

The Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2026, in person at the office of the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission, 2 Furnace Street, Oxford, New Jersey, with remote attendance available through *GoToMeeting*. This meeting was held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.1975.

Superintendent Gruener called the meeting to order at 8:17 AM.

### ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Burke, Chairman	YES
Mr. Summers, Vice-Chairman	YES <small>(remote)</small>
Ms. Greason, Secretary/Treasurer	YES <small>(remote)</small>
Mr. Eriksen	YES
Ms. Cooke-Gibbs	YES <small>(remote)</small>
Dr. Vincent Zaccheo	YES
Ms. Ciesla, County Commissioner	NO

### SALUTE TO THE FLAG

### OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Chairman Burke: Adequate notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by forwarding a schedule of regular meetings of the Warren County Mosquito Commission to the Warren County Clerk, the Warren County Board of Commissioners, The Star Ledger, The Express Times, and by posting a copy thereof on the bulletin board in the office of the Board of Commissioners and the Mosquito Commission. The Warren County Mosquito Commission may take formal action at this meeting. The meeting was announced to include a link and a phone number to join the meeting remotely using a phone, computer, tablet, or smartphone, as well as attending in person. Public participation is encouraged. To ensure full public participation, those individuals with disabilities who wish to attend the meetings were advised to submit any requests for special accommodation one week in advance.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Gruener announced that the annual NJMCA (New Jersey Mosquito Control Association) conference was being held at the Seaview Hotel in Galloway, NJ from March 3- March 6, 2026.


### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Burke stated the Commissioners were provided with minutes from the January 15, 2026, meeting. He asked if there were any corrections or modifications to the minutes. There being none, Commissioner Eriksen made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Zaccheo seconded the motion, and the motion carried with one abstention from Commissioner Cooke-Gibbs.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

### SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORTS

Chairman Burke noted that the January 31, 2026, Budget & Treasurer's Reports were presented at the meeting for approval. Chairman Burke asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Budget & Treasurer's Reports. Ms. Fisher noted that she included a December 31, 2025, budget report page 2. This report is done in the old format and is completed annually as it assists Ms. Fisher with end

  
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of-year year figures. Commissioner Eriksen made a motion to approve the reports. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zaccheo, and the motion carried.

### **SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT**

Ms. Gruener reported that work has continued on the 2025 annual report and it may be done in time for the March Commission meeting. The aerial larviciding bid packet was advertised for a second time and the bid opening occurred on February 11, 2026. Two bids were received and will be discussed under New Business. The Benefits Schedule/Travel Reimbursement Policy was updated to mirror the County of Warren's longevity payment schedule and will be discussed under New Business. The Drug Free Workplace Policy was updated to reflect the County of Warren's revised Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy and will be discussed under New Business. Applications continue to be received for the seasonal positions. The positions were advertised through social media and Ms. Fisher reached out directly to several area colleges. So far, a total of eight applications have been received and five interviews were conducted. More interviews are scheduled and one seasonal employee from last year is returning.

The 2025 Right to Know survey has been completed and submitted. The total number of actual hours worked for all staff and the log of work-related injuries were both completed and submitted to NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development as per OSHA and NJDLWD regulations. The Interim Tick Report was completed and submitted to NJDOH. The annual pesticide records for pesticide treatments done on school property were sent to the pertinent school districts in compliance with the School IPM Act. The data for the NJDEP Pesticide Use Survey was compiled and will be submitted by the March 31, 2026, deadline. The date for the NPS Investigator's Annual Report was compiled and will be submitted by the same date.

The Oxford rain gauge recorded 2.53" of precipitation in January, which is below the ten-year average of 3.4" for that gauge. The state remains abnormally dry. Temperatures for the month of January were 3.7 degrees below the 30-year normal, which made it the coldest January since 2014.

As per Chairman Burke's suggestion, Ms. Gruener researched the REAL (Resilient Environment and Landscapes) rules adopted by the NJDEP on January 20, 2026. Although there have been significant changes to the Freshwater Wetland Protection Act, the Flood Hazard Area Rules, the Coastal Zone Management, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Rules, and the Stormwater Management Rule it actually appears that it will not have a restrictive effect on water management activities for the commission. The only direct changes discovered so far is that stream de-snagging would now be considered an exempt activity and would not be covered under Permit-by-rule as long as certain conditions were maintained. The conditions are the same as those previously met with Permit-by-rule. It doesn't appear that it will change projects under our other permits.

Sixty-two UAS flight plans are completed and ready to go for the Mavic to map the Morris Canal sites. Static flow calibrations were completed on the Hyllo with the new spreader using P-35. The larval inspections routes are being revised along with their respective indices to include an address for each sites. The ArcOnline and FieldSeeker accounts were updated as well as the iPads in order to test the new FieldSeeker app and make needed revision to the offline map and associated pop-ups.

Ms. Giordano participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual STEM Alumni Showcase at Warren Hills Regional High School where she served as a panelist to discuss secondary education, degrees, internships, and job opportunities with current high school students. "Tick and Seek" molds were created from resin for public education. Several tick pages were created and added to the website. Several other revisions were made to the website, to make the new Legal Notices page more user friendly. A social media calendar was created. Mosquito and tick presentations were given to four fourth grade classes at Great Meadows Middle School and to one fourth grade class at Oxford Elementary School.

  
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The 2025 tick surveillance data was shared with our partners (Johnsonburg Swamp Preserve, Merrill Creek Reservoir, and Frelinghuysen Forest Preserve). All 6-volt and 12-volt batteries were tested and spent batteries were removed. Eighteen training events were attended by staff throughout the previous month, including a public communication class being offered by Cornell University and the Northeast Aerial Applicator's Association conference. Also, Ms. Gruener mentioned that there has been a reemergence of Yellow Fever in Columbia with 132 cases in 2024 and 2025, so it is something to be aware of.

### PRESENTATION OF BILLS

Chairman Burke noted that master voucher M2026-02 (Resolution 2026-04) was presented at the meeting for approval. Additionally, a budget transfer was requested to transfer \$1,332 from M-03, Insurance to M-05 Legal Advertising and to also transfer \$1,500 from M-01 Salaries to M-05 Advertising. Chairman Burke asked if there were any questions or concerns. Ms. Gruener explained that although the new public notice law will take effect on March 1, 2026, the NJDEP still holds that adult mosquito control legal notifications must continue to be published with a newspaper. This oddity was not budgeted for and so the transfer is needed to cover the cost of nine months of legal/display ads with two newspapers. Commissioner Greason made a motion to approve master voucher M2026-02 (Resolution 2026-04) in the amount of \$55,661.36 and to approve the above-mentioned budget transfers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eriksen and the motion carried.

### COMMUNICATION

- A. Giordano to Frelinghuysen Forest Preserve re: 2025 Tick Surveillance Results
- A. Giordano to Merrill Creek Reservoir re: 2025 Tick Surveillance Results
- A. Giordano to Johnsonburg Swamp Preserve re: 2025 Tick Surveillance Results
- National Park Service to J. Gruener re: NPS Investigator's Annual Report
- J. Gruener to Aerial Larviciding Bid Packet Recipients re: Aerial Larviciding Bid Packet
- R. Garshong, NJDOH to J. Gruener, to & fro re: Submission of Interim Report for Fall 2025 Tick Surveillance
- J. Gruener to T. St. Angelo, Gebhardt & Kiefer re: 2026 Professional Services Agreement
- NJ DEP Pesticide Certification Courses to J. Gruener re: Updated Pesticide Trainer Certificate
- S. Cardone, NJ Civil Service Commission to J. Gruener re: Working Test Periods
- S. Crans, SMCC, OMCC to J. Gruener, to & fro re: State Airspray Program Aerial Packet
- M. Mai, Superintendent Great Meadows Regional School District to J. Gruener re: Thank you for school presentation
- A. Angelus, OMCC to J. Gruener re: 2026 State Airspray Program Guidelines
- V. Thompson, Monmouth County Mosquito Control to J. Gruener, to & fro re: Wetlands Mgmt. in NJ

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### Award of Contract for Aerial Larviciding Applications by Aircraft

Two aerial larviciding bids were received, one from Alpha Drones and the other from Rebecca Lynn Flying Service (RLFS). The lowest responsible bid was received from RLFS, Ms. Gruener recommends accepting the bid. After some discussion, Commissioner Eriksen made a motion to award the contract for Aerial Larviciding Application by Aircraft to Rebecca Lynn Flying Service. Commissioner Zaccheo seconded the motion and the motion carried.

  
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**Revision of Benefits & Travel Reimbursement Policy**

Ms. Gruener stated the Benefits & Travel Reimbursement Policy has been updated to reflect increases in the Longevity payments made to the County's policy in 2024. Commissioner Zaccheo made a motion to approve the Revision of the Benefits & Travel Reimbursement Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Summers and the motion carried.

**Revision of Workplace Drug Policy**

Ms. Gruener stated the Workplace Drug Policy has been updated to reflect the County's current policy. The policy has been revised to incorporate the new cannabis law, as employers in NJ cannot discriminate against cannabis users. However, the policy prohibits using cannabis while working and on County property. After some discussion, Commissioner Eriksen made a motion to approve the Revision of the Workplace Drug Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zaccheo and the motion carried.

**2026 State Equipment Use Agreement**

Ms. Gruener stated that the 2026 state Equipment Use Agreement is presented for approval. The Revco freezer was transferred to Camden County MEC. The bulldozer is still in our care; however, it is currently in Rahway, NJ, at AC Equipment being refurbished. After some discussion, Commissioner Greason made a motion to approve the 2026 State Equipment Use Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eriksen and the motion carried.

**Increase of Starting Seasonal Wages**

Ms. Gruener stated that the NJ minimum wage increased to \$15.92 on January 1, 2026. She asked that an increase to the starting wage of seasonal employees be considered. After some discussion, Commissioner Eriksen made a motion to increase the starting wage of seasonal employees to \$16.50 per hour. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zaccheo and the motion passed.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION 2026-05**

**Award of Contract for Larviciding Applications by Aircraft**


On a motion by Robert Eriksen, seconded by Vincent Zaccheo, the following resolution was adopted by the Mosquito Extermination Commission of the County of Warren at a meeting held February 19, 2026.

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission requires the services of an aerial applicator to provide aerial larviciding to large tracts of mosquito habitat that are too large to efficiently treat with ground-based equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission solicited formal bids, for the aforementioned services, in accordance with the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, two formal bids for the Larviciding Applications by Aircraft Contract were received and opened on February 11, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, Rebecca Lynn Flying Service, Inc., 61 Maple Lane, Livingston, NY 12541, was the lowest responsible and responsive bidder in accordance with the following bid prices:

  
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Product	Rate/Acre	Price
Bti	5 lbs/Acre	\$ 24.50
Bti	7 lbs/Acre	\$ 26.02
Bti	10 lbs/Acre	\$ 28.30

**WHEREAS**, Rebecca Lynn Flying Service, Inc., submitted all required, completed forms along with the entire bid package finding them a responsible and responsive bidder; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission hereby awards the contract for Larviciding Applications by Aircraft to Rebecca Lynn Flying Service, Inc., PO Box 175 (~61 Maple Lane), Livingston, NY 12541.

**RESOLUTION 2026-06**

**Revision of the Benefits Schedule and Travel Reimbursement Policy**

On a motion by Vincent Zaccheo, seconded by Peter Summers, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Mosquito Extermination Commission of the County of Warren at a meeting held February 19, 2026.

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission established a Benefits Schedule & Travel Reimbursement Policy in 1995 and has amended the policy several times since its creation with the most recent amendment approved on April 20, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission's Benefits Schedule & Travel Reimbursement Policy needs revision for its longevity payment schedule to mirror the County of Warren longevity payment schedule; and

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission wishes to replace the Benefits Schedule & Travel Reimbursement Policy dated April 20, 2023, with the Benefits Schedule & Travel Reimbursement Policy dated February 19, 2026; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission hereby approves of the revised Benefits Schedule & Travel Reimbursement Policy, dated February 19, 2026.

**RESOLUTION 2026-07**

**Revision of the Drug-free Workplace Policy**

  
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On a motion by Robert Eriksen, seconded by Vincent Zaccheo, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Mosquito Extermination Commission of the County of Warren at a meeting held February 19, 2026.

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission updated their Drug-Free Workplace Policy in 2013 and to refer to and incorporate the Warren County Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace and Testing Policy; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Warren revised their Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace and Testing Policy in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission wishes to replace the Drug Free Workplace Policy dated January 17, 2013, with the Drug Free Workplace Policy dated February 19, 2026; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission hereby approves of the revised Drug Free Workplace Policy, dated February 19, 2026.

#### **RESOLUTION 2026-08**

#### **Resolution Authorizing the 2026 State Equipment Use Agreement with the N.J. State Mosquito Control Commission**

On a motion by Eileen Greason, seconded by Robert Eriksen, the following resolution was adopted by the Mosquito Extermination Commission of the County of Warren at a meeting held February 19, 2026.


**WHEREAS**, a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection State Equipment Use Agreement has been prepared and tendered by the New Jersey State Mosquito Control Commission designating various State Mosquito Control Commission owned equipment to be utilized by Warren County for the purposes of Mosquito Control; and

**WHEREAS** the assigned equipment is stored at the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission yard or designated project areas throughout the county and is insured as specified in the agreement; and

**WHEREAS** Exhibit A lists the equipment to be leased under this Agreement and may be amended from time to time upon mutual agreement of the parties; and

**WHEREAS**, the prior State Equipment Use Agreement expired December 31, 2025, and this agreement shall become effective upon the date of the last signatory and shall continue until December 31, 2026, unless otherwise terminated or in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Warren County Mosquito Extermination Commission hereby authorizes the Superintendent of the Commission to execute State Equipment Use Agreement #2026-21.

  
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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eileen M. Greason,  
Secretary/Treasurer

