

**MINUTES OF THE 437th MEETING
OF THE STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM IN THE DEP BUILDING, 501 EAST
STATE STREET, TRENTON, NJ**

September 21, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel Konczyk, Howard Emerson, Dr. Kenneth Bruder, Dr. Robert Goodman, Dr. George Van Orden, Mark Mayer, Shereen Semple, Tony Petrongolo, Robert Kent, Secretary and Claudia O'Malley, Technical Advisor. Chairman Sarnas was away on vacation. John Surmay could not attend due to an eye infection.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Mark Robson, Dr. Lisa Reed, Dr. Lena Brattsten, Jenn Gruener, Christine Musa, Steve Csorgo and Michelle McGuinness.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Konczyk 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 September 15, 2010 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the September meeting to be held 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 AUGUST 17, 2010 MEETING

Dr. Bruder moved and Mr. Emerson seconded a motion to approve the minutes with a correction to a passage as described by Mr. Emerson. The members approved the motion unanimously. Ms. Semple, Mr. Mayer, and Mr. Konczyk abstained from the vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 8/25/10 | Memo from Claudia O'Malley to Jeff Riker Ref.: Sending of registration for Chevrolet flatbed truck assigned to Sussex County. |
| 8/26/10 | Correspondence to Claudia O'Malley from Peter Bosak, Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control. Ref.: Requesting transfer of 1992 Link-Belt long reach hydraulic excavator. |
| 9/03/10 | Correspondence from Rutgers University library system. Ref.: Requesting the most recent issues of the annual report. |

- 9/07/10 Correspondence to Claudia O'Malley from Eric Willeges, Superintendent of Essex County Mosquito Control. Ref.: Upgrades to ULV machine.
- 9/10/10 Correspondence to Jeff Riker, Sussex County Office of Mosquito Control. Ref.: Distribution of insurance cards for vehicles in that county.
- 9/10/10 Correspondence to Bill Reinert, Superintendent of the Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control. Ref.: Distribution of insurance cards for vehicles in that county.
- 9/10/10 Correspondence to Kristian McMorland, Superintendent of the Morris County Mosquito Commission. Ref.: Distribution of insurance cards to those counties for the vehicles in that county.
- 9/13/10 Memo to the SMCC Equipment Committee from Claudia O'Malley. Ref.: Items for consideration at the September meeting of the Commission.
- 9/14/10 Correspondence to the Secretary of State from Robert Kent. Ref.: Meeting announcement for the September meeting of the Commission.
- 9/14/10 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 the first changes for the current fiscal year, which included payments for the toll-free number and refreshments at the July and August meetings. A payment was made to the AMCA for sustaining membership. Insecticides were purchased and funds encumbered for the Airspray Program. There has been no activity yet in the Equipment Program. The Secretary noted that all the spending plans have been approved. The Chairman asked for approval of the new fiscal year financial statement. Ms. Semple moved and Dr. Bruder seconded such a motion. All members approved.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

The Secretary reviewed several documents that he distributed. Included were: Congressional and Senate bills regarding the Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and an article based on departmental press releases. The Secretary announced that he and Ms. Semple had met with Robert Gogats, Health Officer in Burlington County, with regard to the movement of their mosquito control operations from the Highway Department to the Health Department. There were questions to Mr. Gogats with regard to the county allowing staff to attend meetings.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Ms. O'Malley distributed her report. She noted that the Airspray Program has been very busy. There were five aerial larvicides in Atlantic County, one in Cumberland County, and one in Ocean County at Island Beach State Park. The supply of Vectobac 12AS, the main larvicide that is used, was completely depleted and an alternate insecticide had to be used. The inventory has

since been restocked. To date, 24,108 acres have been treated. Ms. O'Malley noted that the Biocontrol Program has been successful in fulfilling requests for fish. Over 116,000 fish have been distributed in 12 counties.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative- Mr. Mayer reported on legislation related to liberalizing FIFRA via the Clean Water Act. Such legislation would remove any further requirements for a permit to apply pesticides if FIFRA is complied with. The legislation has not moved much because Congress is not currently in session. Dr. Goodman noted that there should be a brief session of Congress next week and that a "lame-duck" session will occur post-election.

Equipment – Dr. Bruder had five items to consider. Dr. Brattsten has requested money to replace an oven. That request has been tabled until her research can be reviewed by the Research and Development Committee. The Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control requested the 1992 Link-Belt hydraulic excavator be transferred from Salem County. A motion was made to approve the transfer by Mr. Emerson and seconded by Dr. Van Orden. The motion passed unanimously. There was a request from the Cumberland County Division of Mosquito Control to make emergency repairs to the 2004 Revco freezer. The county has gotten one estimate that suggested replacing the freezer entirely, but because the equipment is only six years old the committee recommended getting a second estimate. The Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control was granted permission to make emergency repairs costing \$2,539 to a 1995 hydraulic rotary excavator. With those repairs complete and as the county saved significant expense by maximum use of state contracts for the repair, the committee recommended that the \$1,000 deductible be waived. The request was unanimously approved. Essex County requested an upgrade for the Cougar ULV machine. The request was unanimously approved.

Research and Development – Dr. Van Orden reported that the committee discussed the surveillance pilot program at its meeting.

Budget – Dr. Bruder reported that the budget committee met with Mr. Kent, who presented a breakdown of the current year's budget. They will next examine the potential budget for FY2011-2012.

Public Relations – No report.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES

Ms. Semple said that West Nile virus has been identified in all 21 counties and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in six counties. For West Nile virus, 5,727 pools from all 21 counties have been tested, with 765 positive. For EEE, 1,360 pools submitted from nine counties yielded 18 positive pools in six counties. For St. Louis Encephalitis, 775 pools from six counties were all negative. For LaCrosse virus, 31 pools from four counties were tested with negative results. Ms. Semple also reported that 219 birds from 13 counties have been tested; 117 positives have resulted in 11 counties. She noted that the program is accepting other species of birds this year. Ms. Semple noted that the Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health has reported one equine case in which an unvaccinated horse in Atlantic County had West Nile virus and was euthanized. She said the Vector Borne Disease Working Group discussed the decreasing incidence of West Nile virus in horses and they queried if something is happening with the virus itself (such as mutation). Ms. Semple reported 11 human cases of West Nile, one of which was fatal. This number includes only those tested at state labs. The Department is currently in the

process of applying for its ELC funding, which it expects will be reinstated. Ms. Semple said she expects more West Nile brochures to arrive soon and be available for distribution.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Mayer said they are waiting to see how effective their copepods have worked this season. He said that the Emerald Ash Borer beetle has been identified in Ulster County, NY, and is likely to spread into NJ soon. The Beneficial Insect lab has been given permission to hire a new entomologist and is currently interviewing candidates. Ms. Semple requested that Mr. Mayer reach out to the Division of Animal Health regarding an equine West Nile case.

NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Dr. Robson reported on several events the experiment station is planning. On Oct. 20 and 21, they will have an insecticide bio-assay workshop. On Oct. 22, Dr. Reed will address health officers in Morris County. They will have an aerial calibration workshop in Blirstown from Oct. 26-29. They will have a biologist meeting in Mercer County on Nov. 9. They will also have a chainsaw maintenance safety class in December. Dr. Robson noted that the surveillance pilot program generated a lot of discussion at the Associated Executives meeting. It was suggested that an advisory committee composed of county representatives and commission members as well be established. Dr. Reed reported that drought conditions have potentially contributed toward making West Nile virus more active while retarding EEE this year. Dr. Brattsten reported on her trip to the 9th European Conference where she gave a talk on chemical diversity. She agreed to give the talk at a future commission meeting. She said she lost a technician recently and is currently interviewing candidates for the opening. Dr. Goodman reported that Rutgers University has its largest ever class in the school of Environmental Sciences: 3,542 students. The university is also looking into establishing a program in Trenton in order to focus on an urban-theme. The development of an undergraduate major in entomology is being examined. The University has hired five extension faculty for water resources programs. The microbiology program has been reinstated following a five-year hiatus.

ASSOCIATED EXECUTIVES OF MOSQUITO CONTROL WORK IN NEW JERSEY

Ms. Gruener said that most counties have reported very dry conditions and a lot of West Nile virus activity. The group's next meeting will be Oct. 6. She also announced that a water management network meeting would take place on Sept. 22.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Emerson asked whether Salem County has made any mention of a broken dredge spoil dike in that county. Ms. O'Malley said they have not. Dr. Van Orden asked if there is currently any concern over mosquitoes breeding in rain gardens. Ms. Gruener confirmed that there is some concern. Mr. Surmay and Dr. Bruder were named to the nominating committee.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Ms. Musa commended the developing quality assurance program. She also requested that press releases be shared more quickly with counties. Ms. Semple and Mr. Kent noted that press releases are already shared as rapidly as possible. Dr. Goodman inquired about communications

issues between the DEP and the Division of Animal Health. Mr. Kent noted that the division often does not send members to Vector Borne working group meetings. Ms. Semple noted that the commission often has difficulty getting information from the division, but also that the division has had a lot of staff changes recently.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.