

**MINUTES OF THE 444th MEETING
OF THE STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
HELD AT THE CAPE MAY DEPARTMENT OF MOSQUITO CONTROL, CAPE MAY
COURT HOUSE, NJ**

July 19, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Mark Slaff, Dr. Lisa Reed, Dr. Lena Brattsten, Dr. Gregory Williams, Dr. Peter Bosak, D.A.G. Michael Schuit, and D.A.G. Melissa Abatemarco.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sarnas called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kent called the roll.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretary Kent reported that on July 11, 2011 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the July meeting to be held at the Cape May Department of Mosquito Control at 15 Delsea Drive, Cape May Court House, 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 JUNE 21, 2011 MEETING

Mrs. Semple moved and Mr. Mayer seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Bruder abstained. The motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

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| 07/08/11 | Correspondence from Claudia O'Malley to the Equipment Committee. Ref.: Items for discussion and action at the July Commission general business meeting. |
| 07/11/11 | Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Secretary of State Hon. Kim Guadagno. Ref.: Announcement of the July Commission meeting at Cape May. |
| 07/11/11 | Correspondence from Robert Kent, Secretary to Commission members. Ref.: Announcement of the July Commission meeting at Cape May. |

07/14/11 Correspondence from Claudia O'Malley to Tadhgh Rainey, Superintendent, Hunterdon County Mosquito and Vector Control. Ref.: NJ registration for an ATV trailer assigned to Hunterdon County.

07/14/11 Correspondence from Claudia O'Malley to Richard Candeletti, Superintendent, Ocean County Mosquito Commission. Ref.: NJ registration for a boat trailer assigned to Ocean County.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial statement was distributed and reviewed. The Secretary noted that this is the end-of-the-year report. There were minimal changes from the prior month. The Secretary noted that as FY11 balances are canceled some carry-forward funds may be credited to FY12. The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the financial statement. Dr. Bruder moved and Mrs. Semple seconded such a motion which carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

The Secretary distributed a document which DAG Schuit provided on the subject of the Open Public Meetings Act (the "Sunshine Law"). Mr. Kent also briefed the members on the scheduled calibration of one of the helicopters used for larviciding. The Middlesex County Mosquito Commission has agreed to allow their facility in South Brunswick to be used for the exercise. The calibration was postponed when an engine failure occurred prior to the scheduled date. The Secretary shared the content of correspondence which he received announcing the departure from Clarke Mosquito Control of Jim McNelly, who will be the new Director of the Volusia County (Florida) Mosquito Control District. Mr. Kent shared the content of a letter that he received from Robert Gogats, the Public Health Officer which informed him that the Burlington County Health Department will no longer include mosquito control measures on State and Federally owned salt marsh in the county. After a brief discussion, the Chairman assigned the Research and Development Committee the task of discerning the impacts of this announcement and provide the membership with a recommendation for a course of action.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Ms. O'Malley reported that the season has been very busy. There have been four larvicides in the last month and the first adulticide of the season was executed (in Atlantic County). This was the first aerial adulticide required in two years. The lunar tide was extreme and flooded large acreage with resultant salt marsh mosquitoes hatching. An aerial larvicide on the Forsythe refuge had to be abbreviated due to federal bird surveyors on the marsh during the operation. Fish have been distributed in four counties (Cumberland, Morris, Ocean and Sussex) since the June Commission meeting. Passaic and Sussex will be picking up additional fish. Nearly 100,000 fish have been stocked so far this year. The copepod portion of the Bio-Control Program is progressing with mixed results to date; the program is evolving. Some "super-stocking" of copepods is planned in two sites in Ocean County. In conjunction with personnel from Rutgers and the Department of Health and Sr. Services, a refresher course on the subject of collection, preparing and submitting mosquito specimens for testing was offered on the 14th of the month. It was attended by all but 3 counties. The Chair inquired about public notification with regard to aerial adulticides. Mrs.

O'Malley reviewed the legal and practical protocols; all notification has been thoroughly completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative – No report

Equipment – Dr. Bruder had several items to consider. The Committee recommended the replacement of a boat trailer in Ocean County for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 and the repair to the 1987 hydraulic rotary excavator in the same county for an amount of \$4,000. Mercer County is surrendering a state-owned microscope and the NJAES is surrendering an ultra-low temperature freezer. Ocean County has submitted a written request for the microscope and Cumberland County is considering a request for the freezer. The Committee recommends transferring the microscope from Mercer County to Ocean County. The Chair asked for action of the committee's recommendation. All members approved. Additionally the committee does not recommend the requested replacement of a flow control and spray monitor for a state-owned ULV machine assigned to Sussex County as the existing controller was purchased not that long ago (2006) for an amount of \$6,200.

Research and Development – The Secretary reported that there was a meeting between Dr. Van Orden and Dr. Brattsten with Mr. Kent and Mrs. O'Malley in attendance. Dr. Van Orden will provide a report at the next meeting.

Budget – No report.

Public Relations – Ms. Semple had no report beyond repeating her past offer to provide the Department of Health materials for mosquito-borne and tick-borne disease brochures.

Ad-hoc County Assistance – Mr. Emerson stated that he had been in contact with four counties and that there has been no further decline or cuts in available resources. In Cumberland County, an inspector who had been slated for layoff has been retained.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES

Ms. Semple reported West Nile virus activity (mosquito only) in 5 of the 20 counties. Mercer has not yet submitted specimens for testing. There have been no human specimens which have been tested with positive results; there are three negative. Last year, the first onset of symptoms from a positive human was in Essex County on August 6. Twenty-four birds have been tested so far submitted from 8 counties, all are negative; in 2010 the first positive bird came from Ocean County on July 6. There have been 2, 073 pools of mosquitoes submitted from 20 counties with positives from 11 counties. There have been 607 pools tested for Eastern Equine encephalitis (EEE) with none testing positive. Last year Cape May County yielded the first positive EEE pool on July 12. Four counties have submitted a collective 398 pools to be tested for St. Louis encephalitis; all are negative. Three counties have collectively submitted 37 pools to be tested for LaCrosse virus; all are negative. There have been no reports of any equine activity. In 2010 the first equine case came from Atlantic County with an onset of symptoms occurring on August 17.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Mayer reported that the Gypsy Moth aerial survey discovered 1,317 acres of defoliated forest. This involved 17 counties and 68 municipalities. Most of the defoliation was in Ocean and Middlesex counties. The 2012 eradication program will be relatively small. He added that the Beneficial Insect Laboratory was successful in hiring a new entomologist.

NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Dr. Reed noted that all of the positive pools so far in 2011 have been *Culex* species. She added that the *Culiseta melanura* populations have been below historical levels. With regard to the Green Bank site for EEE surveillance, she has been communicating with Ocean County Mosquito Commission Assistant Superintendent Mike Romanowski and noted that the site usually yielded low numbers of specimens but reliably positive data. As the canopy opens and less shade is provided, the concern is that the resting boxes will not be as efficient as collecting devices. Mrs. O'Malley added that she has been discussing the site with Tom Verna of Burlington County who practices a vigorous trapping protocol near this site. Robust Black Widow spider populations have perhaps hindered the use of these boxes by the resident mosquito population. Investigations will continue. There was an extensive discussion on spider biology. Dr. Bosak provided the membership with a reprinted article on Black Widow spiders.

Dr. Brattsten remarked on the R&D Committee meeting she attended recently. She cautioned against over use of B.t.i. by the mosquito control community; that users should rotate the selection of larvicides. Dr. Brattsten noted that she has been testing mosquitoes for resistance since 2007 and the data has been unremarkable. The variation in susceptibility has been insignificant over the years. She will be sending Dr. Van Orden some data on toxicity. Dr. Brattsten added that she will be collecting mosquitoes in the area today and invited anyone to join her for some interesting field work.

Dr. Slaff reviewed the purpose of the Surveillance Quality Assurance/ Quality Control Program. He has reviewed 5 county programs so far. He will now concentrate on southern NJ counties. Scott Crans has been involved in the program as well. Marc noted what he described as the "silo effect" where excellent data may be collected but not disseminated throughout the control process. Dr. Slaff attended the recent "Vector Surveillance Workshop" and found it to be very well assembled and useful to the attendees. He suggested that it be repeated and broadened. He noticed that many counties are selective with regard to the species that they choose to submit for testing. Dr. Slaff will prepare several summary reports.

ASSOCIATED EXECUTIVES OF MOSQUITO CONTROL WORK IN NEW JERSEY

Dr. Williams reported that the Associated Executives met at the Middlesex County Cooperative Extension facility at South Brunswick. Counties are still concerned about the changes to the Clean Water Act and legislation to deal with it such as HR 872. County programs have been very busy, occupied with the mosquito populations. The Fish and Wildlife Service's position on the Act and endangered species has the attention of the membership as well. In August the organization will meet at the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hackettstown Fish Hatchery.

Chairman Sarnas took a moment to thank Dr. Bosak for his hospitality in hosting the Commission's general business meeting. He also thanked the attendees for tolerating such a long drive from parts all over the state in order to come.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Sarnas noted the next meeting will be held at the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery. This will be an opportunity to tour the facility where the Bio-Control Program obtains all of it's fish for mosquito control.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.