

METROPOLITAN
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

July 28, 2021

9:15 A.M.

Information Packet

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

July 28, 2021 9:15 A.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome and Introduction

CONSENT AGENDA *The following items (3-4) 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 April 28, 2021
4. Financial Statements June 30, 2021
5. Approval of Checks and Claims
 General 74687 – 75092

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Auditor’s Report on MMCD Financial Statements Ending December 31, 2020– (Redpath and Company)
7. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
8. MMCD 2022 Preliminary Levy* and 2022 Budget
9. Executive Committee Report for May 26, 2021 and June 23, 2021
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 Commission Meeting: Wednesday, August 25, 2021, 9:15 a.m.

Next Executive Meeting: Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 9:15 a.m.

COMMISSIONER	COUNTY	COMMISSIONER	COUNTY
___ Scott Schulte	Anoka	___ Angela Conley	Hennepin
___ Jeff Reinert	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	___ David Beer	Scott
___ Liz Workman	Dakota	___ Gary Kriesel	Washington
___ Kevin Anderson	Hennepin	___ Lisa Weik	Washington

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES
April 28, 2021
9:15 A.M.

Chair Angela Conley called the meeting to order at 9:23 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 Angela Conley, Chair	Hennepin County
Commissioner Lisa Weik, Vice Chair	Washington County
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire, Secretary	Ramsey County
Commissioner Scott Schulte	Anoka County
Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Anoka County
Commissioner Robyn West	Anoka County
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Carver County
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Dakota County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Chris LaTondresse	Hennepin County
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Ramsey County
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Ramsey County
Commissioner Michael Beard	Scott County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator
Nancy Read, Technical Services Coordinator
Jon Peterson, District Operations Manager
Kirk Johnson, Vector Ecologist
Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Coordinator

Visitors:

Joe Langel, MMCD Legal Counsel
Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting
Kim Scott, RCS Consulting
Dr. Stephen Kells, University of Minnesota, Department of Entomology

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

Commissioner Rafael Ortega 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 February 24, 2021
2. Approval of Checks and Claims
General 74458 – 74686

Commissioner Michel Beard seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Scott Schulte	Yes
Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Chris LaTondresse	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Commissioners Tom Workman, Carver County and Kevin Anderson, Hennepin County joined the meeting after the vote.

Dr. Stephen Kells, the 2021 Technical Advisory Board (TAB) Chair, reported that the TAB met with MMCD staff on February 11, 2021 to review the District’s programs and plans for 2021. The TAB is very satisfied with the discussion at the meeting and MMCD’s program. The TAB approved two resolutions expressing support for the program as presented in the 2020 Operational Review and commending MMCD on its ability to manage budgets and keep focused on the tasks needed, including being prepared for emergencies and emerging issues.

*Technical Advisory
Board (TAB) Report*

Commissioner Lisa Weik offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 2:

Whereas, the Chair of the District’s Technical Advisory Board (TAB) has reported that the TAB reviewed District operations in 2020 and plans for 2021, and;

Whereas, the TAB and MMCD staff discussed in detail 2020 operations and plans for 2021, and;

Whereas, the TAB supports the program presented in the 2020 operations and plans for 2021, and;

Whereas, the TAB commends MMCD on its ability to manage budgets and keep focused on the tasks needed, including being prepared for emergencies and emerging issues;

Resolved, that the Commission accepts the report of the TAB Chair and approves the 2020 Operational Review and Plans for 2021;

Commissioner Michael Beard seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Scott Schulte	Yes
Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Chris LaTondresse	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Commission Kevin Anderson abstained from voting.

*Intergovernmental
Issues*

SF 959 (Ingebrigtsen)/HF 1076 (Hansen), the environment omnibus bill, passed their respective floors. The Senate voted 37/29 and the House voted 70/63. Included in the House bill is the pollinator language allowing cities to ban pollinator lethal insecticides within their borders and MMCD is listed as an exception.

The environment omnibus bills have been compared by the Chief Clerk, and conferees have been named. The conference committee could begin meeting as early as this week to rectify the differences between the bills. The pollinator language, mentioned above, is one provision among many that differs between the bills.

Taxes, executive power, policing, and how the federal dollars for COVID will be spent are the issues taking most of the Legislature's focus. In this first year of the biennium, the Legislature is tasked with passing a balanced budget for the state. There are significant differences between most of the budget bills that need to be conferenced by the House and Senate and there does not yet seem to be agreement on any of the larger pieces (not an unusual circumstance for a divided Legislature at this juncture in the session). Gov. Walz said that he would be willing to spend political capital on passing police reform, which will continue to take center stage throughout the remainder of the session.

The regular session will constitutionally adjourn by May 17. However, if Gov. Walz continues his emergency powers, as he is expected to, he will need to call the Legislature back for a special session around June 12. Many legislators are already projecting that they may not pass their budget bills by May 17 and will have to come back to finish their work in special session. (It seems as if the Legislature is becoming desensitized to special sessions, since they have become the norm in the last few years.) Regardless, the hard deadline that we are operating under is June 30, when budget bills must be passed, or the government will shut down.

Just a note of interest, Oregon University put out a study that shows that the land under solar panels causes plants to grow faster and this could help pollinators.

March 24, 2021
Executive Committee
Report

In March the Executive Committee decided to not waive statutory liability limits (same decision as in past years). Statutory limits currently are \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total which all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000.

If the District waived the statutory tort limits and did not purchase excess liability coverage, a single claimant could potentially recover up to \$2,000,000 on a single occurrence. The total all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to \$2,000,000 regardless of the number of claimants.

The Executive Committee also discussed the Executive Director performance appraisal process which is the next agenda item (Item 8) for this meeting.

Chair Angela Conley reported that Executive Committee discussed with Mr. Manweiler his performance. They reviewed feedback about Mr. Manweiler's performance submitted by Commissioners, Mr. Manweiler's Direct Reports, and several randomly chosen MMCD employees. Overall, the feedback was very positive and constructive. It included potential growth areas that were further clarified by a review of the ongoing situation with employees.

Report of Executive
Director Performance
Review Panel

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

Resolution 3:

Whereas, the District's Executive Director, Stephen Manweiler, is approaching the end of his seventh year in the position, and;

Whereas, Mr. Manweiler, by the terms in his employment agreement is to be evaluated annually concerning his performance by the Executive Committee that would draw conclusions and make findings regarding his performance and eligibility for salary increase with a recommendation to the Commission, and;

Whereas, the Executive Committee undertook and completed gathering relevant input about Mr. Manweiler's performance from both Commissioners and staff, and;

Whereas, the Executive Committee is confident in his leadership in maintaining the financial and operational integrity of the District

including addressing all employee issues and supporting a positive work environment, and;

Whereas, the Executive Committee’s conclusions and findings regarding Mr. Manweiler’s performance were very positive, finding that he had fulfilled all of the responsibilities of the job very well and that the Executive Committee further found that he would be eligible for and would recommend him for a salary increase, and;

Whereas, the Executive Committee diligently assessed Mr. Manweiler's performance and found that it would serve the Commission's, its taxpayers' and the District's best interests to continue Mr. Manweiler's employment,

Resolved, that the Executive Committee finds that Mr. Manweiler has performed at a Highly Successful level in his seventh year as the District’s Executive Director, that his fine performance is acknowledged and appreciated, that he be recommended for a salary increase equal to the amount approved for other employees, that the Executive Committee finds that his employment be extended into the second year of his three-year employment agreement, and that all of these findings be recommended for approval by the full Commission.

Commissioner Robyn West seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Yes
Commissioner Scott Schulte	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Chris LaTondresse	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Commissioner Tom Workman left the meeting prior to the vote.

Stephen Manweiler briefly reviewed the District financial situation since 2014 and the long-term plan developed in 2015 and implemented since then that is designed to achieve sustainable District funding and expenditures (service delivery). The long-term plan includes three goals which are (1) to restore District reserves [achieved by end of 2019], (2) increase funding until it equals expenditures which will allow restoration of all services cut in 2017, and (3) enable service expansion to meet the needs of the ever-increasing population of the 7-county metro area.

*2021 Plans and Initial
2022 Budget and Levy
Discussion*

In January 2020, the District planned to restore about one third of services cut in 2017. This was mostly cancelled in April 2020 when counties feared significant levy deficits due to the economic impact of the pandemic. The District implemented additional savings in April 2020 and paused its long-term plan by not increasing the 2021 levy and budget.

By January 2021, the feared levy deficits did not occur. Therefore, the District will restore one third of services cut in 2017 (same plan as January 2020). Pausing the long-term plan in 2020 delayed achieving the second goal of the long-term plan by one year (complete service restoration in 2026 instead of 2025). Stephen presented two possible scenarios. The first was to resume the long-term plan including a 2% increase in the 2022 levy over 2021 and a 1% increase in the 2022 budget over 2021. The second was to pause the long-term plan for one more year (0% increase in 2022 levy) which would delay achieving the second goal by two more years (complete service restoration in 2028 instead of 2026). Because the current financial forecast is much better than that of April 2020, Stephen Manweiler recommended resuming the long-term plan.

Stephen asked the Commission if he should explore modifying the long-term plan to achieve complete service restoration in 2025 or if he should explore details bounded by the two options presented today. The Commission instructed him to explore the options presented today.

Stephen Manweiler thanked the Washington County Commission for the warm welcome he received April 13 when he presented an annual update of District activities and plans. He appreciated their questions, feedback and support.

*Executive Director's
Report*

Stephen reported that the annual meeting of the North Central Mosquito Control Association on April 13 was attended by many District employees, 36 of whom satisfied requirements for applicator recertification. Registration for this meeting was free. Many topics

were covered, ranging from how to interpret product labels, how to safely use personal protective equipment, vector tick and mosquito updates, using drones to enhance operations and mitigation of potential environmental impacts when using pesticides.

Jon Peterson reported that this spring the weather has continued to be unpredictable. March was unseasonably warm, which caused an early hatching of mosquito larvae. But the later 2/3 of April has proven to be cooler than normal, which has slowed larval growth and given our staff time to find and treat the larvae in the wetlands. Staff are also reporting drier than normal conditions.

Operations Report

Our Field Operations Supervisors are continuing to train our seasonal staff as they come aboard on our procedures and ensuring they are following all safety protocols. Just over half of our staff have started working so far, with the others starting throughout May. Staff are currently inspecting and treating wetlands for mosquitoes. We started treating with the helicopter on 4/22 and will hopefully wrap up the “Spring Brood” this week. The total acres flown for this first brood will be somewhere between 25,000 – 30,000.

Staff have also been busy treating for black flies. Last week, they made treatments to our small streams throughout the metro. Some of these targeted treatments were for the black fly *Simulium tuberosum*, a species of black fly that was added to the treatment permit this year.

The season has started off very well. Our dedicated staff will continue to work hard to deliver services to the residents of the 7-county metro.

Kirk Johnson reported early season La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) prevention efforts are underway; technicians have been in the field for a little over two weeks. This is a good time for woodlot inspection with no snow or leaves. Just under 200 tires have been collected so far for recycling.

It is too early to make predictions regarding West Nile virus (WNV) risk this year (low transmission 2019 & 2020); expect few overwintering infected mosquitoes. Weather conditions in May and June will greatly influence WNV transmission, warm weather increases the amplification rate of WNV and *Culex* populations are influenced by both temperature and rainfall (amount and frequency). We are about to begin WNV risk reduction services, including larval control in catch basins and stormwater structures starting late May. Several municipalities are assisting with treatments in underground structures. Adult surveillance is set to begin next month and testing mosquitoes for WNV will start first week of June or earlier if warranted.

We are continuing to collaborate with the Midwest Center for Excellence in Vector-borne Disease (UW) and the Minnesota Department of Health to increase our knowledge of Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) in our region. JCV is a native virus with many unanswered questions. There has been one positive adult mosquito sample in each of last three seasons. We are conducting weekly larval surveillance in 43 sites to follow development through aquatic stages, looking for relationships to water temp and site type preferences for the various spring *Aedes* species. We are also collecting larvae to test for JCV to determine which species might be playing important roles in the overwintering of the virus.

Alex Carlson reported that MMCD has been featured in statewide news a few times this year, most recently on KARE 11 (TV), WCCO (TV), and Minnesota News Network (TV).

Public Affairs Report

We have done two virtual classroom presentations this year and have four more planned during May. Teachers continue to utilize our video. Our communications team is beginning work on our summer video series with at least one planned for each month May - August. There will still be fewer summer events than pre-COVID, but we are getting ready to attend a few. The State Fair is currently planning to return, and we have reserved our usual space in the Dairy Building. Customer calls have not yet picked up - most calls are requests for tire pickups.

Chair Angela Conley asked if there was any other business remaining for the Commission to consider. Hearing none, Chair Conley declared the meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Adjournment

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT					
FINANCIAL STATEMENT					
June 30, 2021					
COUNTY		2021 LEVY		REC'D TO DATE	DUE
Anoka	\$	1,762,011		0	\$ 1,762,011
Carver		668,220		0	668,220
Dakota		2,441,430		0	2,441,430
Hennepin		8,658,865		0	8,658,865
Ramsey		2,665,415		0	2,665,415
Scott		877,272		462,478	414,794
Washington		1,592,156		0	1,592,156
Market Value Credit		0		0	0
TOTAL	\$	18,665,369		\$ 462,478	\$ 18,202,891
Tax Delinquent Income	\$	0		\$ 3,971	
Miscellaneous (Rent/Misc./Non-Levy)		100,000		20,309	
Interest Income		135,000		6,052	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	18,900,369		\$ 492,810	\$ 18,407,559
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>					
<u>ASSETS</u>					
Cash and Investments				\$ 12,846,301	
Accounts Receivable				166,417	
Prepaid Expenses				0	
Consumable Material				2,202,727	
Equipment net of Acc Depreciation				2,338,103	
Land				1,118,867	
Building net of Acc Depreciation				2,712,678	
TOTAL ASSETS					\$ 21,385,093
<u>LIABILITIES</u>					
Vouchers Payable				\$ 195,782	
Pass thru Revenue				0	
Deferred Revenue				92,444	
TOTAL LIABILITIES					\$ 288,226
<u>NET WORTH</u>					
Fund Balance:					
Nonspendable				\$ 4,044,786	
Prepaid				36,214	
Committed				2,500,000	
Assigned				1,040,567	
Unassigned for Working Capital				15,196,967	
Total Fund Equity				\$ 22,818,534	
Assets-Equipment				6,169,648	
TOTAL				\$ 28,988,182	
ADD Income				492,810	
DEDUCT Expenditures				8,384,125	
TOTAL NET WORTH					\$ 21,096,867
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH					\$ 21,385,093

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT					
CUMULATIVE OPERATIONS STATEMENT					
June 30, 2021					
EXPENDITURES		ACTUAL		BUDGET	+OVER/-UNDER
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>					
Operations	\$	480,666			
Capital Items		0			
Repairs		0			
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$	480,666	\$	586,433	\$ (105,767)
<u>CONTROL DIVISION</u>					
Operations	\$	7,826,862			
Capital Items		13,530			
Repairs		63,067			
TOTAL CONTROL DIVISION	\$	7,903,459	\$	10,165,403	\$ (2,261,944)
<u>COMMISSION</u>					
Per Diem	\$	0			
Mileage		0			
TOTAL COMMISSION	\$	0	\$	1,526	\$ (1,526)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	8,384,125	\$	10,753,362	\$ (2,369,237)
BUDGET REMAINING			\$	8,798,205	
ORIGINAL BUDGET			\$	19,551,567	
EMERGENCY FUNDS				0	
TOTAL BUDGET			\$	19,551,567	

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 28, 2021

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Action Request:

Approve MMCD 2022 Preliminary Levy

Background

In 2015, a plan was developed to support District finances in the long-term. The long-term plan aimed to achieve three goals through incremental annual levy increases and smaller budget increases beginning in 2016. In 2017 we cut \$1.2 million in services as part of this plan.

- The multi-year plan implemented in 2016 includes the following goals:
 - Restore District reserves to minimum levels that support District cash flow needs (achieved by the end of 2019)
 - Increase the levy until it is equal to the budget (levy-budget parity) (will support restoring all services cut in 2017)
 - Enable the District to provide expanded services in response to increased human population and development through additional levy-budget increases
- We paused the long-term plan in 2020 because of feared levy deficits due to the COVID-19 pandemic by holding the 2021 levy and budget equal to 2020
- The feared levy deficits largely did not happen in 2020 meaning that in 2021 we were able to restore about \$324,302 worth of services cut in 2017
- We recommend resuming the long-term plan in 2022 to restore all services cut in 2017 as soon as possible while maintaining District reserves
 - We need a 0.97% budget increase in 2022 (\$19,741,768) to accommodate increased expenses due to inflation (Table 2)
 - We recommend a 2% levy increase in the preliminary payable 2022 levy in the amount of \$19,038,676 (Table 2)
 - We forecast requiring budget increases (~1%) only every other year through 2026 (2022, 2024 and 2026). This will help mitigate the delay in when the levy and budget are equal caused by COVID-19

We considered three 2022 levy scenarios (all include 2% levy increases in 2023 and 2024) (Table 1).

- A 2% levy increase in 2022 will enable the District to restore more services in 2022 than 2021 with very small levy increases required in 2025 and 2026.
- A 1% levy increase in 2022 will enable to District to restore about the same level of services in 2022 as in 2021 and require larger levy increases in 2025 and 2026.
- A 0% levy increase in 2022 will reduce the amount of services the District can restore in 2022 compared to 2021, delay by one year the year when all services can be restored and require the largest levy increases in 2025 and 2026.

Table 1. Impacts to long-term plan of three 2022 levy scenarios (all scenarios include 2% levy increases in 2023 and 2024).

2022 levy increase	Amount the budget is greater than the levy		Services restored in 2022*	Year that the levy equals the budget	Required levy increases	
	2019	2022			2025	2026
2%	\$1,058,603	\$703,092	\$496,908	2025	0.75%	0.50%
1%	\$1,058,603	\$884,455	\$315,545	2025	2.00%	0.75%
0%	\$1,058,603	\$1,071,109	\$128,891	2026	2.00%	2.00%

*\$1.2 million minus the amount the budget is greater than the levy

Completely achieving the second goal (restoring all services cut in 2017) will look similar to the map (Figure 1, upper left) that depicts aerial larval control treatments in 2016, the final year before services were cut to save money. Most treatments are in P1, where most of the people live. Treatments in P2 are mostly adjacent to P1. We design operations to provide the most control for the greatest number of District residents.

Service cuts in 2017 greatly reduced treatments in P2 (Figure 1, upper right). Treatments in P1 were largely maintained. Most aerial larval control treatments in 2018 through 2020 were done in P1.

As of July 17, 2021 we have been able to restore some of the treatments cut in 2017 (Figure 1, lower center). A 2% levy increase in 2022 will enable the District to restore additional services.

Resolution

Whereas, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District is required to certify a preliminary levy for payable 2022 to the Minnesota Department of Revenue by August 1, 2021 and,

Whereas, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission has reviewed property tax levy options to maintain District operational plans,

Be it now resolved, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission certifies the preliminary payable 2022 levy in the amount of \$19,038,676 to the Minnesota Department of Revenue, a 2% increase over the 2021 levy of \$18,665,369.

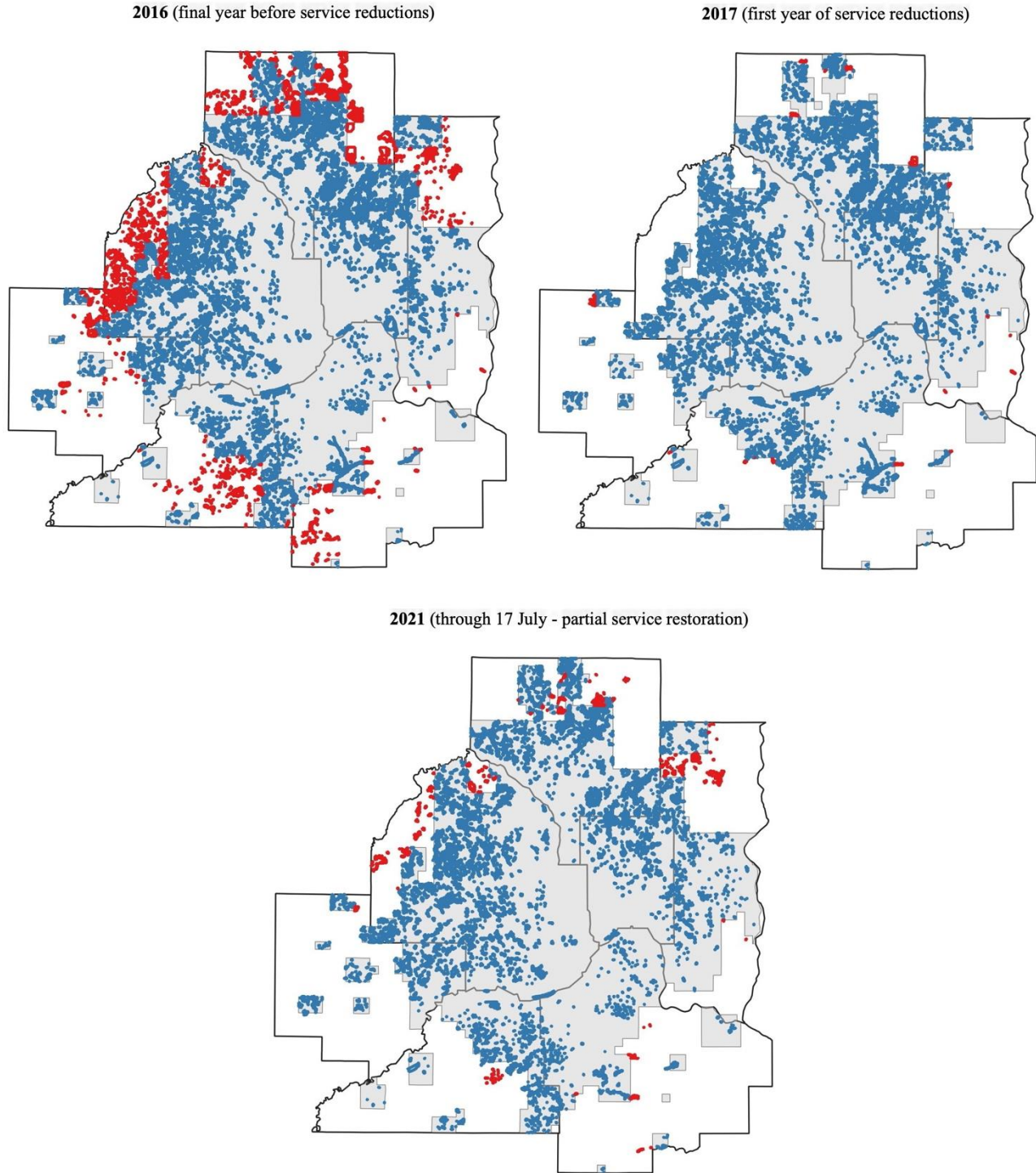


Figure 1. Three maps depicting aerial larval control: 2016 (final year before service reductions), 2017 (first year of service reductions), 2021 (through July 17, partial service restoration). Blue (P1) and Red (P2) treatments. Gray area depicts P1.

Table 2. Actual levy receipts and expenditures (2018-2020), approved levy and budget (2021) and proposed levy and budget (2022).

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	PROPOSED
ADMINISTRATION					
Salary and Wages	\$765,333	\$765,333	\$694,649	\$792,046	\$799,966
Building Expense	\$66,571	\$66,571	\$52,320	\$52,770	\$53,298
Office Supplies	\$30,207	\$30,207	\$15,717	\$33,870	\$34,209
Travel and Mileage	\$1,735	\$1,735	\$1,164	\$4,250	\$4,293
Insurance	\$10,182	\$10,182	\$13,088	\$12,500	\$12,625
Interest	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
General Expenses	\$113,166	\$113,166	\$123,951	\$114,000	\$115,140
Repair and Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$505
Total Admin. Operations	\$987,194	\$987,194	\$900,889	\$1,009,936	\$1,020,035
Administration Capital	\$12,493	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Administration -	\$999,687	\$987,194	\$900,889	\$1,009,936	\$1,020,035
COMMISSION					
Per Diem	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel and Mileage	\$2,177	\$2,177	\$705	\$3,660	\$3,660
Total Commissioners -	\$2,177	\$2,177	\$705	\$3,660	\$3,660
CONTROL/MONITORING					
Salary and Wages	\$6,559,521	\$6,561,904	\$6,281,129	\$7,652,148	\$7,728,669
Rent and Building Costs	\$846,623	\$851,853	\$830,944	\$894,660	\$903,607
Supplies & Expenses	\$248,544	\$321,860	\$315,346	\$281,850	\$284,669
Control Materials	\$4,137,801	\$4,013,552	\$3,546,099	\$5,831,000	\$5,889,310
Helicopter	\$1,553,479	\$1,746,405	\$1,487,582	\$2,527,560	\$2,552,836
Transportation Expenses	\$175,049	\$156,594	\$120,679	\$186,390	\$188,254
Insurance	\$251,095	\$239,335	\$226,075	\$268,510	\$271,195
General Expenses	\$180,498	\$109,931	\$80,442	\$156,630	\$158,196
Repair and Maintenance	\$290,161	\$198,509	\$167,050	\$211,700	\$213,817
Total Control Operations	\$14,242,771	\$14,199,943	\$13,055,346	\$18,010,448	\$18,190,552
Control Capital	\$351,209	\$667,746	\$269,275	\$527,520	\$527,520
Total Control Division -	\$14,593,980	\$14,867,689	\$13,324,621	\$18,537,968	\$18,718,072
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET	\$15,595,844	\$15,857,060	\$14,226,215	\$19,551,564	\$19,741,768
Levy	\$17,832,456	\$18,139,782	\$18,525,337	\$18,665,369	\$19,038,676
Revenue - other sources	285,442	412,655	273,948	235,000	235,000
Fund Balance (end of year)	\$15,598,370	\$18,293,908	\$22,866,978	\$22,215,783	\$21,747,692
Amount from FB used for exp.	(\$2,522,054)	(\$2,695,377)	(\$4,573,070)	\$651,195	\$468,091

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 DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES
MAY 26, 2021
9:15 A.M.

Chair Angela Conley called the meeting to order at 9:15 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 Robyn West	Anoka County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Ramsey County
Commissioner Michael Beard	Scott County
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Washington County

Commissioner Beard joined the meeting after the roll call.

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator

Visitors:

Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting
Jennifer Early, MMCD Legal Counsel

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

Commissioner Robyn West offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

*Approval of March
24, 2021 Committee
Meeting Minutes*

Resolution 1:

Resolved, that the March 24, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Lisa Weik seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

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

Commission Beard joined the meeting after the vote.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Peg Larsen reported once again the legislature adjourned without finishing their work. They did however come to an agreement on a total target of \$52 billion. They are leaving it up to each of the chairs to decide how they would spend their portion of that target. The committee spreadsheets must be in to leadership by Friday May 28, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. and the final bills must be done by Friday June 4. Working groups are determining what would be in each omnibus bill. So far all of the work has been done behind closed doors. The Health and Human Services Committee is the exception. The working group did hold a meeting on Monday to discuss the federal dollars. After watching the committee, it's clear that nobody really knows what the guidelines are for these funds. The legislature must provide projected spending to the federal government by June 13, 2021 and have until March 2024 to spend the federal dollars.

Legislative Update

However, if the federal money is used, they must continue to fund those expenditures. This money must be used to supplement not supplant current programs. The governor has \$500 million to spend on items that he decides warrant it and the rest of the federal dollars will be determined by the legislature. The total of all the federal dollars is 2.6 billion.

The legislature should come back into session anywhere from June 7 to June 14. On June 14 they need to meet to continue the governor's emergency powers and at some point, but before June 30 they need to pass a balanced budget. The items related to police reform are holding up negotiations, not sure how they will compromise on those items.

Chair Hanson has been meeting with the PCA and other groups to help him decide what items are priorities. At this point we do not know if the pesticide language is going to be part of the final negotiations.

The St. Paul main office was built in 1992, the roof and HVAC condensers are original. Over the last several years, the HVAC condensers and roof have needed numerous repairs. The roof has an upper/sloped section and two flat sections; it has been determined that the flat roof sections are in more need of replacement.

*Authorization to
Advertise for Bids for
Condenser and Roof
Replacements*

The repairs that have been made to the HVAC condensers and roof were temporary fixes which are exhausted, and the replacements should be addressed in 2021. R. Richard Gauger, Engineer, will be involved in the discussions related to the need for these replacements. We have contacted him to further review the situation and provide his expertise on the roof and condensers.

The estimated cost for the replacement of the HVAC condensers ranges between \$100,000 and \$150,000. The cost for replacing two sections of the roof is estimated at \$250,000.

The bid deadline date has yet to be determined, due to current industry demand.

Commissioner Liz Workman offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 2:

Resolved, that the District staff be authorized to advertise for bids for replacement of the roof (partial) and HVAC condensers at the St. Paul main office.

Commissioner Angela Conley seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

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

Stephen Manweiler reviewed Governor Walz’s announcement on May 6 and the CDC announcement on May 13. He reported that the District was maintaining safety measures primarily because determining how many employees (especially seasonal) are vaccinated is difficult.

*Pandemic Transition
Safety Plan*

Stephen responded that overall, District counties seem to be phasing out mask and remote meeting requirements and more slowly phasing out social distancing. Commissioners thought that was accurate in a general sense.

Stephen reported that by July 1 boardrooms used for full Commission (205) and Executive Committee (227) meetings will have remote participation capabilities making them available for hybrid meetings. Commissioners determined the June 23 Executive Committee meeting will be held remotely and will consider a hybrid meeting for the July 28 full Commission meeting. Thereafter all Commissioners requested hybrid meetings with Commissioner McGuire requesting remote Executive Committee meetings to decrease the commute time required to participate.

Stephen will review legal requirements (Open Meeting Law) for a remote participation option (after the pandemic is declared ended) with MMCD legal counsel and report at the June 23 Executive Committee meeting.

Stephen Manweiler reviewed the three goals of the long-term plan and that we currently are working to fulfill the second goal which is to restore all services cut in 2017. We paused the plan last year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic which delayed by one year (2026 instead of 2025) when we can achieve the second goal (completely restore services cut in 2017). We also implemented additional savings measures in 2020 in response to a potential 15% levy deficit because of the pandemic. The levy deficit largely did not occur and current economic forecasts are much better than those available a year ago. In 2021, the District will be able to restore about one third (\$324,302) of services cut in 2017.

*Longer-Term
Budget/Funding Plan*

Stephen reported that the District will need a 1% budget increase in 2022 because of rising cost of living (inflation). We took no budget increase in 2021. Arleen reviewed forecasted increases for the next few years and determined that the District could survive with 1% budget increases every other year (1% budget increases in 2022 and 2024). Modifying the budget increases included in the long-term plan will help mitigate the delay to achieve the second goal (complete service restoration) caused by our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stephen reviewed three 2022 levy scenarios (all include 2% levy increases in 2023 and 2024). A 2% levy increase in 2022 will enable the District to restore more services in 2022 than 2021 with very small levy increases required in 2025 and 2026. A 1% levy increase in 2022 will enable the District to restore about the same level of services in 2022 as in 2021 and require larger levy increases in 2025 and 2026. A 0% levy increase in 2022 will reduce the amount of services the District can restore in 2022 compared to 2021, delay by one year the year when all services can be restored and require the largest levy increases in 2025 and 2026.

Stephen recommended resuming the long-term plan with a 2% levy increase in 2022 and asked Commissioners which scenario or scenarios he should present in more detail at June 23 Executive Committee meeting.

Commissioners asked Stephen for more details about the scenario that includes a 2% levy increase in 2022. They wanted more details about how restorations of services cut in 2017 apply to P1 and P2 areas that desire services.

Stephen reported that District staff proposed new creative ways to reach more qualified candidates for seasonal positions. These methods proved successful in attracting enough candidates for the District to meet its hiring needs, especially in April which has been difficult in the past. We reached a more diverse pool of qualified candidates.

Executive Director
Report

Mosquito control operations started about two weeks earlier in 2021 than in 2020. Helicopters treated spring mosquitoes in late April. Recent rains induced another mosquito hatch. Staff gave up their Saturday and Sunday to finish treating larvae that were developing rapidly because of the recent warm weather. Many District residents will enjoy a more pleasant Memorial Day weekend because of staff working hard last weekend. More treatments are planned through next week to control the cattail mosquito that emerges in early July.

Last February Stephen reported that a formerly rare but recently problematic black fly (*Simulium tuberosum*) had been added to our treatment permit this year. We completed treatments for *S. tuberosum* this spring on Battle, Minnehaha, Nine Mile (in Edina), Vermillion, and Plymouth creeks. Some of these past problem areas have received a handful of complaints in 2021 but the Plymouth Creek area has not received any complaints to-date. We are continuing to sample these streams through June to track populations.

Most 2021 customer complaints for black fly annoyance have occurred in Savage and Bloomington around Credit River and portions of Nine Mile Creek. Follow up sweep collections detected mainly *S. tuberosum*. We hope to add more places to treat to our permit in 2022.

On May 17 Stephen saw a post on Nextdoor by a Midland Hills resident who found a lone star tick that she believes she picked up on May 16 while working in her yard. She posted a photo of the tick. Stephen mentioned this posting as a great example of residents helping to detect unusual and possibly significant organisms, including ticks.

Chair Angela Conley asked if there was anything else to come before this meeting. Nobody mentioned any additional items.

*Other Issues and
Adjournment*

Commissioner Liz Workman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Tom Workman seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

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

Chair Angela Conley declared the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES
June 23, 2021
9:15 a.m.

Chair Angela Conley called the meeting to order at 9:15 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 Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Ramsey County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Washington County

Commissioner Michael Beard joined the meeting after roll call.

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator

Visitors:

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

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

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

*Approval of May 26,
2021 Committee
Meeting Minutes*

Resolution 1:

Resolved, that the May 26, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Liz Workman seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

We are currently in the middle of a special session with the threat of government shutdown if the Legislature does not agree on and pass budget bills by June 30. During this special session, the Legislature formed “working groups,” to work on the budget bills that were in conference when the regular session adjourned, with global negotiations being worked on by the Speaker, Majority Leader, and Governor.

Legislative Update

The holdup on the environment bill, for most of the regular session and special session, was the Senate’s request to include a moratorium on the Clean Cars rule that is a priority for Gov. Walz. Once the Senate gave up this request, the agreement moved forward quickly with the remaining holdups being on two smaller issues related to chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer and PFAS or “forever” chemicals (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). No provisions related to pesticides were contained in the final agreement. Yesterday, the environment bill went through House Ways and Means and Senate Finance and passed the Senate floor last night.

The final agriculture omnibus bill also did not contain any provisions relating to pesticides and it is on its way to the Governor for signature. The other omnibus bills that have been passed by both bodies, as of today, are the higher education bill and the Legacy bill. The Legacy bill, however, does not impact the budget total.

The biggest controversies remaining are the public safety bill, police reform, and the governor’s emergency powers. It is expected that the final deal will include removal of the governor’s emergency powers.

The Legislature has been in session one way or another for the past year and a half and the strain on everyone involved is palpable. Things are not moving very smoothly, and it is anyone’s guess as to whether they will be done on time to avert a shutdown. The floor debate for the agriculture bill and the commerce and energy bill lasted a record-breaking 25 hours for filibustering on the House floor, reflecting the minority’s frustration at not being more included in final negotiations.

Arleen Schacht reported that Redpath and Company conducted the audit of the MMCD financial statements ending on December 31, 2020. The audit was conducted remotely due to COVID-19 but went well. The goal of the independent audit was to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements of the MMCD for the year ended December 31, 2020, are free of material misstatement. Redpath and Company has issued an unmodified opinion on the MMCD's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2020. A representative of Redpath and Company will provide a detailed report of their audit results at the meeting of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission on July 28, 2021.

*Auditor's Report on
MMCD Financial
Statements Ending
December 31, 2020*

Stephen Manweiler and Joe Langel reviewed laws associated with remote meetings both during standard times (13D.02) and the ongoing health emergency (13D.021). In short, once Governor Walz lifts the emergency, it will be difficult to argue that continued meetings under 13D.021 are appropriate. Such meetings could be continued on the theory that the pandemic is not over, but Joe believed the rationale for doing so weakens by the day as the pandemic recedes.

*Post Health
Pandemic Emergency
Remote Meeting
Requirements*

Commissioners can continue to have a remote option available to them after meetings are no longer held remotely under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021. Once that rationale is gone (because a normal meeting, or a meeting under 13D.02, can be held), then the only way to attend remotely is under 13D.02. Such remote attendance requires that the remote location be open to the public, that the meeting notice provide notice of that location, that the public be able to monitor the meeting remotely, and that all votes be by roll call.

We decided to convene the July 28 full Commission meeting in the large boardroom with all Commissioners reporting in person. We should have remote participation capability in July. We would like to test how to post the location of any Commissioners who want to participate remotely although we may defer that possibility until the August 25 full Commission meeting.

Stephen Manweiler briefly reviewed three 2022 levy scenarios (0%, 1%, 2% increases) before moving to the scenario (2% 2022 levy increase) recommended at the May 26 meeting. The 2% 2022 levy increase scenario was recommended because it enables MMCD to restore all services cut in 2017 sooner than the other two scenarios.

*Longer-Term
Budget/Funding Plan*

On May 26, Commissioners requested that Stephen present a description of the services that were cut and how restoration of those services will relate to the area within the District. Stephen created three maps, one before services were cut (2016), one the first year that services were cut (2017) and one showing partial restoration of services (2021 through June 3). The

maps showed how services were maintained within P1 (where about 95% of the metro population lives) and how services cuts affected areas outside of P1. Commissioners responded that the maps depicted service cuts and restorations in a clear easy-to-view way and requested that the maps be included in the packet for the July 28 full Commission meeting. Stephen offered to add a map depicting potential treatment sites throughout the District if that additional information would be helpful. Commissioners stated that the current maps contained enough information for them to understand the impact of restoring services as soon as possible upon District areas receiving full aerial larval control.

Stephen Manweiler reported that mosquito control treatments in 2021 were similar to 2020 except that some aerial treatments had been completed outside of P1 in 2021 whereas treatments in 2020 were almost exclusively within P1.

*Executive Director's
Report*

Phone calls from citizens complaining about black flies largely have stopped. Early season problems associated with a formerly rare black fly species were lower and more localized in 2021, which is the first year MMCD has been able to treat this species. Sampling is ongoing to determine if the species has one generation in April or has additional generations thereafter. We plan to add areas for treatment to our 2022 treatment permit from the MN DNR.

On May 6 Governor Walz announced plans to end the mask mandate on July 1 or when 70% of Minnesotans were fully vaccinated, whichever happened sooner. On May 13, the CDC declared that all fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask in most situations. Governor Walz dropped the mask mandate in Minnesota on May 14. At that time MMCD chose to not relax safety restrictions until July 1 at the earliest because the CDC recommendations for people who are not fully vaccinated did not change, including wearing masks in all indoor and many outdoor situations.

As of June 22, 62% of Minnesotans 18 years old and older have been fully vaccinated. Adding Minnesotans who have had at least one inoculation increases the total to 69%. It is likely that by July 1 at least 70% of Minnesotans 18 years old and older will have had at least one inoculation. New COVID-19 case rates have fallen to around 2 per 100,000 per day and about 2% of daily tests are COVID-19 positive suggesting that testing is sufficient to detect new cases. The new case rate continues to fall well after Governor Walz rescinded many indoor restrictions at the end of May.

Therefore, on July 1 the mask requirement will become optional for fully vaccinated MMCD employees and guests. Anyone who is not fully vaccinated should continue to wear their mask. Anyone who desires may continue to wear a mask.

For clarity we will maintain the other safety measures through the remainder of the season. We recommend that meetings retain a remote participation option although fully vaccinated employees may meet in person with outdoor meetings being recommended.

We may reinstate mask requirements for all employees if the case rates increase later this year, most likely at the recommendation of the Minnesota Department of Health.

Chair Angela Conley asked if there was anything else to come before this meeting. Nobody mentioned any additional items. Chair Angela Conley declared the meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

*Other Issues and
Adjournment*

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

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

We received approval from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to hold a virtual Applicator Recertification Workshop on Thursday, July 29. The format this year will be a hybrid/virtual format. Speakers will be either live in St. Paul or virtual via GoToMeeting and the footage from St. Paul will be livestreamed. MDA waives training fees for all District staff who attend these joint workshops.

The Minnesota State Fair is happening this year. MMCD has secured our spot in the Dairy Building once again this year and we will be staffing our table to give people the latest information on mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks for all 12 days of the fair (August 26 – September 6).

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

July has continued to be mostly dry throughout the seven-county metro. During the month of July, we responded to a few isolated rain events in the metro. So far, we have treated only 7,994 acres with the helicopter compared to 50,136 acres in July of 2020. In total for 2021, we have treated approximately 26,000 less acres with the helicopter than we did in 2020.

Adult mosquito numbers continue to be very low throughout the metro as well. To date, we have only treated 270 acres with adult control materials. These treatments have been in response to either potential disease vector mosquitoes or community events. Compared to 2020, we have treated approximately 1,150 fewer acres for adult mosquitoes. We will continue to monitor our Monday night surveillance results, inspect for disease vector mosquitoes, and treat areas if necessary.

Customer calls also continue to be less than previous years. So far this year, we have received 865 customer calls. The majority of these have been from residents that have breeding sites they would like inspected or treated, tires to be removed, or they had an issue with black flies earlier in the summer. During the same time frame in 2020, we had 1,515 customer calls.

Field staff are continuing to do important work in the field. Staff are inspecting and treating wetlands. They are also focusing on disease vector work including treating catch basins and permanent structures, performing neighborhood inspections including removing tires, emptying containers, and informing the public of the potential risk of having containers on their property that hold water. The Rosemount office partnered with Dakota County at a tire collection event in the northern townships of Dakota County on 7/11/2021, helping to collect and recycle 175 tires.

The dry conditions are also affecting our black fly inspections and treatments. The large rivers we inspect, including the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, have been so low that the staff are having a hard time using the boat launches. Overall, the adult black fly numbers have been low for the last two months.

At the end of July, some of our seasonal staff will attend our annual Pesticide Recertification workshop. This workshop educates our staff about the materials we use, safety protocols, and proper application. This workshop satisfies the Department of Agriculture's annual recertification requirements.

As we look towards the end of July and into August, staff are looking forward to representing the District and educating residents at the county fairs and the State Fair. We will also start having seasonal staff resign and head to college.

3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

This year we have tested 333 mosquito samples for West Nile virus (WNV) without detecting the virus. Last year there was little WNV activity in the area. By the end of 2020, we had detected WNV in only six of 546 mosquito samples tested. There were no WNV illnesses reported in residents of the District last year. The low level of WNV activity last year is one factor contributing to the delayed detection of WNV this year as the virus overwinters in infected adult mosquitoes. We are now beyond the median and mean dates of the District's first detection of WNV in mosquitoes, July 6 and July 11 respectively. We have detected WNV in mosquito samples every year since 2002 when the virus first arrived in Minnesota.

Drought conditions often lead to increased production of some of the *Culex* species that transmit WNV. Field crews have spent a considerable amount of time inspecting and treating aquatic habitats such as catch basins, other stormwater management structures, retention and detention ponds, and wetlands for *Culex* species. As a result, our surveillance indicates that their populations have remained relatively low since the second half of June.

Field crews have also been conducting surveillance for and control of *Aedes triseriatus*, our native La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) vector. Elimination of larval habitat is our most effective method for reducing LAC risk. We have recycled 6,850 tires and we have eliminated 902 other LAC vector habitats this year. This work has the added benefit of reducing the larval habitat available for container inhabiting invasive mosquito species and some of the WNV vectoring *Culex* species.

We have been closely monitoring the population of *Culiseta melanura*, the vector of eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), since there were reports of EEE in Minnesota horses in both 2019 and 2020. Thus far in 2021, the *Cs. melanura* population has remained low and persistent drought conditions will reduce the likelihood of a population rebound. *Culiseta melanura* develop in tamarack bogs and a few other bog habitats in the District. In past dry

years, we have observed bog water levels receding to the point where there is little surface water available for adults to lay eggs.

4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, over half of Minnesota is in severe or extreme drought. Metro-area counties are in moderate drought, except Anoka County and northern Washington County which are in severe drought. The lack of precipitation has all but eliminated the floodwater mosquitoes. Figure 2 below shows the average weekly capture of human biting mosquitoes. You can see mosquito levels are well below the 10-year average.

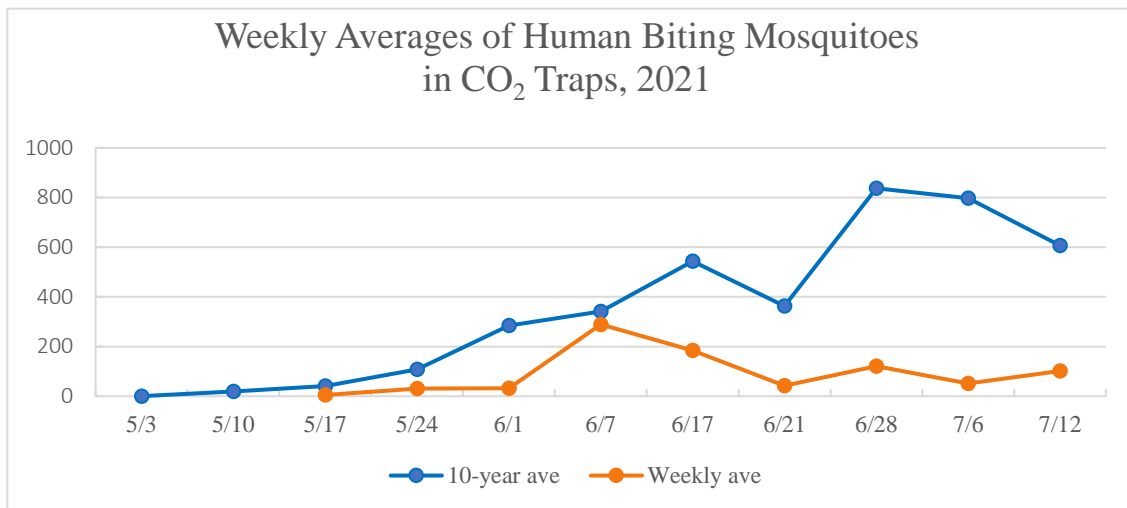


Figure 2. Average number of human biting mosquitoes per week in CO₂-baited traps in 2021. Traps (N=138) are placed in various locations in the seven-county metropolitan area.

We can always count on the species that develop in permanent water habitats to contribute to the local mosquito population, however. The cattail mosquito, *Cq. perturbans*, is our reliable summer species that fills in when the *Aedes* species are waning. But not this year. Cattail mosquito populations are very low at this point. By early July last year, the average captured per CO₂-trap was 237; this year the average per trap to this point in the season is 43 *Cq. perturbans*. Figure 3 shows you how different the two years have been. We have had some less-than-ideal trapping nights, but we really have far fewer *Cq. perturbans* than last year. The change in *Cq. perturbans* levels from a given year to the next is related to the number of adults in the previous year and the average weekly total rainfall in the previous year. Our predicted number of *Cq. perturbans* collected per CO₂-trap for 2021 was 47. We're not too far off from that right now.

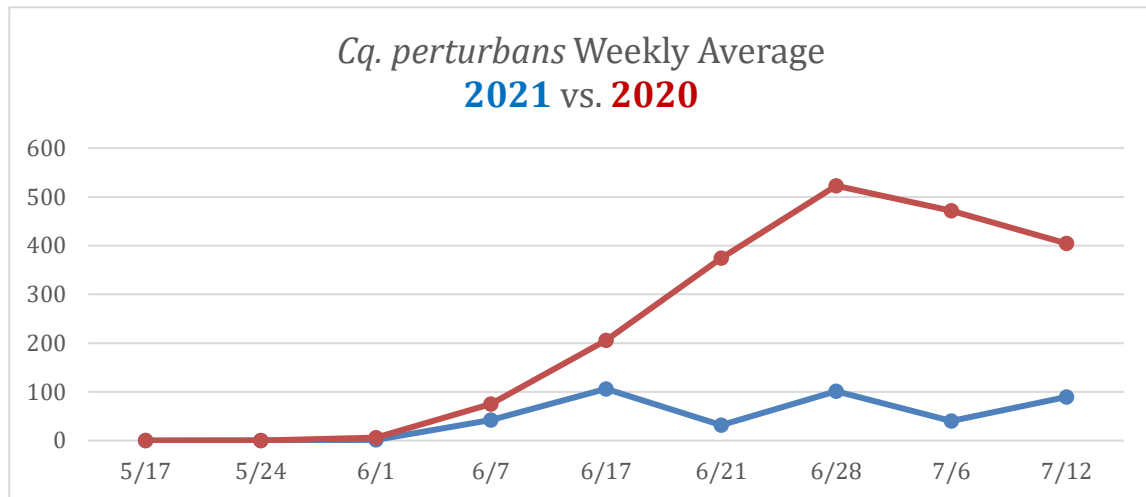


Figure 3. Average number of cattail mosquitoes (*Cq. perturbans*) per week in CO₂-baited traps in 2020 and 2021. Traps (2021, N=138; 2020, N=137) are placed in various locations in the seven-county metropolitan area.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MMCD in the Media!

- City of Bloomington: Mosquito Control in Bloomington [Link]
- Fox 9: Heatwave could cause more cases of West Nile virus this year. [Link]
- KARE 11: Minnesota has 51 species of mosquitoes, experts say the dry weather will lead to fewer of them [Link]
- WCCO: Dry weather leading to fewer mosquitoes in metro area [Link]
- Bring Me the News: Mosquito levels are relatively low - but numbers for those that spread West Nile are high [Link]
- MPR News: What you need to know about ticks, mosquitoes and the diseases they carry [Link]
- KEYC News: Lack of rain causing Mosquito decrease in area and state [Link]
- WCCO: What's Behind Minnesota's 'Very Unusual' Lack Of Mosquitos This Summer? [Link]

MMCD in the Community!

With events returning this summer, MMCD has been able to be in the community for several including:

- Hugo Good Neighbor Days Parade - June 12 - East
- St. Louis Park "Parktacular" Parade - June 19 - Plymouth
- Robbinsdale Whiz Bang Days Parade - July 11 - Maple Grove
- Belle Plain BBQ Days - July 17 - Jordan

Upcoming Events:

- Maple Grove Days Parade - July 15
- Anoka County Fair - July 20-25 - North
- Scott County Fair - July 28-August 1 - Jordan
- Canadian Days Parade - August 1
- Washington County Fair - August 4-8 - East
- Dakota County Fair - August 9-15 - Rosemount
- Carver County Fair - August 11-15 - Jordan

View the full list of MMCD Events at our [Events Calendar page](#).

Website/Blog Updates

- New Video: 5 Tips for Reducing Mosquitoes in Your Yard
- Read the Latest Weekly Insect Update. A new one gets posted every week!
- For National Mosquito Control Awareness Week we posted interviews with some seasonal staff. Meet three technicians from Maple Grove and two technicians from Andover.

Introducing: Vectoria!

Our mosquito mascot has made many appearances over the years, but in all this time she has been lacking something crucial - a name! We put out a call for suggestions from staff and the public and received over 40 submissions with ideas. An MMCD committee decided on the winner:

Vectoria!

Look for her at parades, in videos, and in other public events throughout the summer months!



Social Media

Our social media has been active this past month!

Here are a few highlights:

- North, Maple Grove, and Plymouth facilities have all taken over our Instagram in the past month and posted some awesome pictures and videos!
- We launched a TikTok account! Our East facility has some inspectors that have created amazing short videos on TikTok about mosquito education. Search for “@metromosquito” on TikTok.

- Facebook – 1,575 Page Likes (Up 8 from June 11)
 - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
- Twitter – 839 Followers (Up 20 from June 11)
 - Twitter.com/metromosquito
- Instagram – 305 Followers (Up 21 from June 11)
 - Instagram.com/metromosquito

6. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

MMCD Collaboration to Detect Exotic Ticks (Asian Longhorned Tick, Red Sheep Ticks)

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.

As of July 17, no Asian longhorned ticks or red sheep ticks have been reported as being found in Minnesota.

Tick Vector Field Projects

Our 2020 tick surveillance season began April 26. As of July 17, three of ten routes in our second round of surveillance have been completed. Our first round of surveillance was completed on June 24.

Public Education/Outreach

- Distribution and/or re-stocking of brochures, tick cards and posters remains suspended for now (due to the COVID-19 situation).
- We continue to alert our Facebook and other social media followers to tick activity and other items of interest and periodically remind people that we would like any unusual ticks mailed to us!
- Our 2020 tick surveillance report is available on our website (www.mmcd.org).
- As of July 17, few questing ticks have been reported. However, we did receive one deer tick nymph that was collected on July 11 and additional nymphs had been found in late June. Therefore, we believe that the nymphal peak may have been pushed later than its typical mid-June timeframe.
- Our Tick Risk Meter is currently set to MEDIUM.
- Now is a good time to remind you, too, that adult (and some larval) deer ticks will be out questing in early September.
- Signs to remind the public about deer ticks and disease prevention measures are being posted at dog parks and additional locations throughout the metro.