

METROPOLITAN
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

February 24, 2021

9:15 A.M.

Information Packet

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

FEBRUARY 24, 2021 9:15 A.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome and Introduction

CONSENT AGENDA *The following items (3-5) are administrative in detail and will be approved in one motion unless a commissioner wishes to withdraw an item for discussion.

3. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2020
4. Approval of Organizational Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2021
5. Approval of Checks and Claims
General 74244 – 74457

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Intergovernmental Issues – Peg Larsen, Kim Scott
7. Executive Committee Report for January 27, 2021
8. Budget and Levy Development Schedule
9. 2021 Mosquito and Black Fly Service Opportunities
10. Executive Director’s Report
11. Operations Report– Jon Peterson, Kirk Johnson
12. Public Affairs Report – Alex Carlson
13. Other Items
14. Adjournment

* Action Requested

Next Executive Meeting: Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 9:15 a.m.

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 9:15 a.m.

COMMISSIONER	COUNTY	COMMISSIONER	COUNTY
___ Jeff Reinert	Anoka	___ Angela Conley	Hennepin
___ Scott Schulte	Anoka	___ Chris LaTondresse	Hennepin
___ Robyn West	Anoka	___ Jim McDonough	Ramsey
___ Gayle Degler	Carver	___ Mary Jo McGuire	Ramsey
___ Tom Workman	Carver	___ Rafael Ortega	Ramsey
___ Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota	___ Michael Beard	Scott
___ Laurie Halverson	Dakota	___ Tom Wolf	Scott
___ Liz Workman	Dakota	___ Gary Kriesel	Washington
___ Kevin Anderson	Hennepin	___ Lisa Weik	Washington

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2020
6:00 P.M.

Chair Liz Workman called meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted remotely using GoToMeeting software. Roll call votes were recorded for each item because this meeting was conducted remotely.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Liz Workman, Chair	Dakota County
Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Anoka County
Commissioner James Ische	Carver County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Tom Egan	Dakota County
Commissioner Marty Liz Holberg	Dakota County
Commissioner Jan Callison	Hennepin County
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Ramsey County
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Ramsey County
Commissioner Michael Beard	Scott County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Washington County

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator
Scott Helling-Christy, District Operations Manager
Kirk Johnson, Vector Ecologist
Alex Carlson, Public Relations Coordinator

Visitors:

Joe Langel, MMCD Legal Counsel
Kim Scott, RCS Consulting

Chair Liz Workman welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Consent Agenda

Resolution 1:

The following administrative items were approved in one motion.

1. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for October 28, 2020

- 2. Financial Statements November 30, 2020
- 3. Approval of Check and Claims
 General 74121 – 74243

Commissioner Jim McDonough seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Yes
Commissioner Jim Ische	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Tom Egan	Yes
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Jan Callison	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Commissioner Angela Conley joined the meeting immediately after the Consent Agenda vote.

Stephen Manweiler reported that twelve out of eighteen Commissioners already had returned signed annual representation letters. Please either return a signed paper copy (included with mailings to Commissioners who request printed copies) or sign via the email from Betsy Bisson (Redpath & Co.). MMCD’s financial auditor needs these letters. Please contact Stephen or Arleen Schacht if you have questions.

*Representation
Letter Reminder*

Kim Scott reported that the Legislature held their seventh special session on Monday, December 14. They passed a COVID-19 relief package of \$242 million to aid businesses and workers.

*Intergovernmental
Issues*

- \$114 million of that money will go to counties to be disbursed as grants to eligible businesses. Each county would receive the greater of \$200,000 or a per capita amount based on its 2019 population.
- \$88 million will go to businesses that have seen at least a 30% decline.
- \$14 million will go towards movie theaters and convention centers.
- The package also includes a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits.

DEED will be the primary group to distribute the funds.

Governor Walz extended his emergency order by another 30 days and announced modifications to existing restrictions that include:

- limiting social gatherings: indoor gatherings are still not recommended, but are permitted up to two households and no more than 10 people, outside gatherings may include three households with a maximum of 15 people
- gyms may open at 25% capacity or a maximum of 100 people
- youth and adult sports can resume practice January 4
- outdoor venues may operate at 25% capacity or a maximum of 100 people
- restaurants and bars will remain closed for indoor dining, but may be open for outdoor service at 50% capacity
- by January 18, elementary schools may choose in-person with certain mitigation strategies

The regular session will commence on January 5 in a virtual fashion. The Senate may have some in person meetings, but it's not clear what that would be at this time.

We already have contacted and submitted a request to set up a meeting with Rep. Emma Green, who took over for Rep. Wagenius. We have talked about prioritizing Rep. Green based upon her district's interest in the use of pesticides in their communities.

The committee makeups should be announced this week and we will look for additional members that will be key to our issues, primarily focusing on the Agriculture and Environment committees. We will begin setting up these informational meetings in January.

Stephen Manweiler described two issues taken up by the Executive Committee. First, they reviewed a proposal to renew the three-year helicopter contract. The District solicited bids in 2012, 2015, and 2018. Solicitations in 2015 and 2018 requested two or more helicopter/tracking equipment variations. A potential 2021 bid would involve no changes to the current contract. Scott's Helicopter Services has proposed to renew the current contract with no changes except for a price increase of 8.20% which equates to a 2.66% annual increase over three years. Prices were last increased three years ago and have been steady since 2018. Our budget can accommodate the price increase. Knowing the price is stable for the next three years will help us budget. The Executive Committee agreed and approved renewal of the contract with Scott's Helicopter Services for 2021-2023.

November 19, 2020
Executive Committee
Report

The Executive Committee also approved a two-year contract for professional governmental relations representation services. Bid specifications were advertised through the League of Minnesota Cities with an October 27 deadline. Three potential providers of professional

governmental relations representation contacted the District. Two (Flaherty & Hood, P.A., Knaak & Kantrud, P.A.) asked various questions. Only one (RCS Consulting LLC and KKS, P.A) submitted a proposal. That proposal satisfies all required services and reporting requirements. Stephen Manweiler recommended approval of the proposal submitted by RCS Consulting LLC and KKS, P.A. (our current professional representatives). The Executive Committee approved this contract that includes no price increase over the current contract for services rendered between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022.

Stephen reported that we promoted Jon Peterson to succeed Scott Helling-Christy after Scott retires on December 18, 2021. Jon has been a District employee for 19+ years. Jon started as a Seasonal Inspector and moved into the Field Operations Supervisor and Regional Operations Manager positions before taking on the lead safety responsibilities in August 2019. Jon played a key role in developing District responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Executive Director's
Report*

In December, all staff received their first virtual employee training session . The topic was disabilities. Marci Jasper and Michelle Chmielewski of MN DEED Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) presented the training. Additional training covering affirmative action, harassment, diversity, and other issues was made available to all staff via an online dashboard. More training, including a review of District employee policies, will be available in January 2021.

Chair Liz Workman opened the meeting for public comment and asked anyone from the public who wanted to comment to please come forward. Nobody stepped forward to comment about the 2021 MMCD payable levy and MMCD 2021 Budget.

*Public Comment
MMCD Payable
2021 Total Levy and
2021 Budget*

Commissioner Michael Beard moved that the public comment period be closed. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Yes
Commissioner Jim Ische	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Tom Egan	Yes
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Jan Callison	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Stephen Manweiler requested that the Commission approve the proposed 2021 levy of \$18,665,369, a 0% increase over the 2020 levy of \$18,665,369.

*Approval Payable
2021 Levy*

Commissioner Tom Egan offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 2:

Whereas, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission has reviewed the proposed property tax levy for payable 2021 considering the needs of the program, and

Whereas, the 2021 levy is proposed to remain at \$18,665,369, a 0% increase over the 2020 original levy, and

Whereas, the Commission has held a public hearing conforming with truth in taxation requirements,

Be it now resolved, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission adopts the payable 2021 levy in the amount of \$18,665,369, a 0% increase over the 2020 levy of \$18,665,369, and authorizes staff to certify the levy to the Minnesota Department of Revenue and the Counties of the District.

Commissioner Tom Wolf seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Yes
Commissioner Jim Ische	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Tom Egan	Yes
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Jan Callison	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Stephen Manweiler requested that the Commission approve the proposed 2021 budget of \$19,551,584, a 0% increase from the original 2020 budget of \$19,551,584.

*Approval 2021
Budget*

Commissioner Jan Callison offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 3:

Whereas, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission has reviewed the proposed 2021 operations budget of \$19,551,564, a 0% increase from the original 2020 budget, which is sufficient to meet the needs of the program, and

Whereas, the operations budget includes capital equipment and maintenance of \$527,520 for replacement equipment and facility maintenance, and

Whereas, the budget leaves intact the MMCD’s unassigned working capital account which needs to cover approximately 55% of expenditures and leaves \$7,255,000 for emergency disease control, bond retirement, employee benefits, control materials, and other assigned funds,

Be it now resolved, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission approves the final 2020 operations budget in the amount of \$19,551,564, and adopts the proposed 2021 expenditures budget in the amount of \$19,551,564, an increase of 0% from the 2020 budget.

Commissioner Tom Wolf seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Yes
Commissioner Jim Ische	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Tom Egan	Yes
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Jan Callison	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Scott Helling-Christy stated that we received less rain in 2020 than we did in 2019. In 2020, the District treated 194,911 acres for larval mosquitoes compared to 213,587 acres in 2019. Acres treated for adult mosquitoes was significantly lower in 2020 at 6,450 acres compared to 22,321 acres in 2019, which is related to reduced mosquito production from less rain. Because adult mosquito counts in 2020 were down, so were the citizen calls related to annoyance. In 2020, the District received 1,458 calls compared to 1,963 in 2019.

Operations Report

A tip of the hat to District staff for developing COVID-19 protocols that kept staff safe and healthy while providing services to the citizens of the metro area.

Scott stated that this will be his last operations update due to his retirement on December 18. He feels very fortunate to have been able to work for an organization that is so responsible and efficient on how it uses the resources and also how respectful it is to the employees. It has been a great organization to work for.

Kirk Johnson reported that there were no mosquito-borne illnesses reported in residents of Minnesota in 2020.

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) was diagnosed in two Minnesota horses in 2020, one in Aitkin County and the second in Benton County. There were nine human EEE illnesses reported nationally, including two in Wisconsin.

Alex Carlson described our shift to online outreach in the form of blog posts, videos, and social media.

Public Affairs Report

Our social media presence grew:

- Facebook = 1,128 > 1,541 = 37%
- Twitter = 537 > 763 = 42%
- Instagram = 90 > 214 = 138%

Implemented Instagram takeovers where each facility and the lab provided education and insight into their daily jobs.

We posted several educational videos including an interview with MMCD Entomologist Diann Crane, a field day with Field Operations Supervisor Kathy Beadle, and the Mosquito Bite Games.

During the school year we combined the videos and added supplemental material to create a presentation that teachers could offer to students or anyone. The full 20-minute video has been viewed over 300 times and we've received great feedback from teachers.

We anticipated more calls with concerns about helicopters, trucks, or employees since more people would be seeing us while at home so we sent press releases to most cities in our area warning residents to expect us. We didn't see a significant uptick in employee complaint calls compared to other years.

We are going to continue to anticipate questions or concerns that residents may have by doing proactive outreach to cities, business groups, and

environmental organizations. The MMCD communications team has already begun to reach out to these organizations with a goal of reaching new and diverse audiences.

Whatever 2021 has in store we are confident we will be prepared to educate the community, recruit necessary staff, and hopefully make people smile.



Chair Liz Workman asked if there was any other business remaining for the Commission to consider. Hearing none, Chair Liz Workman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Adjournment

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
ORGANIZATION MEETING

MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2021
9:15 A.M.

2020 Chair Liz Workman called meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted remotely using GoToMeeting software. Roll call votes were recorded for each item because this meeting was conducted remotely.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Anoka County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Dakota County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Ramsey County
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Ramsey County
Commissioner Michael Beard	Scott County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Washington County

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator

Visitors:

Joe Langel, MMCD Legal Counsel
Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting
Kim Scott, RCS Consulting

Commissioner Liz Workman welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting. Stephen Manweiler also welcomed new Commissioners and offered an orientation for all who are interested.

Commissioner Liz Workman asked Stephen Manweiler to serve as temporary chair of the meeting until officers can be elected and moved approval by this Commission.

*Appointment of
Temporary Chair*

Commissioner Lisa Weik seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Stephen asked Arleen Schacht to call roll. Stephen then asked Joe Langel to administer the oath of office to Commissioners participating in the meeting today orally in one group. Stephen thanked all Commissioners who already had returned signed oath forms.

*Roll Call and
Swearing in of
Commissioners*

Stephen referred the Commissioners to the recap of the rotation of the Commission officers. Officers serve for two years. The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary in 2020 all were in their second year serving as these officers. The rotation would have new Commissioners serve as Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary in 2021 which would be their first year. The rotation indicates that a Commissioner from Hennepin County would become the Chair, a Commissioner from Washington County would become the Vice Chair, and a Commissioner from Ramsey County would become the Secretary. Stephen Manweiler asked if anyone would like to make a motion to nominate Commissioners as officers in 2021. Commissioner Tom Wolf moved to nominate Commissioner Angela Conley as Chair, Commissioner Lisa Weik as Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire as Secretary in 2021.

*Election of
Officers*

Commissioner Liz Workman seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes

Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Stephen passed the gavel to Commissioner Angela Conley who served as the Chair for the duration of the Organizational Meeting.

Chair Angela Conley reviewed the composition of the Executive Committee in 2020. Commissioner Tom Wolf moved that Commissioners Angela Conley, Lisa Weik, Mary Jo McGuire, Robyn West, Tom Workman, Liz Workman and Tom Wolf be Executive Committee members in 2021.

*Appointment of
Executive
Committee*

Commissioner Liz Workman seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

The Commission reviewed the proposed 2021 meeting schedule. Commissioner Lisa Weik moved that the proposed 2021 Commission and Executive Committee meeting schedule be adopted.

*Meeting Schedule
Commission,
Executive
Committee
Meetings*

Commissioner Tom Wolf seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes

Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Peg Larsen reported that the legislature has begun the 2021-2022 session. *Legislative Update*
It appears that the same tensions are in play from the past two years. However, there is also talk of working together to get a budget put together as mandated by the state constitution. There is a substantial deficit - at least \$1 billion.

These same leaders were able to do this last session. When asked, the Speaker said they will be testing a fingerprint response for House members to vote. This is to make the process much faster than in the special sessions. Both bodies will hold meetings via zoom. However, the Senate will allow some in person testifiers as well as in session.

Kim Scott reported that on the first day of session Melissa Hortman was re-elected as Speaker, while Republicans nominated Kurt Daudt. (Hortman prevailed on a party line vote of 70-57)

Sen. Tomassoni was elected Senate President Pro Tem, to avoid a Fischbach-like predicament, in case Gov. Walz appoints the Lieutenant Governor to replace Sen. Klobuchar if Biden appoints her to a position. Currently, Sen. Klobuchar is expected to Chair the Rules Committee and not join Biden's cabinet. Sen. Tomassoni will share the president duties with Sen. Miller, until Miller may safely retake his post.

The leaders have communicated their general session priorities. Hortman said DFL members would seek to address opportunity gaps in the state's education system, improve access to health care, and ensure the economic security of families.

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka would like to focus on redistricting and election integrity, in addition to passing a balanced budget through spending cuts and not tax increases.

Peg and Kim will focus initial legislative outreach to Representatives Sydney Porter, Emma Green, and Jim Davnie via a joint virtual meeting, as well as, approaching Chair Hansen about the possibility of an informational hearing for MMCD.

Chair Angela Conley asked if there was any additional business. No Commissioners brought up anything. Commissioner Lisa Weik asked Stephen to take a screen shot of all Commissioners participating today. Stephen did so (image below).

Adjournment

Commissioner Tom Wolf moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Liz Workman seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Chair Angela Conley declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2021
9:15 A.M.

Commissioner (Chair) Angela Conley called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Robyn West	Anoka County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Ramsey County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Washington County

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator

Visitors:

Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting
Kim Scott, RCS Consulting

Commissioner Angela Conley welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Tom Wolf offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

*Approval of
November 19, 2020
Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes*

Resolution 1:

Resolved, that the November 19, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Liz Workman seconded the motion, and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

The commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Commissioner Tom Workman joined the meeting after roll call and approval of the November 19, 2020 Executive Committee minutes.

The legislature continues to meet on Mondays and Thursdays and at this point has not passed any significant bills relating to mosquito control. The Senate did pass a bill out of the Judiciary Committee that would prevent damages from civil unrest from being eligible for state disaster funding. This bill will go directly to the Senate floor, Chair Pelowski is the author of the House companion, HF 444.

Legislative Update

During the January 26 floor session, the House passed a resolution condemning the violence in Washington D.C. on a vote of 111 to 8, with a few members abstaining. This was after a two-hour discussion and many amendments.

Just an interesting note - in 1965 under President Nixon, the Government was developing uses of biological warfare using mosquitoes. They would introduce the mosquitoes to yellow fever and then drop the mosquitoes on different cities. However, the program came to a halt after significant public outrage.

After listening to commissioners' comments at the last MMCD meeting, it sounds like a MMCD presentation to each county board would be worthwhile and warranted. We are interested in the committee's input on this idea.

In other legislative news, the Governor released his budget recommendations totaling \$52.4 billion, which includes \$1.3 billion in new spending that is offset by \$150 million in budget reductions and carryover funds plus \$1 billion of the state's budget reserves. Click on these links for a summary of [recommended changes by agency](#), proposed [General Fund](#) and [non-General Fund](#) changes. The Senate Majority has indicated that they will oppose any tax increases.

Specific to the Agriculture budget, the Governor's budget includes a recommendation to increase the pesticide gross sales fee rate by 0.4% for

non-ag pesticides in order to provide a stable source of revenue to pay for monitoring for pesticides in water resources. We will be discussing the details of this proposal with the Dept. of Ag. and how it may affect MMCD.

SF 201 was introduced in the Senate. The bill proposes to authorize Minneapolis to prohibit the use of pollinator-lethal pesticides and is authored by Senators Dziejczak, Cwudzinski, and newly elected Senator McEwan. This bill is identical to similar bills introduced in past sessions and we will be discussing with the authors the need to include a public health exception for MMCD's work. The bill has been referred to the Ag committee and there is no House companion yet. We do not expect the bill to receive a hearing in the Senate.

Stephen Manweiler reviewed the budget and levy development schedule used in recent years and highlighted significant dates such as the August 1 deadline for approval of the preliminary levy for the next year and how these dates satisfy statutory requirements. In 2020, the full Commission approved the preliminary levy at their July 22 meeting. Both an Executive Committee meeting on June 24 and full Commission meeting on July 22 are part of the 2020 meeting schedule approved on January 9, 2020. The full Commission will vote on the preliminary 2021 levy at their July 28 meeting.

*Budget and Levy
Development
Schedule*

Stephen Manweiler reported that April 30, 2021 will mark the end of the seventh year of his tenure as the Executive Director for the District (the end of the first year of a three-year contract). Input will be solicited to all Commissioners, all of Mr. Manweiler's direct reports, and a random selection of other MMCD full time employees, using Survey Monkey an online system with paper forms available to Commissioners who prefer them. The input will be collected and compiled by Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator. Instructions for using the online input system (paper forms for those who request paper) will be provided to the Commissioners and appropriate staff by February 3, 2021 with a return due date by the February 24, 2021 Commission meeting. A Performance Review Panel has, customarily, been made up of some members of the Executive Committee and other interested Commissioners, who will receive the compiled input and meet with Mr. Manweiler to discuss his performance. The Commission has suggested that the Executive Director's KDAs (assigned in April 2020) be used as benchmarks for his performance. All Executive Committee members present agreed to discuss with Mr. Manweiler his performance at the March 24, 2021 Executive Committee meeting.

*Executive Director
Performance Review
Process*

Stephen reported that we posted an advertisement for seasonal technician positions on January 25, 2021 with employment beginning between April 12 and 19, 2021. While we still are implementing full COVID-19 safety procedures, we will not need to delay seasonal employee start dates because all training and other procedures developed last year worked very well. This should help us begin delivering services in late April 2021 (compared to mid-May 2020).

On January 8, 2021, Field Operations Supervisor Eva Knudsen, a thirty-one-year employee of the District, announced that she will retire on April 9, 2021. We will begin the process of recruiting and hiring two new Field Operations Supervisors, one to fill Eva's position and another to fill Casey Herrmann's position (Casey was promoted to fill the Regional Operations Manager position vacated by Jon Peterson who became the District Operations Manager).

Staff are planning operations for 2021 patterned on plans for January 2020. In January 2020, we had planned to restore about one third of services cut in 2017 to save funds to rebuild District reserves. Those reserves had been restored by January 2020. In April 2020, we postponed most of those service restorations because of potential significant levy shortfalls. Those shortfalls largely did not occur. Our plan will include options for 2021 to respond to any projected economic impacts. I will present more details for all Commissioners at the MMCC meeting on February 24, 2021.

Commissioner Angela Conley asked if there was anything else to come before this meeting. Nobody mentioned any additional items. Commissioner Tom Wolf offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

*Other Issues and
Adjournment*

Resolution 2:

Resolved, that the January 27, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting approve to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Robyn West seconded the motion, and commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Commissioner Angela Conley declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Informational:

Budget and levy development schedule

Background:

During 2015 and 2016 there were questions about when during the season specific decisions about the District's budget and levy must be made. These questions arose during a time when the MMCC was deciding how to balance District resource and funding needs (levy) relative to service demand and reserves (fund balance). See page 19 for a schedule outlining steps to be taken by staff and the Commission to develop the 2022 levy and budget. Months or specific dates are taken from the 2021 Commission meeting schedule.

An initial review of legislative requirements and deadlines (see page 20) revealed that the MMCC must approve a preliminary tax levy for the following year by August 1 of the current year. The July Commission meeting is the closest meeting before this deadline. In 2020, the MMCC approved a preliminary 2021 levy at its July 22 meeting.

Both the 2021 levy and 2021 budget were approved by the MMCC at its meeting on December 16, 2020.

This information is being presented here both for review and to determine if modifications to the schedule can facilitate the levy and budget development process while satisfying statutory requirements.

MMCD Calendar for Budget Year 2022

Commission and Executive Committee provide direction to develop budget	May / June 2021
Commission approves preliminary 2022 levy and budget direction	July 28, 2021
Approved proposed levy deadline for the District	August 1, 2021
Review 2022 budget and levy proposals	August 25, 2021
Proposed levy certification due	September 10, 2021
Executive Committee reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	September 22, 2021
Commission reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	October 27, 2021
Executive Committee reviews budget	November 18, 2021
Parcel Specific Property Tax Notice	November 10 – 24, 2021
Commission adopts Final 2022 Levy & Budget (December Commission meeting)	December 15, 2021
Truth in Taxation Hearing (Commission & Staff)	December 15, 2021
Continuation Hearing if necessary (Commission & Staff)	December 15, 2021
Certify Adopted Payable 2022 Levy (Staff)	December 20, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: MMCD Board of Commissioners

FROM: Joseph Langel, MMCD Attorney

DATE: August 26, 2016

RE: Tax Levy Schedule

At the Commission meeting on August 24th (2016), there was a discussion about the budget calendar. Specifically, questions were raised about when MMCD’s property tax levy must be certified to the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue. The calendar in the Information Packet showed that the initial levy certification deadline is August 1st.

Some Commissioners questioned the validity of that date given that it is earlier than other taxing districts. A quick review of Minnesota Statutes chapter 275 (the property tax levy statute) indicated that (1) MMCD is defined as a special taxing district; and (2) “each special taxing district shall adopt and certify to the county auditor a proposed property tax levy” “on or before September 15.” *Minn. Stat. §§ 275.065, subd. 1(b), 275.066 (16)*. It therefore appeared that September 15th is, in fact, the correct deadline.

The quick statutory review during the meeting, however, did not reveal the additional provisions in Minnesota Statutes chapter 473, which relate specifically to MMCD. Section 473.711, subdivision 5, provides that MMCD “must certify its property tax levy to the commissioner of revenue by August 1 of the levy year.” This specific provision overrides the more general provision in Chapter 275.

The Commissioner of Revenue reviews the tax levy to ensure that the tax is within MMCD’s statutory levy limitation. That determination must be completed by September 10th. *Minn. Stat. § 473.711, subd. 5*. The Commissioner notifies the MMCD that the levy is appropriate and provides the amount of levy for each member county. The levy data is transmitted to the respective counties by September 15th. The Commission adopts the final levy and holds the Truth in Taxation hearing in December.

Let me know if anyone has additional questions about this process.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Informational:

2021 Mosquito and Black Fly Service
Opportunities

Background - Mosquito Larval Control:

Because of actions taken beginning in 2015 (levy increases, much smaller budget increases, and expenditure reduction steps in 2017 to restore reserves and savings steps in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic), the District financial condition in 2021 potentially could support a partial resumption of larval mosquito control services that were cut in 2017 (Figure 1).

- | | | |
|---------|---|---|
| 2014-16 | Record Service Demands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget reserves depleted (the District spent \$5,891,103 more than funding received) |
| 2017 | Expenditure Reduction Steps (designed to save levy – budget difference of \$1.2 million) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saved \$1,339,628 |
| 2018 | Expenditure Reduction modified to treat more spring <i>Aedes</i> and cattail acres including P2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saved \$1,155,554 |
| 2019 | Expenditure Reduction as modified in 2018 maintained | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget reserves were increased to minimum desired level by the end of 2019 (saved \$1,499,695) |
| 2020 | <p>Planned to restore one third of services cut in 2017 (\$400,000)</p> <p>Enacted spending cuts in April 2020 in anticipation of possible 15% levy deficit due to COVID-19 (Table 1)</p> <p>2021 levy and budget both were held at 2020 levels due uncertainty</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 levy receipts were much closer to planned than the feared 15% deficit • 2020 expenditures (\$14,231,332) were lower than revised plan for expenditures of \$15,962,936 • Budget reserves were increased by the end of 2020 • District financial situation at the beginning of 2021 is good enough to potentially restore some service cuts enacted in 2017 (as planned in 2020) • If the economic predictions for 2021 include improvement over 2020, we could restart the long-term plan for small annual levy increases and smaller budget increases to fully restore all services cut in 2017 |

OPPORTUNITIES

about financial impact of COVID-19 pandemic

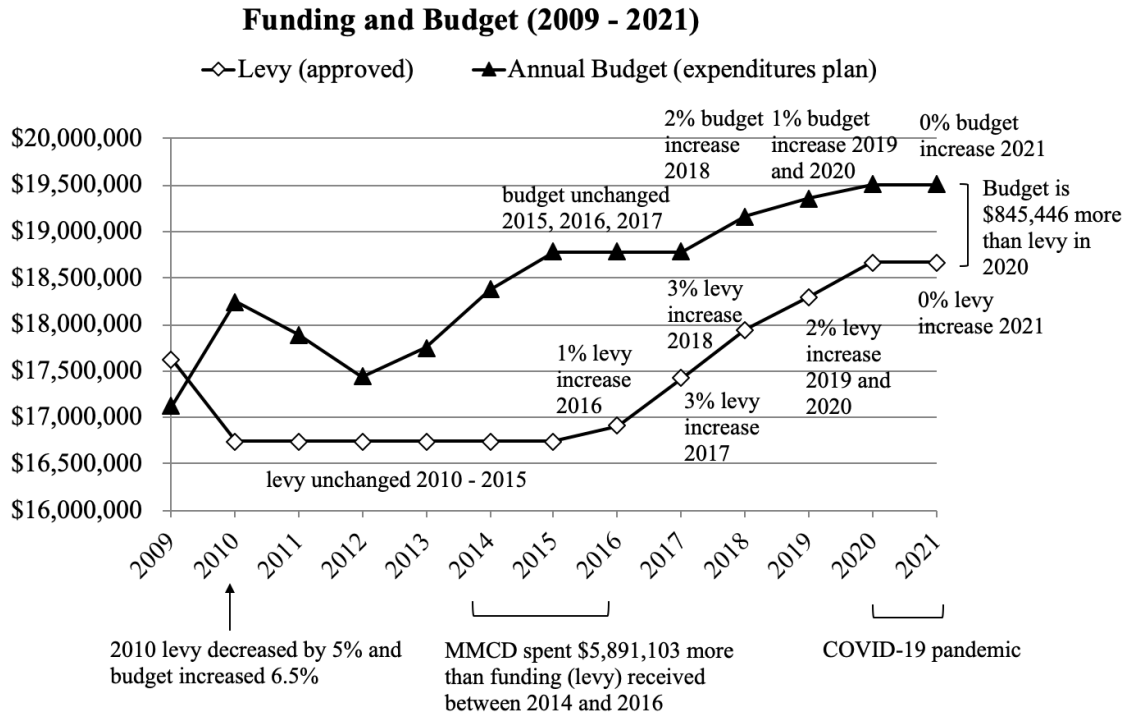


Figure 1. District budget and levy (2009 – 2021).

Table 1. Control program plans in January 2020 compared to changes implemented in April 2020 in response to possible levy shortfalls due to the COVID-19 pandemic. See Figure 2 for a map indicating P1 and P2 areas within the District.

	January 2020 Plan	85% 2020 Levy
Expected Levy	\$18,534,462	\$15,754,293
Planned Expenditure	\$17,190,778	\$15,962,936
Planned Service Restorations		
Increased Spring <i>Aedes</i> (including P2)	Yes	Canceled
Increased cattail (including P2)	Yes	Yes
Increased summer floodwater (including P2)	Yes	Canceled

Background: Black Fly Larval Control

The District conducts liquid Bti treatments to control black fly populations. The small stream treatment program began in 1984. The large river program began with experimental treatments and non-target impact studies in 1987. A full-scale large river treatment program did not go into effect until 1996 (Figure 3). These treatments are conducted under a permit issued by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The large river treatment program was expanded in 2005 to include the South Fork Crow River in Carver County. The control program includes April or May treatments in small streams and May through September treatments in large rivers (Minnesota, Mississippi, Crow, Rum, South Fork Crow). Current small stream and large river monitoring and treatment locations are shown in Figure 4.

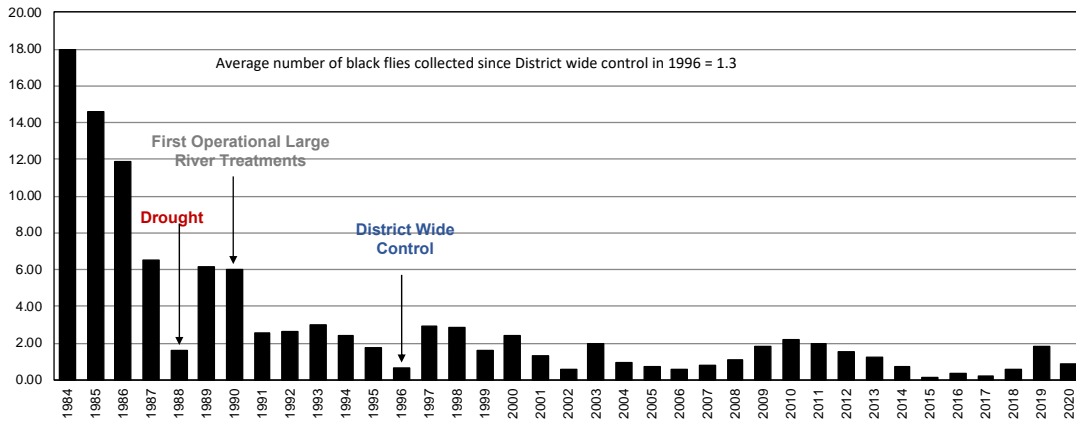


Figure 3. Average season-long black fly abundance in daytime sweep net collections from 1984 – 2020.

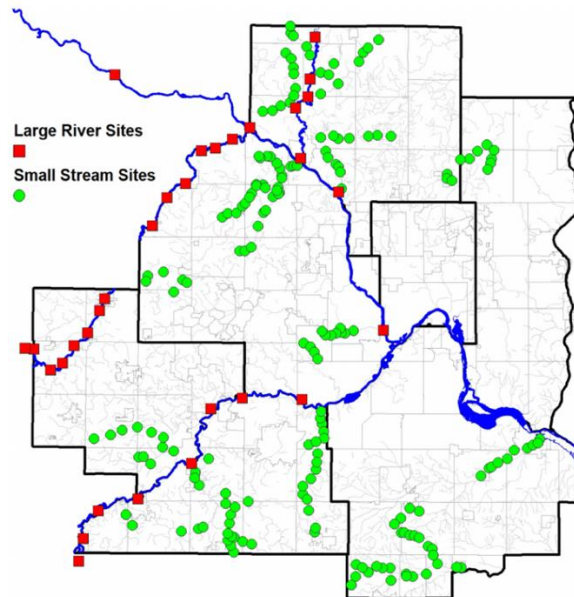


Figure 4. Small stream (188 sites on 29 streams) and large river (30 sites on 5 rivers) sites sampled and treated with Bti to control larval black flies.

OPPORTUNITIES

Since 2018, two issues, higher than typical small stream and large river water flows and a significant increase in a formerly rare human-biting species (*Simulium tuberosum*), have been associated with higher black fly abundance, especially early in the season. In 2020, the delay in hiring seasonal technicians due to COVID-19 reduced the number of small stream treatments completed (Table 2). Large river treatments were not impacted by COVID-19. Higher river flows earlier in season resulted in more control material usage (Table 2).

- 2018 had above average flows (+207%) that increased habitat available in 2019
- 2019 season began with ice dams, April snowstorm, and very heavy rainfall
 - April 10-12 - 9.8 inches snow
 - May - 3.32 inches rain above average
 - Unable to treat rivers until well into June because of dangerously high flow
- 2020 had above average precipitation early including an April snowstorm
 - River and small stream flow higher than typical into May
 - COVID-19 delayed hiring seasonal technicians until early May
 - Only regular fulltime staff available to conduct early season sampling and treatments
 - Focused on small streams that historically produced black flies and four areas near complaint locations
 - Were able to start large river treatments without delays

Table 2. Black fly control in 2020 compared to 1996-2019 average.

Year	Small Streams		Large Rivers	
	Gallons <i>Bti</i>	No. treatments	Gallons <i>Bti</i>	No. treatments
2020	43.1	29	4,042	72
1996-2019 Average	27.8	45	3,204	59

Beginning in 2018, the District received significantly more citizen complaints about black flies (Figure 5). Adult black fly surveillance collected a higher proportion of a formerly rare species (*S. tuberosum*) beginning in 2018 (Figure 6). *Simulium tuberosum* has not been included in our DNR treatment permit because it had been very rare. We began working with the DNR to address the *S. tuberosum* issue in 2018. In 2019, we negotiated a permit addendum to include sites on Minnehaha Creek, Nile Mile Creek, and the Vermillion River to collect site history information. These areas were chosen based on larval sampling conducted early in the development of the treatment program and locations of black fly complaints (Figure 7).

OPPORTUNITIES

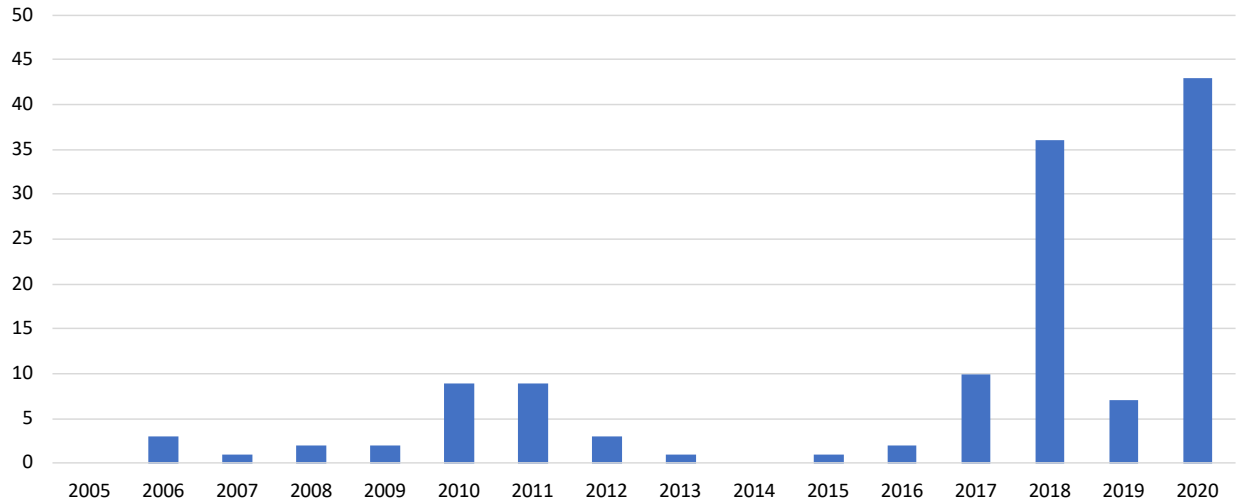


Figure 5. Black fly annoyance customer complaints, 2005-2020.

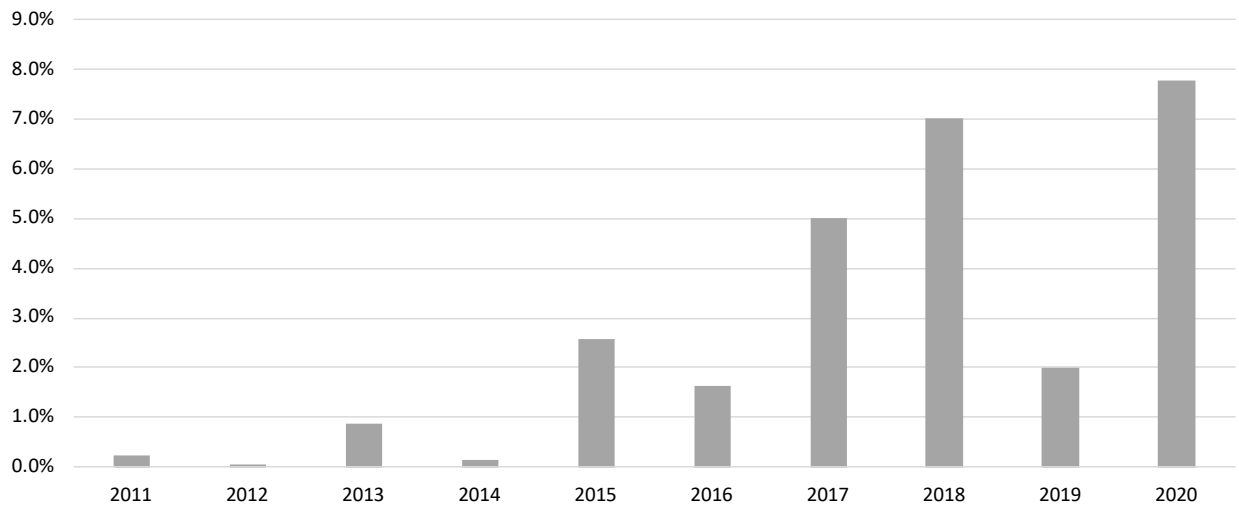


Figure 6. Percent of black flies collected in network sweeps that were *S. tuberosum*, 2011-2020.

In 2020, numerous citizen complaints again occurred (Figure 5) especially in areas of Hennepin County (Figure 7). Sampling at Minnehaha Creek, Nile Mile Creek, Plymouth Creek, and Battle Creek locations (Figure 7) detected *S. tuberosum* at all locations. Additionally, an employee who lives in Hastings was able to collect adult *S. tuberosum* actively biting. We currently are working with the DNR on a 2021 permit addendum to enable us to treat for *S. tuberosum* using standard larval treatment thresholds.

OPPORTUNITIES

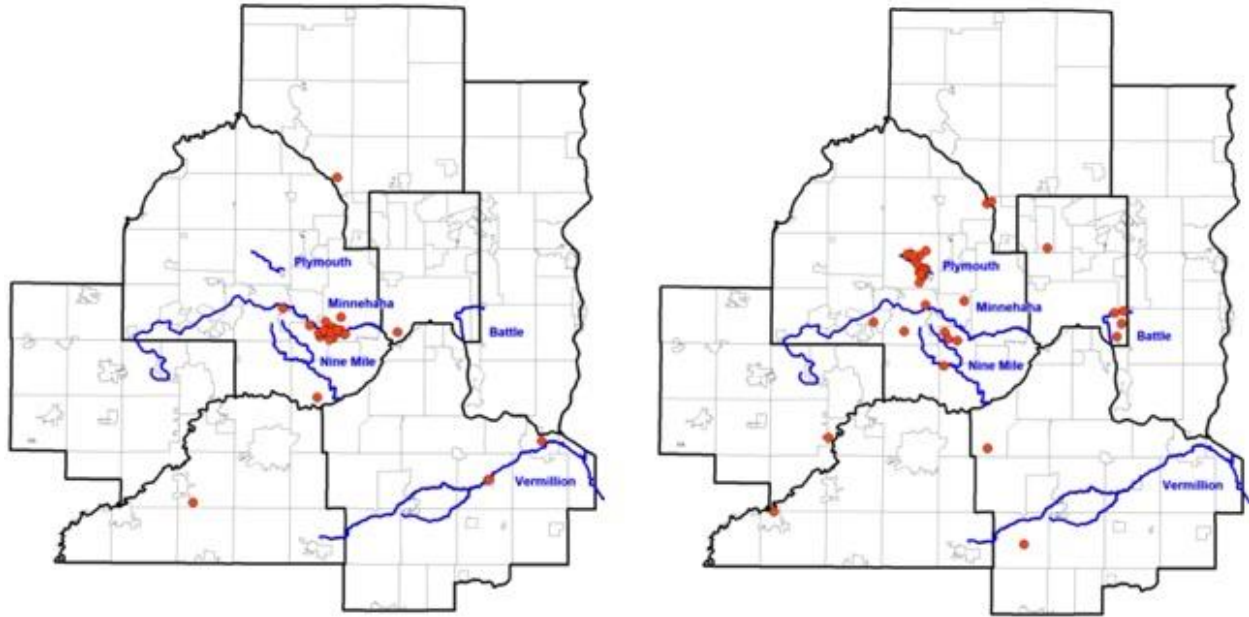


Figure 7. Location of black fly complaints associated with *S. tuberosum* in 2018 (left) and 2020 (right).

Planned Responses in 2021

- Submit request for permit addendum to DNR to allow treatments to control *S. tuberosum*
- Continue focused larval and adult sampling
- No anticipated delay in hiring seasonal technicians due to COVID-19 in 2021
- Begin small stream and large river sampling when weather and flow levels allow
- Submit to DNR our biannual non-target impact report in spring of 2021 based on samples were collected from the Mississippi River in 2019 as part of our treatment permit requirement. Samples will be collected on the Mississippi River in 2021 for our next report due in 2023.

TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: STEPHEN MANWEILER
RE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
DATE: FEBRUARY 2021

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

The annual Technical Advisory Board (TAB) meeting was held on Thursday, February 11, 2021. Each year the TAB reviews the District's programs. The status of the District's financial situation and implications for control services (especially as impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic), work to identify and respond to recent black fly issues associated with a formerly rare species (*Simulium tuberosum*) with surveillance and larval control, potential District operational responses if the monarch butterfly is listed as threatened, and work to integrate drone technology into District surveillance and control were reviewed at this meeting. The TAB made recommendations for 2021. The Chair of the TAB will report their evaluation of the program at the April 28, 2021 Commission meeting.

On February 5, 2021 Kim Scott, Peg Larsen, Stephen Manweiler, and Alex Carlson met virtually with Representative Sydney Jordan to discuss adding language to her legislation (HF1073) to enable MMCD to continue to provide mosquito control in areas that ban "bee lethal" (as defined in HF1073) pesticides. On February 11 HF1073 was filed. Language was changed to restrict it to neonicotinoid pesticides only, meaning that it will not impact MMCD operations. Kim, Peg, and Stephen are working with Senator Dzierdzic (SF201) and Representative Vang (HR718) to include language in their bills to exempt vector control (public health protection).

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

Staff from the six field offices are working on updating their maps with changes to mosquito larval breeding sites. They are utilizing the new 2020 Met Council/MnGeo aerial photos to produce accurate and up to date maps. Along with updating the physical maps and comments about the breeding sites (where to access, safety information, etc.), they are analyzing inspection and treatment data to prioritize mosquito larval breeding sites to ensure that the appropriate sites are being treated. This occurs on a yearly basis to ensure we are continuing to be efficient and effective in our treatments. Along with this important task, staff are continuing to attend District team meetings to prepare for the 2021 control season. One such team is the drone group. The District currently has 11 certified drone pilots. This group is planning some tests for 2021 that will continue to help answer some of the logistical questions of how drone treatments can be implemented at a larger operational scale for MMCD.

Applications have started to come in for the seasonal positions. To date, managers have hired for approximately 35% of the available seasonal positions. To help increase the number of applicants, field staff are helping to recruit by placing online ads, putting up posters, and have been working "virtual" job fairs. We are also in the process of

interviewing for two Field Operations Supervisor positions, one in Scott County and one in Anoka County. These positions were vacated due to a retirement and a promotion.

3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

Planning is underway for vector surveillance and disease prevention in 2021. West Nile virus (WNV) transmission was very low in Minnesota in 2020. There were no WNV illnesses confirmed in the state. Tests for the virus on mosquitoes collected in the District confirmed that the virus was much less prevalent than during most years. Only six of 546 mosquito samples returned WNV positive results. Despite low rates of WNV transmission last year, we must be prepared for rapid amplification of the virus in 2021 as it will occur under ideal conditions. Larval control applications against WNV vector species will be crucial for mitigating WNV risk. That work will begin in earnest in late May and will continue through the summer months. Supplemental WNV risk reduction efforts will include surveillance driven adult mosquito control targeting vector species and numerous public education opportunities.

There were no La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) cases in Minnesota in 2020. It was the fourth consecutive year without a case in the District. La Crosse encephalitis remains a perennial concern as both the virus and its primary vector are endemic to the District. We will continue to focus on training seasonal employees to recognize and eliminate situations that lead to undue LAC risk. We successfully reduce the likelihood of LAC infections by eliminating larval habitats such as tires, containers, and tree holes. We will also conduct surveillance for adult vectors and provide adult mosquito control when warranted.

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) was detected for the second consecutive year in Minnesota in 2020. Illnesses were confirmed in two horses from Aitkin and Benton counties. Over the past two decades, we have worked to refine our techniques for surveillance and control of the primary EEE vector, *Culiseta melanura*, and we will continue to target the species for control due to the severity of the illness the virus can cause in both humans and horses.

Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) was less prevalent in the area in 2020 than at any other time in the past decade. There were no JCV illnesses confirmed in Minnesota and only one in Wisconsin. While there is much to learn about JCV, the mosquito species of greatest concern as vectors are already targeted by MMCD for control. We will continue to work with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Midwest Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Disease out of the University of Wisconsin to learn more about JCV as we develop best practices for prevention of JCV illnesses.

4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

Lab staff have been spending a significant time preparing for the Technical Advisory Board Meeting – writing chapters, editing the report, and creating presentations. Diann Crane, Entomologist, updated the TAB members about the mosquito season – the environmental conditions contributing to mosquito populations, and seasonal and geographic distributions

of various mosquito groups. Carey LaMere, Black Fly Specialist, assisted John Walz with the Black Fly Control Program contribution. Scott Larson, Assistant Entomologist, reviewed MMCD's progress incorporating drones into our control program; the first treatments by drone were made this year.

Lab staff typically assist national organizations with national conference preparations. Due to COVID-19 impacts, the North American Black Fly Association meeting is canceled, and the North Central Mosquito Control Association conference will be virtual and scaled down. Currently, we are reviewing applications and interviewing candidates to work as seasonal lab technicians this summer. In addition, we are identifying macroinvertebrates in the nontarget samples for the black fly program, archiving previous MMCD studies into a digital database, attending team meetings, and cleaning and organizing our storeroom.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MMCD in the Media

February 1 - We received one of our earliest media requests of the year with WCCO reaching out to see how the mild winter temperatures (at the time) will impact mosquitoes: <https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/video/5255331-good-question-whats-the-impact-of-a-mild-winter/>

Recruitment Season

The MMCD recruitment team is busy at work recruiting our seasonal employees using traditional advertising like radio, posters, and billboards along with online advertising and social media.

New Contact Form

We are excited to be launching a new contact form on our website this year where people can directly input their address to report mosquito annoyance or request tire pick-ups, which will be automatically added to the call system. This will save front desk staff a lot of time and also may give a more accurate count of requests being made as the previous e-mail system did not allow for an address and so annoyance calls may not have been geolocated.

The new form will launch within the next two months!

Social Media

Our social media presence continued to grow this month as we seek to educate and inform citizens on Facebook, Twitter, and our new Instagram page:

- Facebook – 1,541 Page Likes (up 2 from January 16)
 - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
- Twitter – 759 Followers (up 1 from January 16)
 - Twitter.com/metromosquito
- Instagram – 231 Followers (up 12 from January 16)
 - Instagram.com/metromosquito

6. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

MMCD Collaboration to Detect Asian Longhorned Tick

Agencies involved in collaborative surveillance include Indian Health Services (northern MN), Minnesota Board of Animal Health, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Minnesota Department of Health, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, University of Minnesota, and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota.

No Asian longhorned ticks have been reported in Minnesota in 2020.

Tick Vector Field Projects

The 2020 tick surveillance season began April 27. Our third and final round of surveillance was completed on October 29. The first round of surveillance was completed on June 18 and the second round on August 27. As of February 12, 2021, laboratory work has been completed and data entry and compilations are ongoing.

Public Education/Outreach

- We continue to alert our Facebook followers to tick activity and other items of interest and are periodically reminding people that we would like any **unusual ticks mailed to us!**
- Our Tick Risk Meter is currently set to **LOW**. While unlikely as long as the ground stays fully snow covered and temperatures are low, deer ticks could potentially quest at temperatures in the mid 30s °F, which is predicted to recur in a few weeks.
- Signs to remind the public of deer ticks and disease prevention measures are being posted at dog parks and additional locations throughout the metro.