

Approved July 21, 2011

Town of Litchfield

Mosquito Control District

May 19, 2011

The Mosquito Control District held a meeting at 7:00PM in the Town Hall conference room.

Roll Call:

John Latsha, Vice Chairman
John Poulos, Chairman
Alfred Raccio

Pledge of Allegiance

All rose for the pledge of allegiance

Public Input

There was no public input

Representatives from the Town's MCD-contracted mosquito control company Municipal Pest Management Services (MPMS) were present. Mr. Michael Morrison and Ms. Kimberly Foss gave an overview of the 2011 surveillance and collection dates, mosquito trap descriptions and informational web links. Ms. Foss walked through MPMS-recommended communication to Fire, Police and residents concerning the presence of mosquito traps in town. Some traps will emit a "smoke" caused by decaying vegetation used to "bait" the traps and this has caused serious reactions of safety personnel in other towns when reported. Ms. Foss recommended that this information be disseminated to local authorities and be made available to the general public so as to prevent such reaction in Litchfield

Ms. Foss then informed us that they were using the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station for EEE and WNV testing in addition to any testing done by NH state labs. While the test results will not be communicated to us until late of after the season, this CDC/New England Mosquito Control/MPMS collaborative effort can help to adjust scheduling, testing and treatment outcomes in the future.

Trap locations were discussed and it was noted that the traps at Funway Park (Mel's) and at Town Hall were moved. Treatments at Mel's caused the trap to be moved because fewer mosquitoes were being trapped and the recent thinning of trees at Town Hall caused that trap to be moved. The rationale for trap locations was discussed. Mr. Latsha recommended that pictures of the traps be made available on local cable TV. Mr. Poulos stated that he would pursue that possibility while noting that Litchfield had never had any problems with traps.

Testing will be done in 2 phases this year. In Phase 1 from July 1 to July 31, five species will be tested while in Phase 2, August 1 through September 30, five more species will be included in testing. Phase 2 will start earlier if a NH case of EEE or WNV is detected earlier.

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Mr. Morrison gave us an overview of a company newsletter that MPMS is putting together. Mr. Raccio asked if they would provide us with a release so that we could reuse the contents of that newsletter as we see fit. Mr. Morrison agreed to do so.

Ms. Foss described a monthly progress report that they will provide us that gives us an overview of their activities that month.

Mr. Morrison also stated that they would include information on ticks and Lyme disease for our benefit and use. He would also include other "biological tidbits" occasionally such as noting invasive species.

The MCD then discussed the possibility of having a town-wide information session concerning the activities of MPMS and the results of their trapping. The MCD agreed that this was part of our charter and that we would pursue such a session if and when results of trapping and testing proved positive for EEE or WNV.

Mr. Poulos then brought up the removal from the state budget of reimbursement funds for 2011 and the possibility of the state providing no testing of mosquitoes in 2012 and beyond. It was acknowledged that testing would be done in 2011 but no one knew what would happen going forward. Mr. Poulos stated that he spoke with one of our reps who stated that that money would not be reinstated this year and that the testing budget for 2012 and beyond was "highly unlikely". Mr. Poulos asked if MPMS would pursue another avenue of testing, perhaps through a private lab, if state testing went away. MPMS stated that they would do so and that they had a couple of alternatives already as they have to consider a non-funding of testing every year. In fact, self-testing devices were available today.

Mr. Raccio then spoke to the possibility of storage of samples until surrounding communities showed positive test results. It was agreed that this was a viable approach for up to 6 months of storage. Ms. Foss also suggested that, regardless of what funding is available going forward, one trap should be left in town for statistical reasons so that we can identify increases in vector species based on historical data.

Mr. Morrison suggested that our representatives ask the CDC to send federal money to NH to cover testing because EEE and WNV are already present here. In fact, a horse was diagnosed with EEE last year and their experience shows that it is a short, easy leap from any mammal to a human.

A discussion ensued centered on the impact of the Clean Water Act on mosquito control.

Mr. Raccio then detailed a logical, statistics-based approach to justifying the MCD budget which was agreed by all to be the best approach to use when confronted with budget cuts in the future. Mr. Latscha stated his gratitude to Mr. Raccio for his detailed statements.

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Ms. Foss then spoke to the need for preventative steps and gave an example of a situation where a town discontinued treating after a number of years because samples had diminished precipitously so they could no longer justify the expense. Within one year the testing showed that the numbers had increased almost to pre-treatment levels.

Mr. Poulos stated that he would approach the Recreation Commission to see if they would entertain a presentation by Ms. Foss or Mr. Morrison to detail the dangers our children face with both mosquitoes and with ticks. They agreed to do so and Mr. Poulos stated that he would get back to them after discussions with the Rec. Commission.

The discussion then turned to the application of Agnique, a surface film treatment for use in cattail swamps. This application of a mechanical larvacide was approved last year but didn't take place because there was no water in the cattails last year as it was one of the driest May and June on record. Mr. Raccio then motioned that we authorize the application and it was **approved by a vote of 3-0-0**. Mr. Morrison agreed to sample invertebrates both before and after application so that we could satisfy a concern expressed by the Conservation Committee last year.

Mr. Raccio requested from MPMS the details of amount of Agnique and the square footage of the areas treated so that we can analyze the actual use should the question arise.

The discussion with Mr. Morrison and Ms. Foss then ended.

Mr. Poulos then brought up the approval of meeting minutes. Mr. Raccio motioned that the April 21, 2011 minutes be approved as written. Mr. Poulos seconded and they were **approved 2-0-1** with Mr. Latsha abstaining. Mr. Latsha then motioned for approval of the minutes of March 31, 2011. Mr. Raccio seconded and the minutes were **approved 3-0-0**. Mr. Raccio motioned to approve the meeting minutes of August 19, 2010 and Mr. Latsha seconded. The minutes were **approved 2-0-1** with Mr. Poulos abstaining. Mr. Latsha motioned to approve the December 16, 2010 minutes as written and Mr. Poulos seconded. The minutes were **approved 2-0-1** with Mr. Raccio abstaining.

Mr. Poulos stated that the web site will be updated vis-à-vis meeting minutes and membership very soon.

Mr. Poulos stated that the Town Administrator notified him that the BOS discontinued the BOS/committee liaison last fall. All representation should be funneled through the Town Administrator. Mr. Raccio stated that it was his understanding that other departments had had liaisons appointed but if that wasn't the case, so be it. He would verify his information.

Mr. Poulos then inquired if Mr. Latsha had received a letter from the Town Administrator concerning his re-appointment to the MCD. Mr. Latsha stated that he had not. Mr. Poulos then detailed the process for reinstatement and urged all MCD members to follow the process so as to avoid similar situations in the future. Mr. Raccio stated that this procedure was not the same

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as had been followed in the past but urged Mr. Latsha to get sworn in again. Mr. Raccio then asked for a written procedure from the Town Administrator. Mr. Poulos then stated that this process was not new but that whatever had transpired in the past was not in conformance with the RSA 430:14. Mr. Raccio then asked if the BOS explicitly relinquished to the MCD their authority to appoint or reappoint to the MCD as he recalled happened when he served on the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Raccio then introduced his documentation that showed his appointment terminating July 31, 2011. Mr. Poulos then suggested that Mr. Raccio submit an email or letter to the Town Administrator stating that he wished to continue and the MCD members would recommend his re-appointment. That was, he believed, the procedure to be followed.

Mr. Poulos then stated that he had been in contact with State Representative Lynne Ober who had agreed to introduce legislation this month to change RSA 430:14 to allow for MCD membership of **3 or 5 members**. The rationale is that the MCD is called upon more in summer months and that is coincident with the time that many people are on vacation and not reachable should important decisions need to be made. Mr. Raccio volunteered to testify next winter at the state house should we need to.

It was determined that no additional action items remained from the prior meeting.

Mr. Poulos noted that the approval for the special permit for MPMS was received and will be filed.

Mr. Latsha asked if all the information was submitted to the HLN and Mr. Poulos said yes. Mr. Latsha asked if the cable slides were still being used and Mr. Poulos replied in the affirmative. Mr. Poulos clarified the need for updating some portion of the website and Mr. Raccio agreed.

The next meeting was verified as being on June 16th.

Mr. Raccio motioned for adjournment, Mr. Latsha seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.