

**MINUTES OF THE 432nd MEETING
OF THE STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
HELD AT THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
501 EAST STATE STREET
TRENTON, NJ 08625
APRIL 20, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Sarnas, Dr. George Van Orden, Dr. Mark Robson, Shereen Semple, Mark Mayer, Anthony Petrongolo, Howard Emerson, Dr. Kenneth Bruder, Robert Kent, Secretary and Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor. Mr. Konczyk and Mr. Surmay were unable to attend due to a business conflicts.

OTHERS PRESENT

Scott Crans, Tadhgh Rainey, Steven Csorgo, Dr. Roy Meyer, Dr. Lena Brattsten, Dr. Lisa Reed and DAG Michael Schuit.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sarnas called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kent called the roll.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretary Kent reported that on April 12, 2010 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the April meeting to be held in the third floor NJDEP conference room 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 FEBRUARY 16, 2010 MEETING

Dr. Bruder moved and Mr. Mayer seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 2/16/10 Letter to Robert Kent, Secretary from Richard Candeletti, Assistant Superintendent, Ocean County Mosquito Commission. Ref.: Repair to the state-owned 1987 hydraulic rotary excavator assigned to that county.
- 3/2//10 Memo to Secretary of State Kim Guadagno. Ref.: Cancellation of the March 6 meeting of the Mosquito Commission.

- 3/2//10 Memo to the Commission from the Secretary. Ref.: Cancellation of the March 6 meeting of the Mosquito Commission.
- 3/11/10 Letter from Suzanne Poluszny, Library of Science and Medicine, Alexander Library, Rutgers University. Ref.: Request for copies of the Commission's annual reports for 2008 and 2009.
- 3/19/10 Letter from James Gray, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Monmouth. Ref.: Enclosure of the Resolution authorizing aerial dispensing operations by the Monmouth County Mosquito Commission.
- 1/25/10 Letter to Kristian McMorland, Superintendent of the Morris County Mosquito Commission from Claudia O'Malley. Ref.: Assignment and use of the MarshMaster for use in that county.
- 3/26/10 Letter to the Commission from Tadhgh Rainey, President, Associated Executives of Mosquito Control Work in N.J. Ref.: Request that the Commission provide input to the NJDEP with regard to the development of NJPDES permits for mosquito control; a copy of correspondence to Marcedius Jameson, Administrator, NJDEP Compliance and Enforcement, which offered the personnel of the states mosquito control programs to assist in the endeavor, was attached.
- 4/8/10 Memo to the SMCC Equipment Committee from Claudia O'Malley. Ref.: Items for consideration at the April meeting of the Commission.
- 4/12/10 Correspondence to the Secretary of State from Robert Kent. Ref.: Meeting announcement for the April meeting of the Commission.
- 4/12/10 Memo to Commission members from Robert Kent. Ref.: Meeting announcement for the April meeting of the Commission.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial statement was distributed and reviewed. The Secretary noted changes from the prior month's report which included payments for the toll-free number and for refreshments at the February meeting. There were purchases for supplies and equipment to support the fish transport tanks for the Bio-Control (mosquitofish) Program. A payment was made to Rutgers for the Vector Surveillance Contract. There was a typographical error in last month's statement with regard to the uncommitted balance; that error has been corrected.

Dr. Bruder moved and Mr. Emerson seconded a motion to approve the financial statement. All members approved.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

The Secretary reported on the status of NJPDES permit development for mosquito control as a result of recent legal judgment associated with the Clean Water Act. Unaware of any response from the individuals at DEP corresponded with by the Associated Executives, Mr. Kent noted that the Bureau of Surface Water Permitting in the Division of Water Quality will be the agency issuing the permits. The Secretary is a member of the in-house group that is working on the construction of the DEP permit which will allow for compliance with the Clean Water Act. The group meets weekly and is in communication with the EPA as the work progresses. There will be two stakeholder meetings established for affected agencies in order provide information from the DEP and receive feedback from such agencies. All mosquito control agencies in the state (county, municipal and private) will receive letters of invitation to the meetings, which at this time are scheduled to take place in June. There was extended discussion on the matter by those in attendance. Dr. Bruder requested that this subject be an agenda item for all mosquito commission meetings until the matter is resolved.

The Secretary reported that the Commission, by way of the Department, has received an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request for any records, reports, correspondence or other information available which relates to the use of DDT since 1914, that the Commission may have been involved in. The initial response by the Department was to reply with the facts that the Commission did not exist prior to 1956; that all records (other than minutes and the annual reports) prior to circa 1979 would be archived at the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station, not DEP; that minutes and annual reports are available as public records; and that the request is too broad to respond to without further definition of the request. Several counties have received similar requests.

The Secretary reported on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging plans for the deepening of the Delaware River. Mr. Kent described how the disposal of dredge spoil in New Jersey will enhance mosquito production at those sites.

Also reported on was the proposed zero funding, by the federal government, for the Northeast Integrated Pest Management Program. Dr. Robson noted that, while it is a relatively small budget, it benefits New Jersey and the states of the northeast.

Other national issues include legislation which would result in the disclosure of information associated with inert ingredients which are in registered pesticides but not identified with their components. This information would be available to the public. The American Mosquito Control Association has indicated that such legislation may result in the loss of certain mosquito control formulations as a result of the expense to corporations who would be required to comply via the registration process.

Mr. Kent noted the annual A.M.C.A. sponsored "Washington Day" which offers opportunity to those who wish to go to the capital and meet with legislators on federal matters.

The Secretary discussed the members' subscriptions to “WingBeats” and the N.J. Legislative Index. There were several journal and newspaper articles distributed as was this year’s publication of “Insecticides Recommended for Mosquito Control in N.J.”.

Finally, Mr. Surmay had sent to the office several examples of correspondence relating to the proposed elimination of certain state-level councils, boards and commissions such as the Noise Control Council. In his absence, Commissioner Surmay wanted to share this information with the members.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Mrs. O'Malley reported that the Airspray Program pre-season meeting was held on February 19th. The state-owned ATV in Atlantic County was transferred to Gloucester County, on schedule. The MarshMaster was used to cut *Phragmites* at the Heislerville Wildlife Management Area and then was transferred to the Morris County Mosquito Commission. Mrs. O'Malley has spent a great deal of time inspecting and approving potential fish stocking sites for biological control. Her distributed monthly report revealed data documenting the stocking of over 67,000 fish already this season. There has been no late-winter mortality of fish this year. The pre-season copepod meeting will take place this week with the participating counties. Chairman Sarnas noted a television news broadcast regarding Bergen County’s receipt of 5,000 fish from the state. Mr. Petrongolo noted the paucity of available personnel to operate the hatchery at Hackettstown due to hiring restrictions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative – No report.

Equipment – Dr. Bruder noted that the Ocean County Mosquito Commission has submitted a request to overhaul the 1987 amphibious rotary excavator which is assigned to that county. He asked Mrs. O'Malley to describe the necessary work. Following a comprehensive description of the work and noting that the staff there will perform all the work, Dr. Bruder stated that the committee recommends the approval of an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to be dedicated to these repairs. Following a brief discussion, the members approved the committee recommendation unanimously.

Research and Development – Dr. Bruder noted that the committee will be meeting shortly in order to evaluate the University’s contract proposals and added that the budget committee had already met and expressed concern with regard to funding levels for the contracts.

Budget – Dr. Bruder referenced the recent R&D committee meeting and comments given then regarding budget concerns and noted that the committee will meet once a budget figure for the new fiscal year is known. Mr. Emerson noted that once proposals are reviewed, contingency plans may be drawn in order to continue all programs. The Secretary added that at the committee meeting, the point was raised that the under-resourced nature of certain county programs and the media attention generated as a result

of the winter and spring precipitation, that perhaps a letter should be drafted to go to the Commissioner (of DEP) or to the Governor advising them of the potential for unchecked mosquito populations which might result from such conditions. Mr. Sarnas recommended that a letter be crafted for his signature. Mr. Emerson recommended that the counties be reminded that fixed-wing aircraft are available for surveys of the counties to aid in the determination of flooding and mosquito habitat.

Public Relations – No report.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES

Mrs. Semple reported that the Vector-borne Working Group met in Hunterdon County. They determined to continue bird surveillance as of April 15 including corvids, raptors and other birds on request. She will send out a message via the LINC's system to local health departments. The previously mentioned tick and mosquito brochures have been printed and are available. Mrs. Semple will work with the group's subcommittee in order to develop the annual report. It will note that in 2009 there were 3 confirmed human cases of West Nile virus; one horse that was West Nile probable; there were five horse that were positive for Eastern Equine encephalitis and one alpaca that was EEE positive. The next group meeting will be held on ~~May~~ April (corrected at 433rd meeting) 30th and will be held at Rutgers. *Secretary's note: although the next meeting was actually rescheduled to May 21st, it was announced as scheduled for April 30th at the 432nd SMCC meeting.*

Mrs. Semple reviewed the proposed elimination of federal funding for vector borne disease in the national budget. This money funds the CDC Division of Vector Borne Diseases; personnel, laboratory services, ARBONET and data that populate the USGS maps on the internet are all at risk. The resources also fund states via the ELC grants. Such funding supports state-level personnel and programs. The 2011 federal budget proposes to completely eliminate (not just reduce) the funds. The impact on state services is unknown but the loss at the federal level would include the loss of all laboratory services such as confirmatory testing or the identification of new arboviruses (i.e. chikungunya) and the access to available reagents for testing. The impacts on states would be severe. There would be no technical assistance for the state West Nile virus website. Human surveillance would continue. Interaction with DH/SS personnel on all other matters would be eliminated. It was recommended that correspondence be generated to all interested parties stressing that these resources be restored in the 2011 budget. There was extended discussion on the subject. The public members discussed their personal response strategy to the appropriate members of congress. The Chairman instructed the Secretary to compose correspondence to Governor Christie informing him of the seriousness of the situation with copies to the appropriate state congressional representatives. Attendance at the upcoming AMCA "Washington Day" event was also discussed.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Mayer commented on the upcoming copepod meeting with staff. The colony is doing well. The laboratory is also losing personnel to retirement. He discussed the use of

federal funds to hire “permanent-part time” lab assistants. There will be no Gypsy Moth program in 2011 due to the collapsing population of the insects. The beekeeper community is very busy and the demand for hive colonies is very high. Bee hive biology and disease was discussed in brief. There is no sign of colony collapse disorder.

NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Dr. Robson announced that Dr. George Van Orden has received the University’s distinguished alumni award. The outreach part of the mosquito program reorganization continues as Dr. Robson is proceeding with scheduled ‘listening sessions’ (formerly referred to as focus groups) and has already had the first one at Hunterdon County with candid comments offered by those in attendance. Scott and Dr. Robson have had a one-on-one session at Bergen County. A second listening session was scheduled for the EcoComplex but was canceled as few registered to attend. He will continue with more individual sessions with county personnel. Dr. Robson is appreciative of the budget committee’s conclusions from their recent meeting. The contract proposal will be more focused in an attempt to avoid mission-drift. They are targeting May 15 as the start-up date for surveillance data reporting. Mr. Crans announced the wetlands training session scheduled for April 27th. It is a webinar that can be attended in-person or on-line. Dr. Reed announced the constructed video for light-trap maintenance; another will follow for calibration of the traps. This is the first of several videos that will be prepared on a variety of topics. She recalled that the last week in May is the first week that resting boxes are set out for vector surveillance in the state. She also announced the up-coming Rutgers “Ag-field Day”. Dr. Robson also noted that all presentations or submission for publication will first go to the Secretary for review and will acknowledge all partners involved. *Secretary's note: Dr. Robson clarified at the 433rd SMCC meeting that the review of presentations and presentations will be by the Mosquito Commission.*

Dr. Brattsten said that her FY 2011 proposal has been submitted and described the steps necessary for Rutgers to process a contract. The Secretary acknowledged receipt of the contract proposal and reiterated the issue of the budget reductions. Dr. Brattsten took the opportunity to review some of her recent work. She noted the lethal concentrations necessary to result in mortality of target larvae to specific insecticides. She then noted that some other insecticides used in pest control (outside of mosquito control) had interesting results on the subsequent bio-assays performed. A synergistic effect was observed. Dr. Brattsten will continue to examine this phenomenon. Dr. Brattsten also noted that, from her studies with spinosad, she believes that application rates may be halved without loss of efficacy in the field. She concluded her remarks by observing that etofenprox (marketed as an adulticide for mosquitoes) is also a very good larvicide.

ASSOCIATED EXECUTIVES OF MOSQUITO CONTROL WORK IN NEW JERSEY

Mr. Rainey announced that the organization is anticipating the template permit from the federal government with regard to the NJPDES permits. The organization would like to be involved in the development of the NJ permits. The potential burden to counties and the cost of acquiring the permits is an issue with county government. The recent hot weather has accelerated mosquito development but also dried up many habitats. The result is a relatively normal spring, with some accelerated development. The response is

to be aggressive and use other products such as mineral oils. The situations experienced now will have no bearing on what the mosquito populations may be like later in the season; there will be completely different species involved. The media tends to oversimplify the potential for future mosquito populations and what that means to the residents of the state.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Emerson reported on his county environmental and resource management agents from the extension service and the promotion and distribution of rain water collecting barrels. Mr. Emerson noted that the presentation did address the potential for mosquitoes to be problematic if the barrels are not maintained properly. Mr. Emerson was satisfied with the presentation; he re-introduced himself to the county agent and discussed the new relationship being cultivated between the mosquito control agencies and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service. The problems resulting from home foreclosures were discussed among the membership.

Mr. Kent reviewed the new procedure in the parking deck and the automated payment system. Visitors may be able to secure reserved parking, at no expense, if the Secretary is notified far enough in advance of their plans to attend. Fees for parking will increase significantly in the next fiscal year. Off site meetings may be appropriate in the future. He requested that members apprise him of the number of parking coupons still in their possession.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.