

From: Ross, Chuck [Chuck.Ross@state.vt.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 9:24 PM
To: Miller, Elizabeth; Allen, Susan
CC: Moulton, Pat; Smith, Megan; Chen, Harry; Coriell, Scott; Cole, Chris; Markowitz, Deb; Springer, Darren
Subject: RE: mosquito story/public health

Also had a good conversation with Angelo to explain situation. Had my three experts on the phone with him. basic message was we are ready to turn an electronic application around in short order (hours) and send someone to pick up the application check tomorrow. The ball is in the municipality and district's court to get the application in.

chuck

From: Miller, Elizabeth
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 4:03 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Moulton, Pat; Smith, Megan; Chen, Harry; Coriell, Scott; Ross, Chuck; Cole, Chris; Markowitz, Deb; Springer, Darren
Subject: Re: mosquito story/public health

great thank you Chuck...copying Darren just so he has this one in the back of his mind for the next time!

Elizabeth H. Miller
802-522-3090, cell
elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

On May 20, 2015, at 4:01 PM, Allen, Susan <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Chuck had a good conversation with Bill Shouldice and feels the confusion has been worked out. There might still be a little griping locally, but essentially Ag is working quickly and closely with the district to get this issue fixed. Chuck is going to call Angelo to clarify.

From: Moulton, Pat
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 3:03 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Smith, Megan; Chen, Harry; Coriell, Scott; Ross, Chuck; Miller, Elizabeth; Cole, Chris; Markowitz, Deb
Subject: Re: mosquito story/public health

Chris Cole has been in this conversation too relating to spraying. Deb also would like to be in this loop as well.

Pat

Patricia Moulton, Secretary
Agency of Commerce & Community Development
One National Life Drive
Dean C. Davis building, 6th Floor
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-0501
802-451-9578
Sent from my iPhone

On May 20, 2015, at 2:58 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Thank you Megan, good to know!

FYI to all, Chuck is going to call Bill Shouldice now and talk him through what the state is already prepared to do (issue a spraying permit within 24 hours when requested), and see if that makes him/critics more comfortable. If it does – and hopefully it will – Chuck will call Angelo.

I'll keep everyone looped in going forward. And thanks for the quick response. I'll set up a conference call if needed.

Sue

From: Smith, Megan
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 2:51 PM
To: Chen, Harry
Cc: Allen, Susan; Coriell, Scott; Ross, Chuck; Moulton, Pat; Miller, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: mosquito story/public health

I just left 24 innkeepers from that region and no one mentioned anything.

Megan Smith
Commissioner, Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing
megan.smith@state.vt.us
802-505-5800
Sent from my iPad

On May 20, 2015, at 2:41 PM, Chen, Harry
<Harry.Chen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Probably good to have a call to understand the issue and what we can do. To be clear, these mosquitoes are not a public health issue. I have already had a couple calls about it.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 20, 2015, at 2:29 PM, Allen, Susan
<Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

Can we help? Holiday weekend
(although it's pretty cold out there right
now, which might help). Summer
tourism. Etc. I can set up a call if folks
think that might be useful.

Sue

From: Angelo Lynn
[<mailto:angelo@addisonindependent.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 2:25
PM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: mosquito story/public health

Hi Sue,

Attached is the story the Brandon
Reporter ran today and that the Addy
Indy will run tomorrow.
Here are the highlights:

1) it's bad out there; worst it's been
since Kunin's infamous news
broadcast; the type of conditions that
attract national and regional
attention; this type of story spreads
in the news and online, YouTube,
etc.; that could potentially be bad for
statewide tourism; it's all over
community chat lines, already.

2) the crux of the issue is the state ag
department decided it would change
the practice it's followed for the past
40 years (allowing the district to
spray private roads) with almost no
notice to the BLSG insect control
district, creating the mess we are
now in. Why? Perhaps to get out
from under the liability it has

assumed. Getting a commercial permit is NOT the issue; contrary to what the state says. Rather, the crux is accepting the liability, and the potential spike in the district's insurance cost.

Is this the state trying to save a few pennies, or is it just bad decision-making by lower management? Hard for us to tell.

3) The consequences, however, could be troubling, primarily from a public health perspective. On average 2-3 Vermonters each year contract West Nile Virus disease, so far none have died. If that number were to climb based on a very bad mosquito year, and partly due to the state changes practices, the finger-pointing won't be good for the state or administration.

Plus, this area has seen an increasing number of EEE cases, with two men in the area dying two years ago. If that happens again, the administration will be tagged.

4) Solution: Get the district a commercial license and have the state step forward to cover the liability just as it has for the past 40 years. The district was formed in 1979, and it's been operating under a best practices model for all these years. Why would the state change it's policy now, and look to be weaseling out of its current responsibility? Chuck Ross could do that in a heartbeat, and this would go away by next week.

If not, the outcome could be stories across New England on how bad the mosquitoes here are (bad for tourism), and if any mosquito-borne

diseases transpire, the PR debacle
will be a nightmare.

Perhaps, Harry Chen, Megan Smith
and Chuck should pow-wow and
solve this sooner than later?

Cheers,
Angelo

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Angelo Lynn
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<43.5 Mosquito spraying issue,
edited.docx>