

**MINUTES OF THE 471ST MEETING
OF THE STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
HELD AT THE RUTGERS CENTER FOR VECTOR BIOLOGY, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ**

April 21st 2015

Members Present – Chairman Sarnas, Vice-Chairman Emerson, Mr. Shivery, Mr. Mayer, Ms. Reale, Dr. Robson. Due to scheduling conflicts Mr. Golden and Mr. Surmay were unable to attend.

Others Present – Dr. Lisa Reed, Scott Crans, Teresa Duckworth, Eric Williges, Deepak Mathada, Michael Schuit

Call to Order – Chairman Sarnas called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Roll Call –

Chairman Sarnas - present

Vice-Chairman Emerson - present

Mr. Shivery - present

Mr. Surmay -

Dr. Robson (representing Executive Dean Goodman, NJ Agricultural Experiment Station) - present

Ms. Reale (representing Commissioner O’Dowd, Department of Health) - present

Mr. Mayer (representing Secretary Fisher, Department of Agriculture) - present

Mr. Golden (representing Commissioner Martin, Department of Environmental Protection) -

Open Public Meeting Announcement –

Secretary Williges reported that on April 13th 2015 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the April meeting to be held at the Center for Vector Biology. A copy of the announcement was also sent to the Newark Star Ledger, the Atlantic City Press, the NJDEP Press Office and the NJDEP Office of Communication and Legislation in compliance with P.L. 1975, c. 231.

Approval of minutes –

Motion was made by Mr. Shivery, seconded by Mr. Emerson to approve minutes from the August 18th 2014 meeting of the Commission. Motion passes.

Correspondence –

- 29 August, letter from Matthew P McDermott thanking Chairman Sarnas for his recommendation of William Reinert as a Commissioner.
- 29 September, letter from Thomas Verna, Burlington County Mosquito Control containing data and analysis from the Commission approved aerial adulticide treatment over portions of the County.

- October 6, letter from Jennifer Gruener, Superintendent Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission requesting clarification of the Superstorm Sandy Community Development Block Grant program after several delays.
- December 9, letter from Eric Williges to Kim Neeley, Supervisor of Education, Fairton Federal Correctional Institute, thanking her for helping to overwinter some of the Commissions stock of *Gambusia affinis* as part of their prisoner education program and thanking her for the work done by Jake Jablonski in previously working with our office in this program.
- 11 December, letter from Denise Dicarlo-Emery, Department of Agriculture, with a quote to flush and repair the 2nd stage refrigeration system of a ultra low temperature freezer owned by the Commission and used by the Department.
- 16 December, letter from Robert Goodman, Executive Dean, Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station, to Camden County Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli giving feedback on Camden County's submission of 2015 Plans and Estimates for their mosquito control program.
- 1 January, letter from Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission listing their 2015 meeting schedule.
- March 26, letter from Eric Williges, Secretary of SMCC to Dr. Peter Bosak, Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control, thanking him for taking time to discuss potentially expanding the contract between the Commission and the Department for arbovirus testing during the upcoming mosquito season.
- March 26, letter from Eric Williges, Secretary of SMCC to Heather Lomberk, Superintendent of Cumberland County Mosquito Control, approving repairs to the Commission owned Kobelco SR70 hydraulic excavator.
- April 14, letter from Doug Abdill, Superintendent, Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control, regarding emergency repairs to the John Deere amphibious excavator owned by the Commission.
- April 16, letter from Heather Lomberk, Superintendent, Cumberland County Mosquito Control to Eric Williges, Secretary, NJ State Mosquito Control Commission requesting the Commission purchase Cumberland County a Caterpillar mini hydraulic excavator as part of the Commissions equipment use program.

Financial Statement –

The financial report was presented by Eric Williges. Overall commission finances are in good shape, after the significant carryover from FY14. So far this fiscal year the Office has encumbered \$832,009.82 and spent \$598,114.97. Major expenses this fiscal year have been in support of the State Airspray program with \$277,127.45 spent so far this year and on pesticides with \$288,189 spent so far this year. While there is a large amount of unspent funds currently in the Commissions accounts, the majority of this is due to carryover from previous fiscals years. Analyzing our finances after removing this carryover funding, the Commission would have approximately \$170,000 in our budget with two months of airspray, pesticide purchases, and other expenses still remaining in the fiscal year. The OMCC suggests approving any capital purchase requests while this funding is available as future budgets may not include carryover funds.

In coming years, increased prices for aerial surveillance and application of pesticides, along with increased prices for arbovirus testing will negatively affect the Commissions finances. The airspray contract was finalized after being unable to reduce any price increases. As no other companies bid on the

contract it was awarded to Downstown Aero Crop Services, who we have a long relationship working with.

Prices of arbovirus testing are also increasing over the next few years. The OMCC is currently working with DOH to resolve these issues and come to an agreement that is feasible for all parties. If an agreement is not able to be reached, the OMCC will explore other options for mosquito disease testing. This will be discussed at future meetings in more detail.

Memorandums of Agreement between the Commission and various agencies have been finalized and are being drawn down against. Overall the OMCC feels that spending on those contracts is proceeding normally and we do not expect any issues with these agreements.

The Commissions yearly contracts with Rutgers University are still in progress. The OMCC thanks Rutgers for being patient in this process as it has taken longer than expected and Rutgers has graciously provided services without official funding throughout the fiscal year. These contracts are awaiting final signatures and should be completed before the next Commission meeting. To avoid this issue in the upcoming fiscal year, the OMCC is working with Rutgers to proactively start this process. Rutgers has proposed three separate contracts for the upcoming fiscal year; “An Adult Mosquito Surveillance Program” to monitor statewide mosquito populations by working with county agencies for a total of \$42,492.00, “Surveillance for the Mosquito Vectors of Arboviruses in New Jersey” for a total of \$40,490.00, and “Surveillance Data Standardization and Assurance Pilot” program for \$40,442.00. The Office along with county mosquito control agencies supports these projects in general and recommends the Commission approve them.

A motion to accept the financial report was made by Mr. Shivery and seconded by Mr. Emerson. Motion passes.

Report from the Secretary –

As the Commission has not met in multiple months, much of this information will be old but the Secretary wants to ensure Commissioners are aware of what the OMCC has been doing.

In September of 2014, the OMCC attended the Wildlife Expo in Jackson, NJ. This is an event sponsored by the NJDEP, much like counties have a “Touch a Truck” or similar day. The event was well attended by residents from across the state, and there was a very good response in general to our mosquito control information. Eric specifically wants to thank the OMCC staff, Mary Evangelista, Steve Csorgo, and Joe Corleto for the work they put into setting up and manning the booth for much of the weekend.

Mr. Williges, along with the OMCC staff and Commissioner Emerson attended the 100th anniversary celebration of Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission in September 2014. This was a very well put on event and the Commission congratulates Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission for their years of service to their county and the state overall.

After a long process, the CDBG Superstorm Sandy recovery grants have been finalized and OMCC is working with counties who applied for the program to get their programs started and allow

them to utilize funds as soon as possible. The OMCC is still working with Sussex County to finalize grant language, but after a protracted discussion between NJDEP and Sussex County we believe a solution has been found to allow the County to accept the grant package and we expect this grant to be finalized as soon as possible.

The grant funding for all counties was extended through June 2016, instead of the original end date of June 2015. This extension came as part of an agreement between NJDEP and NJDCA after the grant process took longer than expected. This extension will allow counties to utilize grant funds through the entire upcoming mosquito season and through the winter months, and should allow a much more effective program.

Aerial surveillance is also part of the grant program, and has been utilized by seven different counties. Sussex, Warren, Essex, Middlesex, Mercer, Cumberland, and Salem counties have flown surveillance flights and thank the OMCC and Commission for the opportunity. These flights were paid from the OMCC budget and will be reimbursed from our CDBG grant budgets. The reimbursement process is a work in progress, but all funds expended will be fully reimbursed in the near future.

As part of the Sandy grant program, four counties have requested the OMCC purchase pesticides for them. These purchases are in progress, and again all monies spent by OMCC will be reimbursed from the grant budget. The pesticide program is still open to all counties and we will work with any interested counties in supplying them pesticides for use in areas affected by Superstorm Sandy.

Mary Evangelista is working closely with NJDCA to learn the finance system for grant funding. This system is still a work in progress and the OMCC is the first division inside of NJDEP to be fully executed and spending funds. As the system progresses we expect a more streamline process but we will ensure any funds spent by OMCC or the county agencies are fully reimbursed in a timely manner.

Eric Williges attended the Northeast Mosquito Control Associations Annual meeting in Boston in December of 2014. He gave a presentation summarizing mosquito and arbovirus surveillance across the state during the 2014 season and presenting to the group on changes in the NJ mosquito control community. The meeting was very well attended, with a number of NJ county agencies sending representatives. Mr. Williges thanks the Commission for sending him and looks forward to presenting at the NMCA meetings in the future.

In March, the OMCC staff attended the New Jersey Mosquito Control Associations Annual meeting in Atlantic City. Commissioner Emerson was also in attendance at the meeting. The OMCC gave multiple presentations during the meeting. Steve Csorgo presented a summary of the Commissions aerospray program during the 2014 mosquito season, and Eric Williges gave an overview of Commission activities during the past year and summarized ways he feels county agencies and the Commission can work together moving forward to build better relationships and strengthen mosquito control work across the State. Steve Csorgo and Mary Evangelista also presented a poster in the NJMCA Poster Competition on natural and synthetic mosquito repellents which won the competition. Joe Corleto has planned to present on new water management permits and projects that the OMCC has been working on, but no data was available yet and both Joe and Eric felt it would be a more appropriate presentation in future years after the new permits are in use. Eric Williges was elected as vice president of the NJMCA and thanks the NJMCA for the opportunity. He looks forward to working with President Vicki Thompson

and the rest of the board to further collaboration between mosquito control agencies and strengthen the State's programs moving forward.

In April, Eric Williges attended the American Mosquito Control Associations meeting in New Orleans. Mr. Williges thanks the Commission for supporting his attendance at that meeting and hopes to continue attending and present data on NJ mosquito control activities in future years. Overall it was a very well attended meeting, with a very strong program. There was good representation from the NJ mosquito control community with several counties and Rutgers sending representatives. This meeting lead to multiple opportunities for the Commission and NJ mosquito control in general to become more involved in national initiatives and increase the visibility of NJ mosquito control.

One opportunity is for the OMCC and multiple counties to work together during the season to test a new product from Valent Bioscience, VectoPrime. This product is a combination of Methoprene and BTI and is meant to control short and long term larval populations. This product was recently registered for use in New Jersey and is available to all county agencies. To start, in early May the OMCC will be coordinating a calibration event using our aerial contractors to ensure we can properly apply the product during the season. This even will be done in coordination with county agencies who have shown an interest in being involved in field trials during the upcoming mosquito season. This calibration will also serve as an opportunity to involve new biologists and county staff who may not have seen an aerial calibration before and give them an opportunity to join in upcoming research projects in the future. During the season, the OMCC will work with multiple counties to find appropriate sites for applications of VectoPrime and measure populations both pre and post application to monitor its effectiveness at controlling local populations. Eric wishes to thank Valent for the opportunity to involve the Commission in this research and looks forward to more of these opportunities in the future.

Another opportunity is for the Commission and mosquito control agencies across the State to work with the CDC in testing local populations of *Aedes albopictus* for susceptibility to the Chikungunya virus. As the Commission knows, Chikungunya has been an increasing risk to public health over the past year after it was first introduced into the Western Hemisphere in late 2013. This potential collaboration will involve county mosquito control agencies collecting *Ae. albopictus* eggs to be sent to the CDC where they will be reared to adults and tested for the ability to carry and transmit the disease. This work will help provide more information on the national risk for Chikungunya transmission along with giving NJ agencies a very detailed picture of the disease capability in their local mosquito populations. Eric Williges is currently in discussion with the CDC to finalize a protocol and find ways to start this project over the upcoming season.

Report from the Technical Advisor –

Airspray program:

Compared to past years, the airspray program saw a very large increase in use during the 2014 season. Overall the program saw very good results across the state, and saw a total of twenty-five applications across the state including the first aerial adulticide in New Jersey in several years. This adulticide application took place in Burlington County in response to a EEE positive horse and EEE positive pool of *Cx. salinarius*.

Total spray time during the 2014 season would have exceeded the contract minimums that will be in place in the coming years. These season long numbers have reduced some of the concerns the Commission had regarding minimum hours in the coming aerial application contracts.

During the summer of 2014 the airspray program utilized 56 hours of flight time using the Air Tractor for treatments, 54 hours of flight time with the Cessna for surveillance, and 49 hours of flight time using the Bell JetRanger for applications.

In total, the airspray program treated 38,000 acres with larvicides in five different counties. These treatments included five treatments in Essex County, three in Morris County, eight in Atlantic County, three in Cumberland County, three in Burlington County and one in Ocean County. In total, 5,100 acres were treated with adulticide in Burlington County.

The airspray program used five products during the summer of 2014: Vectobac 12AS (5,800 pounds), Abate 4E (78.9 gallons), Vectobac GS (6,000 pounds), Abate 5BG (2,128 pounds), and Fyfanon ULV (120.65 gallons).

Helicopter surveillance flights are still ongoing utilizing CDBG funds and are available to any interested counties. Originally we had planned on these flights being completed over the winter before leaves were back on the trees to allow better surveillance of damages, but with the heavy snows and frequent storms this winter the program has been extended throughout the summer as necessary.

The 2015 season saw our first application on April 16th. The program was used to treat an areas in Cumberland County using Abate 5BG. Initial results were very good although we are awaiting firm numbers from the county to confirm these positive results.

The annual Airspray Program meeting took place on April 17th with representatives from all counties who may use the program. This meeting was well attended and saw participation from some new counties who may look to be involved in the program in the future.

A long term goal for the airspray program is to rework the program overall, and clarify what it can and cannot be used for. We have had some requests from coastal counties to utilize the airspray program in upland areas that historically have not been the responsibility of the State. While we wish to use this program to help as many counties as possible we do need to be aware of budget limitations and restrictions. To make this as fair as possible, we will analyze the program and come up with firm best management practices to ensure we use our funding as efficiently as possible.

Biocontrol program:

Since the last meeting, the biocontrol program has stocked over 51,000 fish in seven counties. Fish were stocked in Atlantic, Salem, Middlesex, Monmouth, Gergen, Cumberland, and Warren counties. These stockings consisted of multiple species of fish.

The biocontrol program worked with the Fairton Correctional Institution to overwinter fish as part of their inmate education program. We supplied them with 20,000 *Gambusia affinis* and planned to meet with them in the spring to check on survival of the fish. We did expect a large die-off of fish over

the winter, as this is seen in State hatchery facilities and is considered to be normal. Unfortunately, we have not been able to get a response from the Institution this year. We will continue to try and get in touch, but fear this is a program that will not be continued in the future.

The OMCC is working on a protocol to do an efficacy study using multiple species of mosquito eating fish in conjunction with Middlesex County. The long term goal of this study is to determine which species are most effective at reducing mosquito larval populations. As *Gambusia affinis* is a non-native species, we want to examine the efficacy of native species to see if we can better focus our efforts on using those species which have less restrictions on their use.

The office wrote and updated guidance document for fish use to be sent to the county programs. Several counties had reached out for guidance on how the fish program can or cannot be used, and for clarification on if they can keep *Gambusia affinis* on site for smaller stockings. Specifically this guidance document will deal with storing fish species on site to stock small areas instead of taking fish from the hatchery every time they need to do a stocking. This guidance document will allow counties to keep a small stock pond on secured county property. Fathead minnows, banded killifish, and sunfish can be kept and used as necessary. This use is already allowed. The guidance document will allow for the restricted use of *Gambusia affinis* and keeping small populations on site. Use of *Gambusia affinis* will be restricted to small ornamental ponds and abandoned swimming pools, without prior OMCC approval. The process for site approval by OMCC will remain the same, but this change should make a more convenient program for county agencies. The OMCC will still require counties to inform us when they stock a small ornamental pond or other area with fish so we can keep an accurate count of where and how this program is used. Over the long term, we will need to update our fish stocking protocol to reflect changing needs and requests from county agencies. The OMCC is going to request counties to be more conscious of the use of hatchery equipment.

After discussion between the OMCC and the Department of Agriculture's Beneficial Insect Program, we will be discontinuing the copepod rearing program. Both the OMCC and the BIL feel this was a very productive program, and the Commission thanks the Beneficial Insect Lab for all the work they have done over the years. This program was very successful in showing that native species of copepods can be reared in a laboratory setting and can be efficient predators of mosquito larvae in certain limited areas. The Commission looks forward to continuing the relationship between our offices in the future as new opportunities may come up, and again thanks the BIL for all the work they have done over the years with this program.

Equipment Use program:

The office has received all of the 2015 equipment use packages back from county and other agencies, and they are being signed by Assistant Commissioner Boornazian. Steve Csorgo has started to put together equipment use agreements for FY16 to be done as soon as possible. Several counties have mentioned that their freeholder or other boards want to officially approve these agreements and so the office is trying to give them more lead time to get these approvals.

Steve Csorgo has visited Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties for equipment inspections. He will be increasing these inspections during the summer months and taking

Joe and Mary along with him when possible to show them the range of equipment owned by the Commission and how it is used.

Arbovirus surveillance program:

In total during the 2014 summer 7,803 pools of mosquitoes were tested for WNV and other viruses, with submissions from all counties. Out of those pools, 658 were found to be positive for WNV. The overwhelming majority of positive pools were in *Culex* species mosquitoes, although there was an increase in positive results among *Ae. albopictus* samples.

Eastern Equine encephalitis testing resulted in fifty positive mosquito pools from eight counties. One of these pools was of *Cx. salinarius* while the rest were *Cs. melanura*. The positive *Cx. salinarius* pool was in close proximity to a EEE positive horse in Burlington County and as discussed previously did result in an aerial adulticide application to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

Testing for Chikungunya and Dengue took place this season using CDBG grant funding obtained by the Department of Health. In total 602 pools of *Ae. albopictus* were tested from 17 counties across the state. There were no positive results found for either virus. County mosquito control agencies have expressed an interest in continuing this testing next year and we are in discussions with DOH to best continue this program.

Testing for LaCrosse virus resulted in 82 pools being submitted from three counties with no positive test results. Testing for St Louis encephalitis resulted in 185 pools being submitted from four counties with no positive test results. As there has been limited support and interest in testing for these diseases, and in the interest of using our limited budget as efficiently as possible, the Commission will not fund testing for these diseases next year. The OMCC will work with the Vectorborne disease working group and Department of Health to ensure we retain the capability to test for these diseases in case of a public health emergency. Our groups will work together with surrounding states and if there is an outbreak of disease along our borders we may attempt to increase mosquito surveillance and testing.

Across the state, there were five EEE positive horses during the 2014 season. The first test of 2015 was reported on April 8th, we are waiting for results.

Water management:

After a long process working together with the NJDEP Land Use Division, our office has come to an agreement to rework the GP15 permit. This permit is specific to mosquito control use, and gives much more freedom in the types of work that can be done by a county agency. Historically, the permit was site specific and required five years of data to be obtained by a county before applying for the permit. We have reworked this permit to be a blanket permit available to any county mosquito control agency. Mosquito data requirements have been changed to be site specific and reflect populations over the course of 3-6 months previous to the permit application. Many thanks to Joe Corleto for working closely with Land Use and several counties to fine tune this permit process. As the process continues and projects are started around the state, the OMCC will have Joe Corleto present some of this work to the Commission to give a better idea the types of work that will be allowed and how this process can help mosquito control programs across the state.

A long term goal of the OMCC is to rework the Best Management Practices for Mosquito Control water management projects. These BMP's were written many years ago, and in some cases do not reflect new practices and the best available techniques. This will be a long term project requiring active input from County mosquito control agencies, the OMCC, and other divisions inside of NJDEP. We will focus on making the best BMP giving the most flexibility to County mosquito control agencies while maintaining the high standards of work currently done by counties.

Committee Reports –

Chairman Sarnas started a discussion on the purpose and function of the committees in the Commission. As the Commission is currently down two public members, it is felt that naming specific committees may be counter-productive and involve all of the same people. It was left to future discussion to decide if there is a better way to handle specific issues that a committee may have in the past, or if the duties of the Commission can be handled without specific committees meeting monthly. Eric Williges reported that he has continued to reach out to the Governors office regarding the appointment of new public members to reduce the burden on current Commissioners and ensure the Commission can function as smoothly as possible but there has been no firm action as of yet. Eric wishes to again thank the current Commissioners for all the work they do and time they give to making sure the Commission can function as efficiently as possible.

Equipment Committee –

As reported in correspondence, Atlantic County needed to start an emergency repair to the John Deere amphibious excavator. The costs are unknown but the County will keep the Commission updated as work continues.

Sussex County did a repair of their state owned Revco freezer at a cost of \$1700.00. Eric Williges will reach out to the county and start the process of reimbursing the county for those repairs.

Cumberland County has reached out multiple times to rebuild and do general maintenance on their Commission owned Kobelco excavator. As the Commission has been unable to meet to officially approve this work, Eric Williges approved the repairs and they are ongoing. The projected cost is approximately \$33,500. Cumberland County has also asked the Commission to purchase a Caterpillar mini-excavator at a cost of \$82,000. Eric will reach out to Heather Lomberg for more details on this potential purchase and projects that this would help.

Hudson County has asked recently about their outstanding request for the Commission to purchase a SenseFly eBee Ag UAV. Eric Williges has asked Dr. Williams to update the pricing on his request and work up a more formal idea of how this may be shared between counties. Dr. Williams has offered to work with any county that would want to use the UAV at their convenience. The equipment would be based in Hudson County but available to any interested counties.

Legislative Committee –

Eric Williges reported that the State Legislature did pass, and Governor Christie signed Senate Bill No. 2115, authorizing counties to establish a mosquito control reserve fund. This bill was supported by the NJ Association of Counties and mosquito control agencies across the state. This bill allows a county to hold in reserve any unexpended funds from a fiscal year to be used in a future year expressly for the purposes of mosquito control. As of yet no counties have established a reserve fund although it is hoped that there will not be any issues in getting this process started when a county is interested.

Research and Development –

Eric Williges received proposals from Rutgers for three 2015-2016 projects; “An Adult Mosquito Surveillance Program” at a projected cost of \$42,492, “Surveillance for the Mosquito Vectors of Arboviruses in New Jersey” at a projected cost of \$40,490, and “Surveillance Data Standardization and Assurance Pilot” at a projected cost of \$40,442. The first two proposals are a continuation of ongoing work that the Commission has supported at Rutgers on a long term basis. The Data Standardization project has been proposed for multiple years and has strong support from all county agencies and would finish a previously funded project. Eric Williges strongly supports starting the Data Standardization project, and will move update the Commission before the next meeting on more specifics. The Commissioners voted to approve funding for the first two projects and Eric will start the funding process as soon as possible.

Report from the New Jersey Department of Health –

Krista Reale reported for Shereen Semple. The Vector Borne disease working group has met recently, and will be meeting on a bi-monthly basis in the future. In months the full group does not meet, there will be subcommittee meetings to work more closely on specific issues. These subcommittees are: Endemic Viruses, Novel Viruses, Tick-borne Diseases, and Logistics. The department is also looking to fill gaps in the membership of the VBDWG and is open to any suggestions. Please contact Shereen or Krista with any names of appropriate people to serve as new members.

The Department is working to finalize their report on arbovirus activity during 2014. Bird testing for the 2015 season will start on April 15th; the Department is currently updating their reporting forms and will give these updates to local health departments as they are finished. The Department will continue testing mosquito samples for Chikungunya and Dengue through the 2015 season using CDBG funding as was done last year.

Report from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture –

Mr. Mayer reported that copepod rearing is continuing through the end of the fiscal year as previously discussed. Any counties that are interested in obtaining any copepods can reach out to the Department or OMCC to schedule a pickup. The Department is trying to get approval to hire a new research scientist in the near future.

The Gypsy Moth treatment program is ongoing; this year will see four treatment blocks of a total of 280 acres in Passaic and Morris counties. There are gypsy moth populations in other areas of the state and surrounding states so the program will continue surveillance over the course of the year.

The Department is starting a bee survey across the state to examine overwintering and season mortality in beekeeper populations. This will be an ongoing project to look at local populations and beekeeper practices as they relate to mortality.

Report from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station –

Dr. Robson reported for the Agricultural Experiment Station. On behalf of the Station, and Commission, Dr Robson extends our deepest sympathy to Dr. Wayne Crans, and the entire Crans family, on the passing of his wife Alice Crans.

Dr. Robson reported that the Rutgers has been busy in general as the semester comes to a close. Dr. Robson also reported that the School of Public Health has brought on a new Dean, Dr. Jasjit S. Ahluwalia. Dr. Ahluwalia comes to Rutgers from the Medical School of Minnesota and is very excited to be coming to Rutgers and looks forward to future opportunities in public health and other ways to collaborate with different groups across the state.

Scott Crans reported that he ran a mosquito biology course in January, with 22 students enrolled. The mosquito habitat identification course is currently running now and will continue through May. Scott is taking students to different areas across the state, and so far has found lower than normal populations in many areas. The final portion of the mosquito certification course will be the laboratory identification portion which is scheduled for the first week in June.

Scott ran a training course at the Essex County Division of Environmental Services offices in Cedar Grove, to train new employees from a few counties to help them pass their pesticide applicator license tests. This was well attended with 15 people from multiple counties, and Scott felt it went very well overall.

Scott gave a presentation at the NJMCA training session, and also presented at the Pennsylvania Vector Control Association annual meeting along with the American Mosquito Control Association meeting.

Dr. Reed reported that she gave a presentation at the NJMCA meeting in Atlantic City with a final season report of the mosquito populations and arbovirus testing during the 2014 mosquito season. She is working with the VBDWG and OMCC to determine appropriate start times for mosquito and other species testing for viruses this summer. After discussion among the VBDWG, the group decided that this year we will not be testing mosquito samples for St Louis encephalitis or LaCrosse virus. Dr. Reed did submit a final report to the Commission, and the Commission thanks her for the work done during the season to keep counties updated and produce timely reports of virus and general mosquito population across the state.

Report from the Associate Executives of Mosquito Control in New Jersey –

Teresa Duckworth reported that the Associated Executives met in January and the next meeting will be scheduled for May 6th at the Monmouth County Mosquito Control Department. Tony Petrongolo will be presented with the Jessie B Leslie award recognizing him for his long service on the Commission

and for continuing to run the OMCC on a daily basis while the hiring process for a new administrator was ongoing.

New Business –

Mr. Emerson brought up a potential issue that took place in Bordentown Township over the summer. The township declined to allow the county program to utilize temephos as a larvicide to be applied aerially in the township. Mr. Williges talked to the county program and offered the Commissions support, however the county did not feel that was necessary at this time. A discussion took place among the Commission however there was no need for an official response at this time.

Mr. Williges gave a brief overview of issues with arbovirus testing as currently proposed by the Department of Health Public Health and Environmental Laboratory. Mr. Williges will continue to talk with PHEL and come to a decision as soon as possible as the summer is approaching rapidly and the Commission needs to have an arbovirus surveillance program in place. Mr. Williges will update the Commission at the next meeting with any new developments.

Mr. Shivery moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.