

**MINUTES OF THE 472nd MEETING
OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
HELD AT THE RUTGERS CENTER FOR VECTOR BIOLOGY, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ**

May 19th 2015

Members Present – Chairman Sarnas, Vice-Chairman Emerson, Mr. Shivery, Dr. Robson, Ms. Semple, Mr. Mayer

Others Present – Dr. Lisa Reed, Scott Crans, Eric Williges, Michael Schuit, Dr. Roy Meyer, Dr. Dina Fonseca

Call to Order – Chairman Sarnas called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Roll Call –

Chairman Sarnas – present

Vice-Chairman Emerson - present

Mr. Shivery - present

Mr. Surmay - absent

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

Ms. Semple (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) - absent

Open Public Meeting Announcement –

Secretary Eric Williges reported that on May 11th 2015 the Secretary of State was sent an announcement for the May 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 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Press Office and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Office of Communication and Legislation in compliance with P.L. 1975, c. 231.

Approval of minutes –

A discussion was held on needed changes to the minutes from April 21st, 2015 and of appropriate way to report preliminary data and information. After this discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Mayer, seconded by Commissioner Shivery to approve the amended minutes from the April 21st 2015 meeting of the Commission. Motion passed.

Correspondence –

May 1st, 2015 – Eric Williges received a letter from Dr. Deepak Mathada, Superintendent of the Middlesex County Mosquito Control Commission, thanking the State Mosquito Control Commission and Office of Mosquito Control Coordination for facilitating aerial surveillance of SuperStorm Sandy affected areas.

May 6th, 2015 – Eric Williges received a letter from Marion Glinsman regarding flooding and excess water in the area of her home. This letter was not directly sent to the State Mosquito Control Commission and the Commission does not feel it necessary to have a direct response.

Financial Statement –

The financial report was given by Eric Williges. Major expenses for the month were in support of the State Airspray program, with \$106,963 spent on surveillance and treatment of mosquito habitats in counties involved in the airspray program. Overall Commission finances remain in good shape and projecting potential costs thru the end of FY15 the Commission's budget should be sufficient for all needed services. A discussion was held on future budgetary issues and ways the Commission can be as efficient as possible in utilizing available funds. Dr. Robson and Scott Crans presented an overview of a proposal to the Commission for FY16 to help County mosquito control agencies analyze their operations and suggest ways to increase their efficacy on a local level. Commissioner Mayer made a motion to accept the financial statement, seconded by Commissioner Shivery. Motion passed.

Report from the Secretary –

On May 5th, OMCC personnel along with personnel from the Atlantic, Cumberland, and Burlington County mosquito control agencies conducted an aerial calibration using a VectoPrime, new mosquito larvicide that will be available in the near future. This calibration was done in collaboration with Downtown Aero Crop services, Helicopter Applicators, and Valent Biosciences. The calibration was a success, and showed that this new product can be successfully applied at low application rates using the equipment available to the Commission for our airspray program. The Office of Mosquito Control Coordination thanked all who participated in the event, without their time and efforts we would not have been able to complete this calibration.

The OMCC will continue working with Atlantic, Burlington, and Ocean County mosquito control agencies to find suitable sites for field application trials using VectoPrime later in the summer.

Eric Williges is currently working with the NJDEP's Office of Information Technology to clarify how the OMCC can update the SMCC minutes online, and on a general refresh of information on the SMCC website.

Mosquito Control Awareness week is coming up at the end of June, Eric Williges will work to refresh the site before then along with potentially creating an article supporting mosquito control awareness week.

After an update from the State Office of Information Technology is that the West Nile virus surveillance system will be operation through the summer. This will ease the burden on County and State agencies while OMCC works to create a replacement system. The OMCC thanked the State Office of Information Technology for the hard work they have done keeping this system operation while facing many challenges and issues arising from its continued use.

The OMCC continues to work to have current Commissioners reappointed to the State Mosquito Control Commission along with filling vacancies on the commission. Eric Williges

Report from the Technical Advisor –

Airspray program: There have been four aerial applications to control larval mosquito populations since the last meeting. April 24th, an application took place in Morris County. April 27-28 an application took place in Essex County. April 27th, an application took place in Cape May County.

There have been three aerial surveillance flights since the last meeting. April 27th, a surveillance flight was done in Middlesex County. On April 28th, and surveillance flight was done in Salem County. On May 1st, a surveillance flight was done in Morris County. These surveillance flights were supported by SuperStorm Sandy grant funding.

Biocontrol program: Since the last meeting, 51,000 fish were stocked at locations across the State. Five counties utilized this program during the month will positive results reported from all.

After a discussion with the hatchery, fish stocking will be on hold for the near future while populations increase to higher levels. This is a normal part of the biocontrol program, and fish will be available for use in larval control later in the summer.

The OMCC will send a letter to all county mosquito control agencies clarifying the use of available fish species as a biocontrol method.

Over the course of the summer and through the future, the OMCC is planning to revisit all previously approved fish stocking sites with counties to determine if they are still appropriate and streamline the process.

The NJ Department of Agriculture's Beneficial Insects Laboratory has completed the Standard Operating Procedure document for copepod rearing and will be providing this to OMCC soon. The OMCC will keep this document for future reference and to provide to county programs if requested.

Equipment Use program: Steve Csorgo is working the county mosquito control agencies to set up site visits and inspections for all SMCC owned and provided equipment over the next few months.

An approved repair was done to the Revco freezer provided to the Sussex county mosquito control agency, and OMCC is in the process of reimbursing Sussex County for the work they did.

The Revco freezer assigned to the Department of Agriculture also is in need of repair. This repair was approved and OMCC will keep the Commission informed as this repair moves forward.

A discussion took place regarding the status of State owned Revco freezer assigned to the county mosquito control agencies. As many freezers continue to be repaired, the OMCC will investigate the potential benefits of replacing older equipment instead of making repairs.

A discussion was held regarding the request from Hudson County mosquito control for the SMCC to purchase a senseFly eBee for use in mosquito control. Further detail was reported to the Commission from conversations between Eric Williges and Dr. Williams who made the request explaining how this would work. Dr. Williams proposes that if purchased the equipment would be housed with Hudson County mosquito control and he will make it available to any interested counties. This would involve scheduling a flight with any county and provided imagery to them afterwards. This proposal will be brought up as new business.

Arbovirus surveillance program:

No arboviral surveillance of mosquito populations has been done yet this year. After discussion with the Department of Health's Public Health and Environmental laboratory on multiple fronts, we have come to an agreement between the OMCC and PHEL that will best serve the interests of public health across the State and allow for the most efficient testing of mosquito samples collected by each county agency. Testing is expected to start in early June and proceed as normal while contracts between our agencies are finalized.

Report from the New Jersey Department of Health –

Commissioner Semple reported for the Department of Health. With support from the Department of Health, local health departments have started submitting birds to PHEL for WNV testing as is regularly done each summer. There was a vector borne disease working group held this month in Hunterdon County that was well attended. The next regularly scheduled meeting will take place in June at a location to be determined.

Report from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture –

Commissioner Mayer reported for the Department of Agriculture. As previously discussed, the copepod rearing program will be stopping at the end of FY15. The gypsy moth treatment program should be completed soon and will have treated 260 acres in total. There was a survey of beekeepers statewide regarding Varroa mites and colony losses. Beekeepers that did not treat for Varroa mites saw an average of 49% loss in colonies while beekeepers that did treat saw an average colony loss of 25%.

Report from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station –

Dr. Robson reported for the Agricultural Experiment Station. There was a short discussion on beekeepers and potential reasons for colony losses, and how that may relate to mosquito control issues. Dr. Robson reported that he has been in discussion with Eric Williges in a potential future proposal to the SMCC for a graduate student to continue mosquito control research across the state.

Dr. Lisa Reed reported that she is getting information from county mosquito control agencies on local mosquito populations as measured in light traps and she is creating weekly reports of this data. As arbovirus testing starts she will create weekly reports as well.

Scott Crans reported that the mosquito habitat identification class is ending, and the identification portion of the course will be starting in the first week of June. There will be a biologists meeting held next week.

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

While there was no official representative from the AEMCNJ present, Vice-Chairman Emerson did attend the last meeting and gave a brief report. Tony Petrongolo, who took on the duties of running the OMCC and coordinating SMCC meetings while there was a search to replace staff in OMCC, was given an award by the Associated Executives recognizing him for the valuable service he provided.

Also, there was very positive feedback from a number of county agencies regarding the information provided to them from the Department of Health relating to human cases of mosquito transmitted diseases across the state. This information is helpful to all counties and allows them to better target their surveillance and control programs to areas of highest concern. The counties appreciate the close relationship the counties, OMCC, and DOH are building and look forward to continuing this in the future.

Old Business –

There was no old business to report.

New Business –

A motion was made by Commissioner Semple, and seconded by Vice-Chairman Emerson to enter a closed session for discussion of multiple topics. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Emerson and seconded by Commissioner Semple to leave closed session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Semple to approve the Hudson County Mosquito Control request to purchase a senseFly eBee. Vice-Chairman Emerson seconded the motion. Motion was passed with Chairman Sarnas abstaining. Mr. Williges will work with Hudson County to purchase this equipment and have it assigned to them.

Commissioner Semple made a motion to close the meeting, with Commissioner Shivery seconding. The meeting was adjourned.