

METROPOLITAN  
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

August 25, 2021

9:15 A.M.

*Information Packet*

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

August 25, 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 July 28, 2021
4. Financial Statements July 31, 2021
5. Approval of Checks and Claims  
General 75093 – 75203

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
7. Award of Bids for Roof and Condenser Replacements\*
8. Executive Director’s Report
9. Operations Report (Jon Peterson, Kirk Johnson)
10. Public Affairs Report (Alex Carlson)
11. Other Items
12. Adjournment

\* Action Requested

**Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, October 27, 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  
July 28, 2021  
9:15 a.m.

Chair Angela Conley called meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. This meeting was held in person because the Governor ended the pandemic health emergency on June 30, 2021.

**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 Gayle Degler               | Carver County     |
| Commissioner Tom Workman                | Carver County     |
| Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland         | Dakota County     |
| Commissioner Laurie Halverson           | Dakota County     |
| Commissioner Kevin Anderson             | Hennepin County   |
| Commissioner Jim McDonough              | Ramsey County     |
| Commissioner Gary Kriesel               | Washington County |

**Staff:**

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

**Visitors:**

Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting

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

Commissioner Kevin Anderson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. *Consent Agenda*

**Resolution 1:**

The following administrative items were approved in one motion.

Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2021  
Financial Statements June 30, 2021  
Approval of Checks and Claims  
General 74687 – 75092

Commissioner Jeff Reinert seconded the motion and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Stephen Manweiler welcomed everyone to the first in-person meeting since February 26, 2020. He briefly reviewed COVID-19 safety rules including the bathrooms. He also requested that the order of agenda items be changed to permit all Commissioners to vote on two items (consent agenda and 2022 preliminary levy) before some Commissioners needed to leave to attend other meetings.

*Welcome and  
Introduction*

Commissioner Lisa Weik moved that item 8 (2022 preliminary levy) be moved up in front of item 6 in the Regular agenda. No other agenda items were changed. Commissioner Jeff Reinert seconded the motion, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Stephen Manweiler reviewed the discussion about the 2022 preliminary levy and budget conducted at the April 28 Commission meeting and May 23 and June 28 Executive Committee meetings. The long-term plan implemented in 2016 to bring levy and budget levels together has three goals: (1) restore reserves to the minimum required to support cash flow (achieved at end of 2019), (2) restore \$1.2 million worth of services cut in 2017 and (3) expand services in response to increased human population and development in the District. The long-term plan in 2020 was paused because of feared levy deficits due to the COVID-19 pandemic by not increasing the 2021 levy and budget. 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.

*MMCD 2022  
Preliminary Levy\* and  
2022 Budget*

We considered 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 with very small levy increases required in 2025 and 2026. Smaller levy increases in 2022 reduce the amount of services we can restore in 2022, extend the time before full services can be restored and require larger levy increases in 2025 and 2026 to fully restore services.

We recommend a 2% levy increase in the preliminary payable 2022 levy in the amount of \$19,038,676. We need a 0.97% budget increase in 2022 (\$19,741,768) to accommodate increased expenses due to inflation. We forecast requiring budget increases (~1%) only every other year through 2026 (2022, 2024 and 2026).

Commissioner Jeff Reinert offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**Resolution 2:**

**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.

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland seconded the motion and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Cathy Lydon, CPA, Redpath & Company, reviewed the results of the audit of MMCD financial statements ending December 31, 2020. She described four aspects of the audit report.

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

Opinion on the Fair Presentation of the Financial Statements  
Report on Internal Controls  
Report on Compliance with Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions  
Communication with Those Charged with Governance

Cathy reported that the financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in accordance with GAAP which means a totally clean report. She noted that the auditor report does not include any findings, just the compliance.

Cathy reported no findings on internal control over financial reporting. She also reported no legal compliance findings.  
Cathy reported that the District has a net OPEB asset of \$2,636,142. The District's pension liability is \$3,690,841.

Cathy stated that as of December 31, 2020, The District's unassigned fund balance was \$11,941,987 which is \$3,490,574 above the minimum defined in the District's Fund Balance Policy. This minimum defines the amount of money needed to support cash flow between January and July when the first tax payments are received.

Cathy reported that no difficulties were encountered while performing the audit and that there were no disagreements with District management. Cathy thanked the MMCD staff for their assistance, especially Arleen Schact and Jennifer Machia.

Peg Larsen reported the biggest news from the last special session is the end of the Governor's emergency powers, which was a tough negotiation. The Governor did keep \$500 million from the budget to do as he wanted.

*Intergovernmental  
Issues*

The Environment bill did pass the House 99-34 and the Senate 49-14, the main contents included a \$70.88 million appropriation for 2022 and a \$61.39 million for 2021 from the environmental-trust fund for projects across the state. Conservation officers received an increase.

Republicans were adamant that the clean car language was not in the bill, the Governor did put in place electric car mandates after the session ended. Pesticide language was not addressed in the agriculture bill or the in the final bill.

One of the more controversial occurrences was the resignation of the Commissioner of Pollution Control. The Senate did not sine die when the House did. They wanted to hold confirmation hearing for some Commissioners, specifically the Commissioner for Pollution Control; before they could confirm or not confirm her, she resigned.

There should not be another special session unless the Legislature decides to address merit pay for first responders in September.

In addition to extensive discussions about the 2022 levy and budget, the Executive Committee reviewed the following topics.

*Executive Committee  
Report for May 23,  
2021, and June 28,  
2021*

The Executive Committee discussed and approved a request by MMCD staff to solicit bids for replacement of part of the original roof at the St. Paul headquarters and replacement of condensers. We expect to bring the results of the bid opening and a recommended choice to the August 25, 2021 Commission meeting for review and approval.

The Executive Committee also discussed changes after the Governor rescinded the pandemic health emergency on June 30, 2021. On July 1, 2021, MMCD made wearing a mask indoors optional for fully vaccinated employees and guests. All others still are required to wear a mask indoors. Everyone still must adhere to all other COVID-19 safety rules.

MMCD's legal counsel reviewed the requirements of the Open Meeting Law (Minnesota Statute § 13D.02) that made participating remotely by elected officials much more difficult than during the pandemic health emergency (Section 13D.021, amended 2021) because the location of each remote participant must be published in advance and be accessible to the public.

Stephen Manweiler reported that we received approval from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to convene a hybrid virtual Applicator Recertification Workshop on Thursday, July 29. We will be using GoToMeeting so inspectors who need recertification will be able to view the conference on a computer (recommended) or smartphone/tablet. MDA waives training fees for all District staff who attend these joint workshops.

*Executive Director's  
Report*

MMCD will be located in the Dairy Building during the 2021 Minnesota State Fair. We are hopeful that COVID-19 safety restrictions at the State Fair will not be too onerous.

Jon Peterson reported the big story for the field, as it is for all of Minnesota, is the dry conditions and the heat. The dry conditions have worked in our favor to help to control annoyance mosquitoes. We did respond to a few isolated rain events this month, treating almost 8,000 acres, compared to over 50,000 acres in July 2020, as well as treating 26, 000 acres less by helicopter than 2020. As we start to plan for fall inspections, we continue to check and monitor the water levels in these sites.

*Operations Report*

Adult mosquito levels remain very low throughout the metro, resulting in adult treatment acres lower, as well. The treatments that have been done are in response to either potential disease vector mosquitoes or community events. Staff are still busy checking and treating the smaller ground sites, and very focused on disease prevention work. Some of the work that we do to prevent such diseases as WNV and La Crosse encephalitis includes treating catch basins, treating permanent man-made structures such as culverts and washouts, and doing wood lot and neighborhood inspections.

Disease prevention also includes eliminating containers and removing tires that are breeding in woodlots and in people's yards. MMCD is partnering with some of our counties to collaborate with tire collection; for example, we collected and recycled 175 tires from northern Dakota County.

The adult black fly numbers have been low for the last two months and the dry conditions are affecting our black fly inspections and treatments. Water levels on large rivers are so low staff are having a hard time using the boat launches.

Full time and seasonal staff are meeting this month to discuss Sustainability and Safety. The Sustainability group meets annually to review and improve MMCD's sustainability initiative. The AWAIR (A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction) program requires annual meetings with all staff to discuss and improve safety.

As we move into August, we still start losing some of our staff as they resign and head to college.

Kirk Johnson reported West Nile virus (WNV) has 22 U.S. cases (2 fatalities) reported to CDC (cases in IA, ND, SD); last year was a very quiet WNV year – 13 U.S. cases at this time. Minnesota has had no WNV cases yet this year and there were no cases last year.

Surveillance is suggesting WNV risk is higher this year than last year. The hot temperatures are ideal for WNV amplification. There were seven WNV positive mosquito pools of 387 tested (all last week). In 2020 there were 6 total. The crews are making considerable effort to control *Culex* vectors this year.

La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) - There have been no Minnesota illnesses identified yet (2 U.S.). To reduce the risk, staff have eliminated 7,356 tires and 966 other habitats.

Alex Carlson reported the State Fair is happening! We will return to the Dairy Building this year. The Anoka County Fair is complete and the Scott County Fair is happening now. Washington, Dakota, and Carver County fairs and the Game Fair are all upcoming in addition to parades.

*Public Affairs Report*

Calls from constituents compared to last year: annoyance calls are down 70% due to the dry conditions, black fly calls are up 227% (likely due to our new call system with requires an address), tire calls remain about the same, and event calls are up due in part to events were canceled due to the pandemic last year.

There have been over 25 media stories this year: WCCO, Fox 9, Kare 11, and KSTP. Other unique stories include one produced by Minnesota Bound (“The Mosquito Whisperer”), St. Paul by Bike, and several city communications departments.

Our seasonal staff will be attending our annual applicator recertification workshop tomorrow. Hybrid format. Speakers from U of M Extension, Department of Ag, Monarch Joint Venture, and Clarke Mosquito Control will present.

We have developed a new Resident Guide and Video - check it out at [mmcd.org](http://mmcd.org) and we would like to introduce Vectoria – MMCD’s mosquito mascot.

Chair Angela Conley asked if there was any other business remaining for the Commission to consider. Hearing none, Chair Angela Conley declared the meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

*Adjournment*



| METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT |                      |                      |                      |  |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| FINANCIAL STATEMENT                    |                      |                      |                      |  |
| July 31, 2021                          |                      |                      |                      |  |
| COUNTY                                 | 2021 LEVY            | REC'D TO DATE        | DUE                  |  |
| Anoka                                  | \$ 1,762,011         | 913,513              | \$ 848,498           |  |
| Carver                                 | 668,220              | 353,664              | 314,556              |  |
| Dakota                                 | 2,441,430            | 1,324,816            | 1,116,614            |  |
| Hennepin                               | 8,658,865            | 4,390,983            | 4,267,882            |  |
| Ramsey                                 | 2,665,415            | 1,354,169            | 1,311,246            |  |
| Scott                                  | 877,272              | 462,478              | 414,794              |  |
| Washington                             | 1,592,156            | 836,798              | 755,358              |  |
| Market Value Credit                    | 0                    | 0                    | 0                    |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>\$ 18,665,369</b> | <b>\$ 9,636,421</b>  | <b>\$ 9,028,948</b>  |  |
| Tax Delinquent Income                  | \$ 0                 | \$ 74,007            |                      |  |
| Miscellaneous (Rent/Misc./Non-Levy)    | 100,000              | 73,802               |                      |  |
| Interest Income                        | 135,000              | 6,354                |                      |  |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                   | <b>\$ 18,900,369</b> | <b>\$ 9,790,584</b>  | <b>\$ 9,109,785</b>  |  |
| <b>BALANCE SHEET</b>                   |                      |                      |                      |  |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                          |                      |                      |                      |  |
| Cash and Investments                   |                      | \$ 21,204,847        |                      |  |
| Accounts Receivable                    |                      | 166,417              |                      |  |
| Prepaid Expenses                       |                      | 0                    |                      |  |
| Consumable Material                    |                      | 1,719,148            |                      |  |
| Equipment net of Acc Depreciation      |                      | 2,338,103            |                      |  |
| Land                                   |                      | 1,118,867            |                      |  |
| Building net of Acc Depreciation       |                      | 2,712,678            |                      |  |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                    |                      |                      | <b>\$ 29,260,060</b> |  |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                     |                      |                      |                      |  |
| Vouchers Payable                       |                      | \$ 392,858           |                      |  |
| Pass thru Revenue                      |                      | 0                    |                      |  |
| Deferred Revenue                       |                      | 92,444               |                      |  |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>               |                      |                      | <b>\$ 485,302</b>    |  |
| <b>NET WORTH</b>                       |                      |                      |                      |  |
| 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            |                      |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           |                      | <b>\$ 28,988,182</b> |                      |  |
| ADD Income                             |                      | 9,790,584            |                      |  |
| DEDUCT Expenditures                    |                      | 10,004,011           |                      |  |
| <b>TOTAL NET WORTH</b>                 |                      |                      | <b>\$ 28,774,755</b> |  |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH</b> |                      |                      | <b>\$ 29,260,060</b> |  |

| METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT |           |                   |                      |                       |
|--|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| CUMULATIVE OPERATIONS STATEMENT        |           |                   |                      |                       |
| July 31, 2021                          |           |                   |                      |                       |
| EXPENDITURES                           |           | ACTUAL            | BUDGET               | +OVER/- UNDER         |
| <u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>                  |           |                   |                      |                       |
| Operations                             | \$        | 555,846           |                      |                       |
| Capital Items                          |           | 0                 |                      |                       |
| Repairs                                |           | 0                 |                      |                       |
| <b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>            | <b>\$</b> | <b>555,846</b>    | <b>\$ 693,057</b>    | <b>\$ (137,211)</b>   |
| <u>CONTROL DIVISION</u>                |           |                   |                      |                       |
| Operations                             | \$        | 9,320,492         |                      |                       |
| Capital Items                          |           | 50,752            |                      |                       |
| Repairs                                |           | 76,921            |                      |                       |
| <b>TOTAL CONTROL DIVISION</b>          | <b>\$</b> | <b>9,448,165</b>  | <b>\$ 12,013,658</b> | <b>\$ (2,565,493)</b> |
| <u>COMMISSION</u>                      |           |                   |                      |                       |
| Per Diem                               | \$        | 0                 |                      |                       |
| Mileage                                |           | 0                 |                      |                       |
| <b>TOTAL COMMISSION</b>                | <b>\$</b> | <b>0</b>          | <b>\$ 1,804</b>      | <b>\$ (1,804)</b>     |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>              | <b>\$</b> | <b>10,004,011</b> | <b>\$ 12,708,519</b> | <b>\$ (2,704,508)</b> |
| <b>BUDGET REMAINING</b>                |           |                   | <b>\$ 6,843,048</b>  |                       |
| <b>ORIGINAL BUDGET</b>                 |           |                   | <b>\$ 19,551,567</b> |                       |
| <b>EMERGENCY FUNDS</b>                 |           |                   | <b>0</b>             |                       |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>                    |           |                   | <b>\$ 19,551,567</b> |                       |

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

AUGUST 25, 2021

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**Requested by:**

Stephen Manweiler  
Arleen Schacht

**Action requested:**

Approve bids for a new roof (partial) and new HVAC condensers at the St. Paul main office

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The St. Paul main office was built in 1992. The roof and HVAC condensers are the originals. Over the last several years, the HVAC condensers have needed numerous repairs. The cost for required R22 refrigerant has increased significantly, and due to the age of the condenser, is becoming more difficult to find. The roof has an upper/sloped section and two flat sections. The flat roof sections are in more need of replacement, and the condensers are on one of the flat sections. Replacing the flat roof sections prior to installing new condensers makes sense.

The Executive Committee approved a District request to advertise for bids for replacement of the roof (flat roof sections) and HVAC condensers at the St. Paul main office on May 26, 2021. Bids were due on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. Four bids for the roof replacement and three bids for the condensers were received.

We recommend approving the bid for replacement of the roof (flat roof sections) submitted by John A. Dalson & Son, Inc. because they satisfied all the bid requirements and submitted the lowest bid. The unit price for insulation removal and replacement was listed separately because the amount of insulation that will need to be replaced is unknown until the current roof is removed.

The total cost of the flat roof section replacement and insulation replacement charged by John A. Dalson & Son, Inc. will remain lower than that of the next lowest bidder (Berwald Roofing) until at least 950 cubic feet of insulation need to be replaced. Our engineer and architect believe much less insulation (no more than 550 cubic feet) will require replacement based upon the current overall condition of the flat roof sections that will be replaced.

| <b>Vendor</b>             | <b>Roof Replacement</b> | <b>Unit Price for Roof insulation replacement</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| John A. Dalson & Son, Inc | \$162,339               | \$39.75/cu ft                                     |
| Berwald Roofing           | \$177,300               | \$24.00/cu ft                                     |
| McPhillips Bros Roofing   | \$197,600               | \$26.00/cu ft                                     |
| Central Roofing           | \$240,395               | \$36.00/cu ft                                     |

We recommend approving the bid for replacement of the condensers submitted by Davis Mechanical because they satisfied all the bid requirements and submitted the lowest bid.

| <b>Vendor</b>      | <b>Condenser Replacement</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Davis Mechanical   | \$179,500                    |
| Pioneer Power, Inc | \$212,500                    |
| Modern Heating A/C | \$224,840                    |

**Resolved:**

**Whereas,** the District has requested bids for replacement of the roof (flat roof sections) and HVAC condensers at the St. Paul main office. The bidder meeting specifications for replacement of the roof (flat roof sections) for a competitive set fee is John A. Dalson & Son, Inc. The bidder meeting specifications for replacement of the HVAC condensers for a competitive set fee is Davis Mechanical.

**Be it now resolved,** that the bid for replacement of the roof (flat roof sections) be awarded to the bidder meeting specifications that provided the most competitive set fee, John A. Dalson & Son, Inc, in the amount of \$162,339 for the replacement of the roof (flat roof sections) and \$39.75 per cu ft of insulation requiring replacement.

**Be it now resolved,** that the bid for replacement of the HVAC condensers be awarded to the bidder meeting specifications that provided the most competitive set fee, Davis Mechanical, in the amount of \$179,500 for the replacement of the HVAC condensers.

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

## 1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

On July 27, the CDC revised its recommendations about when fully vaccinated people should wear masks. CDC recommended that all people including those who are fully vaccinated should wear a mask indoors in areas where “substantial” or higher rates of transmission are occurring. Transmission rates in the Twin Cities metropolitan area were below “substantial” on July 27. At that time all employees were instructed to have a mask with them.

According to the CDC, transmission rates throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area increased to “substantial” by August 3. Therefore, on August 3 we reinstated the mask requirement for all employees and visitors. As of July 1, wearing a mask indoors was optional for fully vaccinated employees and visitors. Masks still were required indoors for all others. Everyone was required to continue all other COVID-19 safety procedures (distancing, one employee per vehicle, disinfection of surfaces) enacted in March 2020.

## 2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

August has finally brought rain to the seven-county metropolitan area. We reacted to significant rain that fell in parts of the metropolitan area between August 5-8 by treating a total of 2,176 acres by helicopter. Overall, with it being so dry, most of the rain was absorbed by the vegetation in these wetlands. In previous years, a significant rain event such as this, would have resulted in us treating many more acres by helicopter.

Adult mosquito abundance continues to be very low throughout the metropolitan area. To date, we have treated 1,042 acres with adult control materials. These treatments have been in response to potential disease vector mosquitoes. We will continue to monitor our Monday night traps, inspect for disease vector mosquitoes, and treat areas if necessary. Field staff are 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. We have collected and recycled over 8,300 tires so far this season.

Staff have been busy representing MMCD at county fairs. We had a booth set up at the Dakota, Scott, Carver, Ramsey, and Anoka County fairs. We also had a booth set up at the Game Fair in Ramsey as well. Staff are looking forward to representing MMCD at the Minnesota State Fair.

As we look towards the end of August, a large group of our seasonal staff will resign and head to college. The remainder of our seasonal staff will switch gears from inspecting and treating for our summer annoyance and vector mosquitoes, to looking for cattail mosquitoes

that overwinter attached to the water roots of cattail plants. Staff have already started to look at these sites to determine if they need to be inspected or not based on current water levels.

Staff continue to work in a safe and effective manner. Injuries and vehicle incidents have proven to be low this season. These low numbers of incidents show our staff's dedication to working in a safe and effective manner.

### 3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

#### West Nile Virus (WNV)

While WNV is more active in our region than during the past two years, there have been no WNV illnesses reported in Minnesota yet this year. The South Dakota Department of Health has recorded five WNV illnesses while Iowa has identified two illnesses and North Dakota, one. Nationally, 40 cases and three fatalities have been reported to CDC.

Twelve of 528 MMCD mosquito samples tested have returned positive results for WNV. Positive samples have been collected in Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Scott counties. The first detections of WNV in mosquitoes occurred in samples collected on July 21 from four different sites. This is 13 days later than the median date of the first collection of WNV positive mosquitoes over our history with the virus. Warm weather has allowed for the amplification of the virus over much of the summer and we have now detected WNV in mosquitoes collected during each of the past four weeks. We are now in the peak risk period for human WNV infections and we have been working to convince citizens to wear insect repellent even though they might not be experiencing as many mosquitoes as they are accustomed to seeing.

#### La Crosse Encephalitis (LAC)

This is the time of year when LAC risk is greatest. Most LAC infections in Minnesota occur from late July through early September. Since LAC cases are much more common in children than adults and the vector mosquitoes bite during the daytime, risk typically drops once the school year begins. La Crosse encephalitis has not been reported yet in Minnesota this year; however, reports are coming in from other states including one LAC case in Wisconsin.

Our collections of *Aedes triseriatus*, Minnesota's native LAC vector, have been below average the entire season. Crews have been responding with risk reduction services when prompted by surveillance results. In the few cases where isolated vector populations have been located, we are providing adult mosquito control. District staff are also constantly searching for and eliminating small aquatic habitats used by mosquito larvae. Crews have removed 8,384 tires from the field for recycling and have eliminated 1,166 additional larval habitats.

#### Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

Nationally, only one human EEE illness has been reported from Georgia. Although, the virus appears to be active this year in the southeast with cases in horses reported from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Texas. Last year there were two

EEE illnesses in Minnesota horses. This year the risk of EEE transmission in Minnesota is falling with each successive week under drought conditions. The bog habitat preferred for development by the primary EEE vector, *Culiseta melanura*, is diminishing.

#### 4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

As the drought continues, the floodwater species levels are well below the 10-year average. (Figure 1). Although there were parts of the District that received higher rainfall amounts, the amount of mosquito production was minimal.

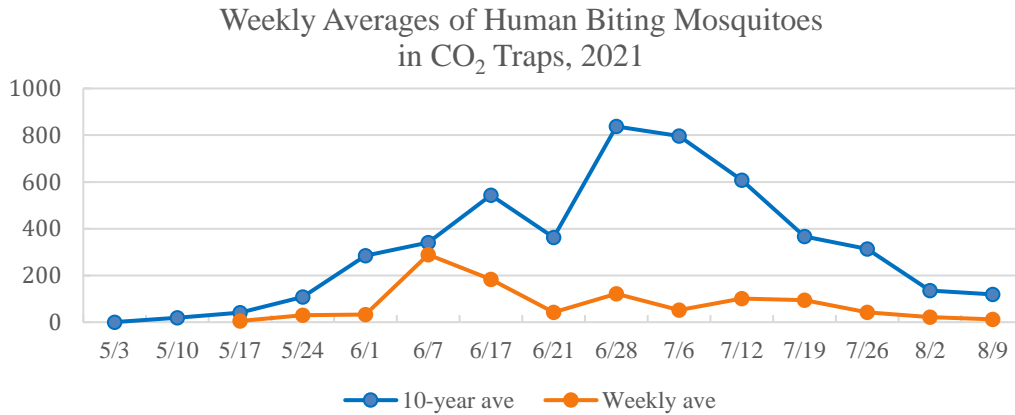


Figure 1. Average number of human biting mosquitoes per week in CO<sub>2</sub>-baited traps in 2020 (N = 138). Traps are placed in various locations in the seven-county metropolitan area.

There is still mosquito production in permanent water habitats – *Anopheles quadrimaculatus* is particularly abundant this year. *Anopheles quadrimaculatus* is notable because it is a WNV maintenance vector and capable of transmitting dog heartworm and malaria. Historically, it was rare in the District, but since 2002 its population has been increasing (Figure 2). The average collected per year from 2002-2009 is 105 and the average collected per year from 2010-2020 is 1,742. So far in 2021, we have detected 2,958 adult specimens, which is over the average of the last 10 years.

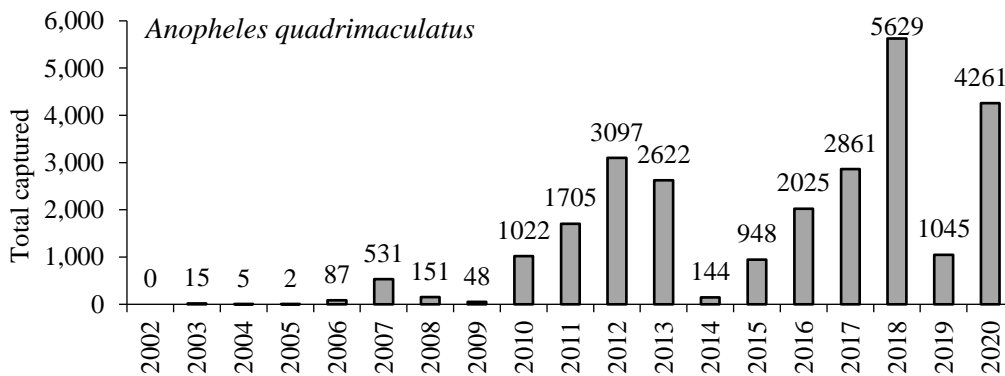


Figure 2. Total yearly *An. quadrimaculatus* collected from Monday CO<sub>2</sub>-baited traps (low, high, and any outside District), 2002-2020.

On the black fly front, river flows remain very low despite the recent rain we received. Due to the low flow rates and minimal black fly production, larval monitoring samplers were removed for the season this week on the South Fork Crow, Crow, and Minnesota rivers.

Low flow and river access issues on the Mississippi River made the nontarget multiplate monitoring difficult and we decided to stop sampling for this year and try again in 2022.

## 5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### MMCD in the Media

KSTP: Mosquito control teams working to prevent pesky bugs from multiplying in Minnesota. [\[Link\]](#)

KARE 11: Mosquito numbers are way down this summer and the drought is the reason why. [\[Link\]](#)

Nine North: Interview for the Cities Speak Podcast [\[Link\]](#)

### MMCD in the Community

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

- Belle Plain BBQ Days - July 17 - Jordan
- 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

Upcoming Events:

- Game Fair - August 13-15 and 20-22
- Pollinator Festival at Bruce Vento Park - August 21
- Minnesota State Fair - August 26 - September 7

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

### Website/Blog Updates

Read the Latest [Weekly Insect Update](#). A new one gets posted every week!

### Customer Calls

Along with a decrease in mosquitoes this year, we have also seen a drastic decrease in the number of calls and e-mails we are receiving from District residents. Here is a comparison of 2020 and 2021 in several key areas:



| Call Category       | 2021 | 2020  | Increase/Decrease |
|---------------------|------|-------|-------------------|
| Mosquito Annoyance  | 359  | 1,219 | 70% decrease      |
| Black Fly Annoyance | 144  | 44    | 227% increase*    |
| Tire Pick Up        | 227  | 242   | About the same    |
| Event Treatment     | 31   | 11    | 181% increase     |

\* The increase in black fly calls this year is due to our new e-mail form which requires an address and makes calls easier to track.

### **Applicator Workshop**

In partnership with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, MMCD hosted a recertification workshop for pesticide applicators on July 29, 2021. Around 55 staff members attended either virtually or in-person with speakers from the University of Minnesota, Clarke Mosquito Control, the Monarch Joint Venture, and more!

### **Social Media**

Our social media has been active this past month! Here are a few highlights:

- Jordan and Rosemount facilities have all taken over our Instagram in the past month and posted some awesome pictures and videos!
- The East facility continues to add awesome videos to the MMCD TikTok account! Search for “@metromosquito” on TikTok.

- Facebook – 1,582 Page Likes (Up 7 from July 13)
  - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
- Twitter – 846 Followers (Up 7 from July 13)
  - Twitter.com/metromosquito
- Instagram – 309 Followers (Up 4 from July 13)
  - 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 August 12, no Asian longhorned ticks or red sheep ticks have been reported as being found in Minnesota.

### Tick Vector Field Projects

Our 2021 tick surveillance season began April 26. As of August 12, seven 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/docs/publications/tickreport2020.pdf](http://www.mmcd.org/docs/publications/tickreport2020.pdf)).
- Our Tick Risk Meter is currently set to MEDIUM.
- Now is a good time to remind you 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.