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STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD

**EAST MIDDLESEX MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT  
SUFFOLK COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT**

11 Sun Street, Waltham, MA 02453-4101  
Phone: 781-899-5730  
<https://sudbury.ma.us/emmcp/>  
[emmcp.ma@verizon.net](mailto:emmcp.ma@verizon.net)

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**East Middlesex Mosquito Control Commission, Executive Committee  
Suffolk County Mosquito Control Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

**January 18, 2024  
Zoom Video Conferencing Platform**

In attendance:

Brian Farless, Superintendent for East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) and Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project (SCMCP). David Henley, Administrative Coordinator for EMMCP and SCMCP. Representing the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Commission (EMMCC) is Lenny Izzo, chair, Wellesley; Christine Mathis, Burlington; Wendy Robinson, Cambridge and Sabrina Firicano, Everett. Representing the Suffolk County Mosquito Control Commission (SCMCC) is Julien Farland, Leslie Karnes and Sam Lipson.

Brian Farless called the meeting to order at 1:13

**1. EMMCC and SCMCC to review and approve minutes from the June 6, 2023 meeting.**

The Commissions reviewed the minutes and had no changes or comments.

For East Middlesex, Wendy Robinson made a motion to approve the June 6, 2023 minutes. Lenny Izzo seconded. No further discussion and by roll call vote, all were in favor.

For Suffolk County, Leslie Karnes made a motion to approve the June 6, 2023 meeting minutes. Sam seconded. No further discussion and by roll call vote, all were in favor.

**2. Operational updates.**

Mosquito populations ramped up during the last week of June and were high throughout all of July. There were a handful of species that had record, or close to record years.

Due of lack of applicants for the seasonal positions, both East Middlesex and Suffolk County were understaffed for the summer.

SCMCP employees completed 17,892 catch basins in Boston and Chelsea. There were 157 mosquito pools submitted to the Department of Public Health (DPH), and 19 of those pools tested positive for West Nile virus. Zero pools tested positive for EEE. There were no confirmed human cases of WNV or EEE during 2023 in the district.

EMMCP employees completed 70,586 catch basins. 233 mosquito pools were submitted to DPH, 19 of them tested positive for WNV, and zero tested positive for EEE. There was one person diagnosed with WNV in the district and zero with EEE.

*Aedes albopictus* continues to spread within the EMMCP and SCMCP districts. The summer of 2023 was wet. With frequent rain events keeping artificial containers full of water, *Aedes albopictus* likely had the opportunity to spread.

EMMCP is waiting for a grant to be approved, and then they will buy a new electric vehicle. Last fall, SCMCP received a 2023 Chevy Bolt EV through the state's lease program. After a couple of additional upgrades, both district's fleets will be in decent shape.

Leases – Both EMMCP and SCMCP's leases have been year to year for a while now and the leasing office is now requiring a longer lease, therefore both district's office space had to go out to bid. The Suffolk County Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted with a deadline of December 14, 2023. The East Middlesex RFP has been posted and has a deadline of February 8.

**3. EMMCC and SCMCC – consideration of extending the MOA between East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project and Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project, making valid through December 31, 2024. Approve Superintendent Brian Farless to sign the amendment.**

Both commissions reviewed the MOA and wanted to make one change. In the third 'WHEREAS:' on the first page that says 'addressing the elimination of the position', the commissions want to change 'elimination' to 'vacancy'. With that change, it now reads 'addressing the vacancy of the position'.

With the change, Wendy Robinson from EMMCC made a motion to approve the updated MOA and for Superintendent Brian Farless to sign the amendment. Lenny Izzo seconded and by roll call vote, all were in favor.

With the change, Sam Lipson from EMMCC made a motion to approve the updated MOA and for Superintendent Brian Farless to sign the amendment. Leslie Karnes seconded and by roll call vote, all were in favor.

**4. Step raise for eligible employees.**

Brian presented that there are two employees eligible for step raises for East Middlesex.

Cam Kelley moved to Skilled Equipment Operator Grade 2, Step 4 on 2/17/2023. Cam has been doing a good job and really stepped this past year helping with catch basin applications. We didn't have many people apply for the seasonal positions this year so we needed all the help we could get. Cam has also been doing a good job learning how to operate the excavator. Brian recommended that Cam be moved to Step 5 as of 2/17/2024.

Doug Bidlack moved to Entomologist, Step 7 on 2/6/2023. Doug has been East Middlesex's Entomologist since 2000 and has been an asset. Brian recommended that Doug be moved to Step 8 as of 2/6/2024.

After the East Middlesex Commission discussed, the Commissions decided to grant Cam Kelley and Doug Bidlack a step raise.

Christine Mathis made a motion to move Doug Bidlack to Entomologist, Step 8 as of 2/6/2024. Wendy Robinson seconded. There was no further discussion and all were in favor.

Wendy Robinson made a motion to move Cam Kelley to Skilled Equipment Operator, Grade 2, Step 5 as of 2/17/2024. Christine Mathis seconded. There was no further discussion and all were in favor.

## **5. Approve seasonal positions.**

For EMMCP, Brian requested 7 seasonal employees for the 2024 season (6 seasonal employees for catch basin applications and 1 to assist the Entomologist).

For SCMCP, Brian requested 4 seasonal employees for catch basin applications.

During 2023, a seasonal employee with a catch basin applicator's permit earned \$19/hr, and a seasonal employee with a pesticide license earned \$20/hr. After commission discussed the 2024 wages, they decided to pay seasonal employees \$20/hr for a catch basin applicator's permit, and \$21/hr for a pesticide license.

For East Middlesex, Lenny Izzo made a motion to approve to hire 7 seasonal employees (6 Field Technicians and 1 Assistant Entomologist) for the 2024 season. Employees with a catch basin permit will earn \$20/hr, and employees with a pesticide license will earn \$21/hr. Christine Mathis seconded. There was no further discussion and by roll call vote, all were in favor.

For Suffolk County, Sam Lipson made a motion to approve to hire 4 Seasonal Field Technicians for the 2024 season. Employees with a catch basin permit will earn \$20/hr, and employees with a pesticide license will earn \$21/hr. Leslie Karnes seconded. There was no further discussion and by roll call vote, all were in favor.

## **6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:29. The East Middlesex Commission didn't have a quorum. For Suffolk County, Sam Lipson made a motion to adjourn, Leslie seconded and by roll call vote, all were in favor.