator, SMCC. Ref.: MoA between the state mosquito control program and the NJ Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health.
- 11/27/12      Correspondence to Gregory Williams, President, Associated Executives of Mosquito Control Work in N.J. from John Sarnas, Chairman, SMCC. Ref.: The state mosquito bio-control program and the use of copepods.
- 11/28/12      Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary, SMCC to Michael Sloane, Chairman, Warren County Mosquito Control Commission. Ref.: Response to Warren County Mosquito Control Commission's request for an additional insecticide sprayer.
- 12/03/12      Memorandum from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor, SMCC to Dr. Gregory Williams, Program Coordinator, Hudson County Mosquito Control Program. Ref.:

Replacement registration for an ATV trailer assigned to Hudson County Mosquito Control Program.

- 12/06/12 Memorandum from Robert Kent, Secretary to Christine Musa, Superintendent, Warren County Mosquito Commission. Ref.: North specimen courier payment.
- 12/07/12 Memorandum from Robert Kent, Administrator to Annette Ristoro, Financial Operations. Ref.: Payment to Department of Agriculture for the testing of equine specimens.
- 12/20/12 Memorandum from Robert Kent, Administrator to Peter Bosak, Superintendent, Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control. Ref.: Replacement check for surveillance services.
- 01/03/13 Memorandum from Robert Kent, Secretary, SMCC to Peter Bosak, Superintendent, Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control. Ref: Enclosed check for the state vector surveillance program.
- 01/03/13 Memorandum to Dr. Gregory Williams, Program Coordinator, Hudson County Mosquito Control Program from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor. Ref: Registration renewal for SMCC #121 a 2004 ATV trailer.
- 01/03/13 Memorandum from Claudia O'Malley Technical Advisor, SMCC to Mr. Erin Nooney, Superintendent, Burlington County Office of Mosquito Extermination. Ref: Renewed registration for SMCC #22, a 1988 boat trailer.
- 01/04/13 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Hon. Kim Guadagno, Secretary of State. Ref.: Announcement of the January Commission meeting at the Public Health Environmental and Agricultural laboratories.
- 01/04/13 Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Commission members. Ref.; Announcement of January State Mosquito Control Commission meeting.
- 01/07/13 Memorandum to SMCC Equipment Committee from Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor. Ref: Items for consideration at the January 15<sup>th</sup> SMCC meeting.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The financial statement was distributed and reviewed. The Secretary stated that invoices for the November and December toll-free number have been paid. Funds for public notices have been established. Mr. Emerson has been reimbursed for his travel expenses. To support the State Airspray Program, Ms. O'Malley has purchased insecticides and Ocean County Mosquito Control was reimbursed in kind for work on state-owned lands. Cape May County will also be reimbursed. Shereen Semple moved and George Van Orden seconded a motion to approve the financial statement. All members approved.

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

Mr. Kent reported that there is an operational note in the packet that was handed out. The University sent out a press release (also distributed) in honor of Dr. Robson for his international work. The AMCA sent out the latest certificate for the annual contribution to the American Mosquito Control Association for sustaining membership. The 2013 N.J.M.C.A member renewal form was also distributed. The contracts for the Experiment Station are now in the hands of the Department's attorneys. The Secretary also stated that new legislation mandates that at the beginning of next month there will be more included on the DEP website such as minutes, by laws, list of attorneys, and other information. The Secretary met with Assistant Commissioner Boornazian which included a trip up to Morris County Mosquito Commission and a tour of wetlands management projects. Also discussed were various topics regarding how the day to day programs are run and the needs of the State Mosquito Control Commission and Office of Mosquito Control Coordination. The Secretary had a meeting with Dr. Bishop who is responsible for testing at the P.H.E.A.L. The meeting was with regard to finances, testing, and examining the information associated with the specimens that come into the lab. There is also a draft available for review of the Annual Report. The Secretary distributed an obituary for past superintendent of the Morris County Mosquito Commission, John Kuschke, who passed away on December 14.

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

No Report.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Legislative – No report.

Equipment – Dr. Bruder reported that during the course of fiscal years 2011 and 2012, the hydraulic rotary excavator assigned to the Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control required \$54,000.00 for reconditioning and repairs. On January 3, the Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control informed the Director of the Equipment Use Program that SMCC #3 was unable to maintain full power. A diagnosis of the problem revealed that the electronic control unit (computer) needed to be replaced; the estimate for this work is \$4,515.08. The Equipment Committee recommends that the additional funds be approved, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00. The 2001 courier vehicle assigned to the Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control requires a new transmission, at a maximum cost of \$3,000.00. Purchasing a new vehicle to replace SMCC #89 is not an option. The funds for both of these repairs are available. All members approved.

Research and Development – Dr. Van Orden stated that the copepod ad-hoc R & D committee will meet on January 31. The Stormwater Best Management Project committee will have a meeting in early February.

Budget – No report.

Public Relations – No report.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Mrs. Semple stated that there were still a few human West Nile virus cases open and she will be working on end-of-year statistics. She is readying for maintenance of the West Nile virus database. She has been briefing the administration regarding the need for a new database system. Ms. Semple has been discussing the importance of why it's imperative to receive the information in a timely manner and how useful the database is. Mrs. Semple offered a very comprehensive review of the information contained in her briefings with regard to the historical aspects of the West Nile virus website, the present status, the gathering of "informative technology" requirements for a new system, the potential agencies who could or could not support the development of such a system and the progress in the Department of Health to

secure support. Mrs. Semple noted that the present system may function adequately during this upcoming mosquito surveillance season. Her Department has been able to identify funding to develop a new database with proposed cost-sharing with the D.E.P. A MoA has been drafted and has been turned over to DEP for review.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Mark Mayer stated that the copepods are at maintenance levels at the Beneficial Insect Lab and they are prepared for the upcoming season.

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

Dr. Reed noted that she would like to reiterate what the Secretary stated about Dr. Robson's recognition by the American Association for Advancement of Science. Dr. Reed will be preparing 4 presentations and 3 posters at the upcoming American Mosquito Control Association conference; this will include presentations on the Statewide Adult and Vector Surveillance programs.

Scott Crans stated that a few people have signed up for the mosquito biology course. At this time they are developing a new course recognizing pathogens in mosquitoes. Mr. Crans invited everyone that will be attending the copepod meeting on 1/31/13 to attend an AMCA West Nile virus webinar to be projected at Headlee Labs, in the afternoon. Mr. Crans is currently preparing for annual meetings and working on various manuscripts.

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

Dr. Williams noted that very little activity is on-going at this time of year. With regard to the aforementioned adjustments to specimen testing protocol as proposed, he expressed hope that there would be input from the counties that are submitting samples and using the data collected to determine their operational response to the results. Mrs. Semple requested a schedule of meeting dates so she can discuss the data confidentially agreements.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The previously drafted and distributed letters, which were conceived and discussed at the last meeting, were reviewed. With regard to the draft letters which focused on Superstorm Sandy, the question arose with regard to the content and any request for resources. The Secretary noted that since the last meeting he has contacted and toured the impacted counties. The general feedback from county personnel suggests that quantifying the resources that may be needed is difficult at this time. The DEP is ambitiously moving to organize a response to the storm and secure funds for that purpose. Associated Executive's President Greg Williams was asked to comment. He noted that the situation in his district probably differs greatly from the coastal counties. His expectation is that the remaining debris may be problematic but all is speculation at this point in time. The Secretary confirmed and expanded on that point. The county programs will eventually determine the need. Mr. Emerson expects that the State Airspray Program may be called upon more than in the past. Dr. Bruder supported the concept of the draft letter to the Governor, Mrs. Semple agreed. Mr. Sarnas suggested adding specific detail about the nature of the potential threat resulting from the storm. The Secretary will add detail to the draft. Mr. Emerson drew comparison to hurricane Katrina and the aftermath. It was agreed that with additional detail, the letter should be sent to Governor Christie. The draft letter to Governor Christie regarding personnel and attempts to meet with DEP Commissioner Martin was also discussed. Mrs. Semple had several comments and highlighted several points associated with the original letter to the Commissioner. After extended discussions, the members re-considered a meeting with Assistant Commission Boornazian. Mrs. Nelson suggested that the impact from Hurricane Sandy would be a viable subject matter on which to focus with the Assistant Commissioner. The Secretary will schedule a meeting between select public members and Mr. Boornazian.

With regard to the draft letter about the WNV website to Department of Health Commissioner Mary O'Dowd, Mrs. Semple suggested (in view of the reported efforts by the Health Department to address the WNV website) that such a letter of inquiring should now be addressed to Commissioner Martin instead. After some discussion regarding it's content and administrative corrections, the members agreed to proceed with the correspondence. The Secretary will send drafts to the Chair and Mrs. Semple for final input and review. Dr. Bruder suggested that the Associated Executives also send a letter in support of a new West Nile website.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The topic of future meeting sites was raised by Mr. Sarnas and the members discussed the concept of going to counties which have problems as a result of the storm. Mr. Sarnas noted travel issues for some members and suggested central N.J. locations. The Secretary has reserved the Conservation Center at the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area which is always available. Mrs. Semple would like to visit one of the counties that were affected by the storm. Dr. Williams said that he suggested to the Associated Executives that Sandy-impacted counties can always reach out to the SMCC and invite them to host a meeting in order to support their recovery efforts.

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

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.