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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD  
**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS  
MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT**

111 Otis Street, Northborough, MA 01532-2414  
Telephone (508) 393-3055 • Fax (508) 393-8492  
[www.cmmcp.org](http://www.cmmcp.org)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN  
RICHARD J. DAY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
TIMOTHY D. DESCHAMPS

February 6, 2015

Elizabeth E. Swedberg  
Westminster Board of Health  
11 South St.  
Westminster, MA 01473

Thank you for your inquiry into the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project (the Project). I have enclosed an information packet for your review.

The Project is administered by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRB) located in Boston. The address is Suite 500, 251 Causeway Street, and the phone number is (617) 626 -1715. Membership in the Project is done by a majority vote in either an Annual or Special Town Meeting, or by City Council. The assessment is determined from a formula administered by the State Budget Bureau. It is calculated from a combination of equalized evaluations and land area. This amount is withheld from the State Cherry Sheet assessment; there is no need for the City/Town to send payment to the Project or write out invoices. The approximate assessment for the Town of Westminster for FY/16 is \$74,000 annually. I have asked for a more accurate assessment from SRB and will send that along when I receive it.

Sample language to include in the Town Warrant or for City Council vote would be: *"To see if the City/Town will vote to become a member in the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project for a minimum three year period, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 252, Section 5A and other applicable sections of said law; or take any action relative thereto."*

I would like to give you a brief overview of the services the Project offers: We offer a comprehensive, year-round program of mosquito control in 40 cities and towns in Worcester and Middlesex counties, covering over 720 square miles. The Project was formed in 1973 by an Act of the Massachusetts State Legislature. The Project's goal is to reduce mosquito exposure to the public, and the potential for disease transmission by mosquitoes, by utilizing proven, sound mosquito control techniques. All of the services outlined here are explained in detail at [www.cmmcp.org/services.htm](http://www.cmmcp.org/services.htm).

One basic fact of the mosquito's biology is the dependence on still, stagnant water to complete its life cycle from egg to adult. Currently, there are two basic control methods practiced by the Project to disrupt this process. The first and most permanent method is called *"water management or ditch maintenance"*. This method reduces or eliminates the source of a potential mosquito problem, and consists of cleaning road-side ditches and culverts, removal of brush and accumulated debris from streams, and removal of containers which contain water. All of the above mentioned methods serve to accomplish the same goal - they permit water to flow freely, and reduce the likelihood for stagnant areas, areas in which the mosquito needs to reproduce. Source reduction is practiced year-round, and is done only after extensive examinations, and permission is received by the property owner(s).

There are places where water management is neither practical nor feasible for one reason or another. In these situations, we practice a method called *larviciding*. After a field technician has determined that larval mosquitoes are present, a small amount of environmentally sensitive product is applied to the area according to label directions. This is often a very effective control method, reducing the emergence of the adult mosquito from that area. Larviciding is practiced from late-March to September. *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (aka Bti, a naturally occurring, non-reproducing bacteria) is the product of choice for larviciding in wetlands.

A third method is to attempt to control the adult mosquito. The control of adult mosquitoes is done on a request only basis, and the presence of adult mosquitoes is confirmed before any application is done. Adulticiding can be an effective method of *temporary* control, which can be beneficial prior to public gatherings, outdoor events and festivals, or when mosquito populations have been determined to be intolerable. Since this part of the program is done **only** upon request, this allows the individual resident to have the ultimate discretion on mosquito spraying in their area - how much or how little. Exemptions for spraying are handled through the City/Town Clerk and this office, and are updated each year. Adulticiding is done from approximately Memorial Day to Labor Day, depending on prevalent mosquito populations.

All products used by the Project have been extensively tested by manufacturers, the US government and mosquito control agencies for many years. They are registered by the EPA, and are available to the general public. Labels and fact sheets are available upon request to the public from the Field Technicians, from our office, or downloaded off our website.

We operate a full surveillance program in our service area. The landing rates performed by our field staff are brought back to the Project lab to be keyed out to species, allowing us to tailor our larviciding program and reduce future dependence on adulticides. We have mobile teams of specialized mosquito traps, called *gravid traps*, designed to capture virus-bearing mosquitoes. These mosquito samples, called *pools*, are sent into the MDPH laboratory in Jamaica Plain for testing of West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and other arboviruses of concern by MDPH. These traps are used throughout our service area and collected weekly, and then additional traps are concentrated in areas showing arboviral activity to supplement MDPH's collection protocols. Additional trap types may be utilized in suspect areas to monitor and evaluate the risk of viral transmission to the local populace. Any interventions for arbovirus management are coordinated with local and state officials.

A comprehensive educational program is offered to area schools and civic groups. The program is aimed towards mosquito biology, mosquito habitat, and efforts citizens can undertake to reduce the potential for mosquito populations in their own neighborhood. This program is tailored to suit the requirements of the individual group, from elementary school children, to high school, to adult groups. Each year we reach an average of 1,500 students in our service area. We display at health fairs, environmental events such as Earth Day, etc. We have a program geared towards senior citizens that is a great new resource for the communities we serve. These educational programs were recognized in 2013 with the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education by the Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

While CMMCP is an agency charged with the control of mosquitoes, we strive to check for efficacy of our products and techniques, and whenever possible perform research in new or different areas of mosquito control. With the staffing of a full-time Field Biologist in 2006, we have begun yearly research projects such as pesticide resistance testing, adulticide program efficacy trials, non-target research and many other areas of study. We also have a GIS department up and running.

One new program for us in 2010 is a tire recycling program. Waste tires provide an excellent habitat for larval mosquitoes. Because of their shape and permanent nature they may hold water for long periods of time even during drought periods, providing an excellent environment for mosquito larval development. A single tire can produce hundreds or even thousands of mosquitoes per year. Many of the mosquitoes

that develop in tires and containers such as *Culex pipiens* and *Ochlerotatus japonicus* are competent vectors of West Nile Virus. Work to suppress mosquitoes from tires may consist of weekly visits by technicians to apply larval control pesticides (larvicides) and/or wide scale applications of airborne pesticides to control the adult mosquitoes (adulticiding) that have emerged from the tires. Elimination of tires cleans the environment from this blight and permanently reduces larval habitat and the need for pesticide applications. The program consists of four components:

1. Clean-up of large waste tire dumping sites that we have databased and that require repeated larval control measures;
2. Residential waste tire removal (curb-side);
3. Removal of waste tires discarded on the side of the road; and
4. Coordination with municipal recycle and hazardous waste collection events.

This program is operated at no additional costs to residents or cities and towns, and is funded through a combination of grant monies and our operational budget. To date we have recycled over 10,000 tires in 35 member cities and towns. These tires are brought to a recycling facility in Littleton, MA. This program was recognized with a Bronze Award in 2011 in the Institution & Non-Profit category from MassRecycle, and awarded an Environmental Merit Award from the Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 New England in 2014.

We have started a pilot program in a few communities addressing the issues caused by beavers. We work with Boards of Health and Conservation Commissions under the emergency permitting process, and have breached a few dams, and installed a few water level control devices. CMMCP follows the recommended practices for beaver management per the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Beaver activity will not be interrupted unless it becomes a threat to public health and safety per the Massachusetts Beaver Law M.G.L. c. 131 S. 80A. CMMCP will fully adhere to the permitting process as regulated by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) and the Department of Public Health (DPH).

We operate from a state-of-the-art facility in Northborough, Massachusetts. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. We encourage citizens to phone our office to register mosquito complaints, ask questions and request further investigation of mosquito areas. Tours of the facility can be arranged by calling the office in advance. We have a website at [www.cmmcp.org](http://www.cmmcp.org) which has extensive information about the services we offer to member cities and towns.

I hope this serves to inform you about the Project's operation; please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance to you; I am available to speak to any City/Town Board or other local officials; please call me in advance of these meetings. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,



Timothy D. Deschamps  
Executive Director  
[deschamps@cmmcp.org](mailto:deschamps@cmmcp.org)

Enclosure