

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

**January 27, 2022**

**Zoom Video Conferencing Platform**

In attendance:

Brian Farless, Superintendent for East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) and Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project (SCMCP) and David Henley, Administrative Coordinator for EMMCP and SCMCP. Representing the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Commission (EMMCC) is Lenny Izzo, chair, Wellesley; Heidi Porter, Bedford; Roland Lankah, Brookline. Representing the Suffolk County Mosquito Control Commission is Chris Busch, Julien Farland, Leslie Karnes and Sam Lipson.

**1. Call to order**

Brian Farless called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M.

**2. EMMCC review and approve minutes from the July 13, 2021 meeting.**

Heidi Porter motioned to approve the minutes. Lenny Izzo seconded, all were in favor.

**3. EMMCC and SCMCC to consider extending the MOA between SCMCP and EMMCP, making valid through December 31, 2022. Approve Superintendent Brian Farless to sign the amendment.**

EMMCC – Heidi motioned to extend the MOA and approve Brian to sign. Lenny seconded, all were in favor

SCMCC – Sam motioned to extend to MOA and approve Brian to sign. Leslie seconded, all were in favor.

**4. Operational update.**

**2021 mosquito season -**

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2021 was the 3rd warmest (+4.0 F above the 1895 to 1983 mean) and the 11th wettest (+11.97" above the 1895 to 1983 mean) year through November in Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Precipitation was up and down but generally average from Fall of 2020 through June of 2021 and exceptionally high from July through October of 2021. The weather from April through September, when mosquitoes are most active during the year, was particularly hot (2nd hottest) and wet (2nd wettest). Mosquito numbers were generally average to above average in May and June and very high from July through September. The abundant rainfall during the warmer months led to especially high numbers of summer floodwater mosquitoes like *Aedes vexans*, *Ochlerotatus trivittatus/sticticus* and *Psorophora ferox*. The number of summer floodplain mosquitoes produced in 2021 even exceeded those from 1989 which was our previous record year.

A record ten mosquito species reached their greatest abundance in 2021 at EMMCP.

#### Operations –

The East Middlesex field staff have been doing a lot of ditch maintenance by hand. There are a couple of excavator jobs lined up and we're just waiting on a couple of pieces to fall into place before the work can begin. Both East Middlesex and Suffolk County had a successful catch basin application season during 2021. Suffolk County has been collecting tires for recycling but until a couple of weeks ago, didn't have a place to take them for recycle. We now have a new vendor to use.

#### Finances –

##### EMMCP

FY21 \$821,496.07, supplemental \$24,650; FY22 \$833,587.94. Rollover into FY22 is \$201,031.50. The large rollover is due to a couple of items. 1) During 2019 due to EEE, the state received emergency funding and the mosquito control districts were reimbursed for the work done in September. 2) The 2021 aerial helicopter larvicide operation was canceled due to weather and the helicopter company not being available to do the work. 3) There has been some position vacancies over the past 3 years.

##### SCMCP

FY21 and FY22 is \$289,860.16. The FY23 request will be a level fund request. Rollover into FY22 was \$101,302.12. The large amount stems from having empty positions over the last couple of years. The field supervisor position was empty for a couple of chunks of time, adding up to a year or so. Sean Wilson started in this position during August 2021 and has been doing a great job. We had trouble filling the seasonal positions this past year. We ended up having one employee start about a month late and then another employee start a couple of weeks after that. Both employees left early to go back to college.

#### **5. Seasonal Positions**

During the 2021 season, seasonal staff earned \$16.69/hr with an Applicators License and \$16.03 with a Catch Basin Permit.

Being that wages are increasing in most industries, and the fact that both East Middlesex and Suffolk had limited people apply during 2021, the commissions decided to raise the seasonal rates. For 2022, a contracted seasonal employee with a Pesticide Applicator's (Core) license will earn \$19.00/hr. An employee with a Catch Basin Permit will earn \$18.00/hr.

For EMMCC, Heidi made a motion to approve \$19.00/hr for a contracted seasonal employee with a Pesticide Applicator's (Core) license, and \$18.00/hr for a contracted seasonal employee with a Catch Basin Permit. Lenny seconded, all were in favor.

For SCMCC, Sam made a motion to approve \$19.00/hr for a contracted seasonal employee with a Pesticide Applicator's (Core) license, and \$18.00/hr for a contracted seasonal employee with a Catch Basin Permit. Julien seconded, all were in favor.

## **6. COLA and step increases for eligible employees.**

After increasing the contracted seasonal employee rates, a discussion took place questioning if the entire Employment and Salary Plan needs to be updated. The commissions agreed that a larger discussion needs to take place and that the Employment and Salary Plan needs to be updated. This agenda item will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **7. Update on the Mosquito Control for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Task Force.**

Brian gave an update on the Task Force. Draft Recommendations have been posted to the Task Force website and the final recommendations have to be presented to legislature by March 31, 2022. There is a public listening session on February 10 from 4:00-6:00 PM.

Heidi Porter gave an update on the Policy Structure subcommittee. The current draft recommendations are as follows: 1) Repeal and replace OR revise MGL C. 252 and enabling MCD/MCP legislations 2) Amend the MA Stormwater Handbook 3) Revise the structure, function, and funding of MCDs to ensure a comprehensive and cohesive framework for mosquito control across MA and to potentially allow for towns to join MCDs at lower costs. 4) Establish baseline mosquito control services and allow people/member towns to add services as they wish/as needed.

## **8. Adjournment**

SCMCC – Julien made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded, all were in favor.

EMMCC – Lenny made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roland seconded, all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 P.M.