

**MINUTES OF THE 434th MEETING
OF THE STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
HELD AT THE MONMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO COMMISSION
1901 WAYSIDE ROAD
EATONTOWN, NJ 07724
June 15, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Sarnas, Shereen Semple, Howard Emerson, Dr. Kenneth Bruder, Dr. Mark Robson, Paulette Nelson (for Mr. Petrongolo) , Mark Mayer, Robert Kent, Secretary and Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor. Mr. Konczyk did not attend. Dr. Van Orden had a teaching conflict and Mr. Surmay did not attend due to a death in the family.

OTHERS PRESENT

Scott Crans, Tadhgh Rainey, Douglas Guthrie, Dr. Roy Meyer and Dr. Lisa Reed.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sarnas called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kent called the roll.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretary Kent reported that on June 8, 2010 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the June meeting to be held at the Monmouth County Mosquito Commission at 1901 Wayside Road, Eatontown, 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 MAY 18, 2010 MEETING

Dr. Bruder moved and Mr. Mayer seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The members approved the motion unanimously, with Mr. Mayer abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 5/10/10 Memo to Claudia O'Malley from Ary Farajollahi, Superintendent, Mercer County Mosquito Control. Ref.: Completed repairs to the state-owned ultra-low-temperature freezer assigned to that county.
- 5/11/10 Letter to Dr. Mark Robson from Professor Pirom Kamolratanakul, M.D. President, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Ref.: Conferment on Dr. Robson of an honorary doctoral degree.
- 5/20/10 Memo to William Reinert, Superintendent, Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control from Claudia O'Malley. Ref.: Registration for the Boston Whaler assigned to that county.
- 5/20/10 Memo to Thomas Candeletti, Superintendent, Ocean County Mosquito Commission from Claudia O'Malley. Ref.: Registration for the Carolina Skiff assigned to that county.

- 5/26/10 Letter to Chairman Sarnas from Dr. Marc Slaff, Interim Superintendent, Sussex County Office of Mosquito Control. Ref.: End of Dr. Slaff's employment at the County; the planned hiring of a biologist for the county.
- 6/8/10 Correspondence to the Commission members from Robert Kent. Ref.: Meeting announcement for the June 15, 2010 meeting of the Commission.
- 6/8/10 Correspondence to the Secretary of State from Robert Kent. Ref.: Meeting announcement for the June 15, 2010 meeting of the Commission.
- 6/10/10 Memo to David Prentice, Office of NJDEP Trust Fund Management from Robert Kent. Ref.: FY 2011 Capital Budget request.
- 6/11/10 Memo to Carol Clark from Robert Kent. Ref.: Payment of invoice from the NJ Department of Agriculture for the Bio-Control (copepod) Program.
- 6/14/10 Memo to Nadine Shepard, NJDEP Management and Budget from Robert Kent. Ref.: end-of-fiscal-year purchase order for insecticides.
- 6/15/10 Letter to Governor Chris Christie from Chairman Sarnas. Ref.: The resources available statewide for mosquito control in 2010 in view of the unprecedented 2009-2010 period precipitation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial statement was distributed and reviewed. The Secretary noted changes from the prior month's report which required the transfer of funds from several different line items in order to support the ongoing operations of the State Airspray Program. Included in this activity was the elimination of the balance of funds in the "uncommitted" line; the transfer of \$42,003.48 from the "Equipment" line; and the reduction of \$10,116.50 from the "DH/SS WNV Testing" line. This action left an unspent balance of \$3,775.71. Dr. Bruder noted that there still may be administrative expenses submitted by the public members for the fiscal year. The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the report. Dr. Bruder moved and Mr. Mayer seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

The Secretary distributed several items. There was a copy made available to members which was an example of that which was signed by the Chairman and sent to both N.J. Senators, all N.J. members of Congress and to the members of the subcommittees dealing with the proposed reduction in CDC funds for the next federal fiscal year. Also distributed were several articles from various journals and periodicals specifically on the subject of Dengue. An article authored by Dana Price on sandfly discovery in NJ was also distributed. The latest issue of the Legislative Index was distributed.

Mr. Kent also reported on the latest progress regarding the development of the Clean Water Act National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit. The draft federal permits were released and published as were a fact sheet and a Q & A document. A webinar and several public hearings are scheduled. The state has postponed the scheduled "stakeholders" meetings that were scheduled for this month. The EPA is behind in their original schedule for development of the permit. The Secretary has asked counties to share issues with him that they determine may be problematic in order for them to comply with the proposed permit process.

Mr. Emerson inquired to the date that the aforementioned letter to Governor Christie was sent. The Chair replied that the letter had been signed on this date.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Mrs. O'Malley distributed a printed report. She reviewed the activity of the State Airspray Program. All operations were for larval control. She noted that Atlantic County has experienced the most activity (historically) in a long time. All of the fish reared indoors have been distributed. The copepods are thriving in the laboratory; ready for distribution to Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Some have been distributed to Hunterdon, Cape May and Cumberland Counties already. Mrs. O'Malley noted an article she read ("Science". Vol. 328, May, 2010.) that reported on the science communities concern regarding the proposed cuts in the CDC budget for the next federal fiscal year. Mr. Sarnas asked about the survivorship of copepods in the field. Mrs. O'Malley noted that this is the first time that such copepod work has been attempted in this latitude. Mr. Rainey contributed his experiences with the crustaceans to date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative- Mr. Mayer observed that the budget process is ongoing in preparation of the new fiscal year.

Equipment – No report.

Research and Development – In the absence of the committee chair, the Secretary reviewed the proceedings of the recent R&D Committee meeting. The University contract proposals were reviewed with Dr. Robson. Dr. Bruder noted that the matter is now in the hands of the budget committee.

Budget – No report.

Public Relations – No report.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES

Mrs. Semple reported that the first West Nile Virus pool to test positive has been confirmed. The pool of *Culex sp.* was collected on June 2 from Cherry Hill, Camden County. This was reported to the mosquito control and health community minutes after it's confirmation. She reminded the members that last year the first positive was collected on June 3; also a *Culex* pool, but from Mercer County. PHEL has tested 16 birds from 8 counties to date: all negative. Between PHEL and the Cape May Bio-Safety Level III laboratory 146 pools of mosquitoes from 7 counties have been tested with only the single positive. There have been 72 pools tested for Eastern Equine Encephalitis with none positive. Sixteen pools have been tested for St. Louis encephalitis from a single county (Camden) with none positive to date. This information is distributed to all interested parties. Correspondence has been sent to health care providers, noting the diligence required in order to report suspect human cases to the State Health Department. The Office of Communications is considering a press release with regard to this isolation and the upcoming AMCA-declared "National Mosquito Awareness Week" (week of June 20). With regard to the aforementioned Dengue articles, Mrs. Semple has been in communication with the Puerto Rico Dengue Branch. While Dengue is a problem in Central and South America and Florida there is no viremia in New Jersey. Attention to this virus is important and will continue in the state. The PHEL move to West Trenton has not been scheduled at this time. There was a brief discussion of the timing of deliveries to the laboratory.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Mayer reported that copepod production has been very successful. The laboratory staff has been excellent in this regard. The procedures to maintain the colony have improved over time. Attrition of other laboratory staff has caused the department to consider the use of part time employees.

NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Dr. Robson reported on the progress made in relation to the R&D Committee meeting. The annual service contracts will be prepared in order to align the specifications with the needs of the Commission. Three contracts have been submitted to the Office of Mosquito Control Coordination; two surveillance contracts and a third which will assist specific counties with regard to their surveillance efforts. Dr. Marc Slaff will

be brought into the Rutgers contract order to work with counties in this "pilot" initiative. Dr. Robson expects that the deliverables will be very positive. Dean Goodman commented to Dr. Robson that the Experiment Station should develop a prospectus for the future proposals which reflect the needs of the state. The Experiment Station will suffer from a 15% reduction in budget. The University declared an emergency thus canceling the scheduled raises in salaries for employees which stimulated legal action. Dr. Robson continues his visits to county mosquito control agencies and has been to Warren, Bergen, Middlesex, and Cape May so far. His observation was that although the resources provided by each county varied, the role of the Station in each is similar. He noted that the paper distributed by Dana Price acknowledged the partial support from the commission. Chairman Sarnas thanked Dr. Robson for his cooperation in working with the R&D Committee to get the contracts improved and on-track.

Dr. Reed presented the new contract proposals. She commented on the prior discussion about the year's first positive pool. She will in her next weekly report consolidate all the prior years first positive dates graphically. The numbers of *Culiseta melanura* collected from resting boxes are below historical values (except Winslow). Collections from light traps for that species, however, are significantly higher than historically. This may be a harbinger of Eastern Equine encephalitis activity in the state. Data also reveals an early emergence of significant *Coquillettidia perturbans* populations. This species is a suspected inland vector of EEE. Hopefully this is a shift in the cycle of that population rather than an expansion which would place peak populations in concert with *Cs. melanura* populations and increase the potential for EEE transmission. There was a notation that Warren County had reported a positive RAMP sample for WNV. Dr. Reed is developing an Excel formula for epi weeks so individuals can perform their own calculations.

Mr. Crans commented on the training program at Rutgers. He has been participating in recertification talks. Many of these are with Health Departments and Departments of Public Works. Mr. Crans has planned 3 short courses and is gathering content for them. He is also assisting counties with their field trials; helping with experimental design and data management. By way of NJMCA and the Office of Continuing Professional Education work continues on the wetlands training effort. A draft presentation which was assembled by a freelance writer was reviewed by the wetlands training subcommittee. The initiative will continue and the construction of a PowerPoint presentation is in progress. Scott issued an open invitation to come to Rutgers for the upcoming EPA Webinar on the Clean Water Act. Mr. Crans continues to prepare proposals for this year's Spinosad research and has been writing reports on work accomplished. He is assisting Mercer County with WDG (water dispersible granules) field trials and low volume larvicide trials. Work on the AMCA and NJMCA archive materials continues.

ASSOCIATED EXECUTIVES OF MOSQUITO CONTROL WORK IN NEW JERSEY

Mr. Rainey reported the the Associated Executives met in Cape May County. The Clean Water Act was discussed. Some of the definitions and other ambiguities are cause for concern. A court challenge to the new NPDES permit is expected. He continued his report by noting that the counties have been submitting pools for testing. Tadhgh added that, in general, mosquito populations are emerging and peaking earlier this year. *Coquillettidia perturbans*, *Psorophora* and *Aedes sticticus* are all arriving earlier than usual. This suggests that perhaps testing should start earlier rather than archiving specimens. Mr. Rainey announced that the Associated Executives will meet at Rutgers in July. He concluded his remarks by stating that a Hunterdon County newspaper did a nice article on a faculty member, Rachel Winfrey, at Rutgers.

Chairman Sarnas took the opportunity to thank Mr. Guthrie for hosting this month's mosquito commission meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Emerson noted the aforementioned article from "Science" magazine. This article was distributed to the Associated Executives and was available to those who attended the AMCA "Washington Day" event.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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