

METROPOLITAN  
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 26, 2021

9:15 am

*Information Packet*

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METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

COMMITTEE: **Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Metropolitan Mosquito Control District**  
2099 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55104

DATE: **Wednesday, May 26, 2021**  
TIME: **9:15 AM**

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A G E N D A

1. Approval of Minutes March 24, 2021 Meeting\*
2. Legislative Update – Peg Larsen, Kim Scott
3. Authorization to Advertise for Bids for Condenser and Roof Replacements\*
4. Pandemic Transition Safety Plan
5. Longer Term Budget/Funding Plan - Initial Discussion
6. Executive Director's Report
7. Other Issues
8. Adjournment

\* Action Requested

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

**Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 9:15 a.m.**

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

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METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES  
MARCH 24, 2021  
9:15 A.M.

Commissioner (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 and recorded. 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 Kevin Anderson	Anoka County

**Staff:**

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director  
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator

**Visitors:**

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

Commissioner 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 January  
27, 2021 Executive  
Committee  
Meeting Minutes*

**Resolution 1:**

**Resolved**, that the January 27, 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 Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Commissioner Kevin Anderson did not vote because he was not in attendance at the January 27, 2021 meeting.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

This is the last week before the Legislature goes on break and we are coming up on the third deadline, when committees must act on their omnibus budget bills. The committee deadlines do not apply to the major committees, such as, Ways and Means, Taxes, and Capital Investment.

*Legislative Update*

The House DFL released their budget, which equals \$52.5 billion. The House DFL budget does not include budget cuts and it is anticipated that there will be a tax increase for certain brackets. Tax Chair Marquart will release the House tax plan during the first week in April and Chair Marquart has stated the plan will include tax cuts to small businesses who received forgivable loans through the federal Paycheck Protection Program and individuals who received unemployment benefits.

Senate Republicans laid out a plan for the budget, which would equal \$51.9 billion for the two-year budget and their plan includes both budget and tax cuts. Governor Walz also put out his revised budget plan, which amounts to \$52.3 billion.

In terms of individual policies being taken up by the Legislature that may impact MMCD's work, HF718 (Vang), as introduced, had the most potential to impact MMCD. The bill proposes to allow cities the ability to prohibit the use of pesticides, pesticides which MMCD may utilize to meet its public health mission. However, before the bill's first hearing, we worked with the author on an amendment that would include an exception for MMCD's work. HF718 has been heard in the House Environment, Agriculture, and Local Government committees. Stephen Manweiler was prepared and on deck to answer questions at both the Environment and Agriculture committee hearings; we have not heard

any concerns over including the exception for MMCD. We expect HF718 to be included in the House environment omnibus bill, but it will not appear on the Senate side. Overall, there are no policies related to pesticides that are moving on the Senate side.

Earlier this week, the governor's "State of the State" was delayed due to the fact that he was exposed to the COVID virus and is in self quarantine out of an abundance of caution. The governor appears to be doing fine, he has not yet been vaccinated, but had previously contracted the virus. This is when times get very interesting, as they are compiling the final numbers that they will negotiate with next month. The Legislature's Easter Passover break will begin this Friday and go through April 5. Even though there will be no hearings during the break, committee chairs and leaders will continue to work behind the scenes.

Arleen Schacht reported that the District and Commission have not waived the statutory limits in the past. Arleen recommended that the statutory limits again not be waived.

*Insurance liability  
waiver*

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

**Resolution 2:**

**Resolved,** that District not waive the statutory insurance liability limits.

Commissioner Robyn West seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

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

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Liz Workman advised in the past the meeting be closed for discussion about the Executive Directors performance review. The committee agreed to close the meeting. All participants other than Commissioners left the meeting.

*Executive Director  
Performance Review  
Process*

Chair Angela Conley reopened the meeting and opened the discussion to consideration of any action. All participants who left the meeting returned.

Chair Angela Conley reported to Stephen Manweiler about the conclusions of his performance review agreed by Commissioners during the closed discussion. Their 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. They are 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. Several Commissioners recommended growth items for the next twelve months for inclusion with his KDAs (key development areas).

Overall, they concluded 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 his employment be continued for another twelve months, that he be recommended for a salary increase equal to the amount approved for other employees, and that all of these findings be recommended for approval by the full Commission. They asked Mr. Manweiler to include in the information packet for the April 28, 2021 Commission meeting the resolution containing their recommendations, his KDAs and accomplishments for the past twelve months, and KDAs for the next twelve months.

Stephen Manweiler reported that the start of the 2021 season seems to be running about two weeks ahead of 2020. Staff found the first mosquito larvae last Thursday (March 18). Our seasonal hiring is going very well, better than last year. We anticipate no delays in our April 12 seasonal technician start date meaning no delays in when we can begin delivering service to District citizens.

*Executive Director  
Report*

Our 2021 black fly treatment permit provided by the MN DNR includes 25 small stream sites where we can apply liquid Bti to control larvae of the formerly rare species, *Simulium tuberosum*. Stephen asked all Commissioners to continue to report black fly problems because these reports may help us locate additional places where larval *S. tuberosum* are developing.

Chair Angela Conley asked if there was anything else to come before this meeting. Nobody mentioned any additional items. Commissioner Tom Workman moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kevin Anderson seconded the motion. Commissioners Mary Jo McGuire and Lisa Weik already had left the meeting to participate in other meetings.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes

The motion was adopted.

Chair Angela Conley declared the meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 26, 2021

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**Requested by:**

Stephen Manweiler  
Arleen Schacht

**Action requested:**

Authorization to advertise for bids for new HVAC condensers and a new roof (partial) 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 and the cost for R22 refrigerant that it requires has increased significantly, and due to the age of the condenser, getting more difficult to find. The roof replacement has also been discussed and assessed. The roof has an upper/sloped section and two flat sections, it has been determined the flat roof sections are in more need of replacement, and with the condensers on one of the flat sections, it was determined a new roof prior to installing new condensers makes sense.

The repairs that have been made to the HVAC condensers and roof, have been temporary fixes and it has been determined the temporary fixes have been 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 is between \$100,000 and \$150,000. The cost for replacement of approximately 2/3 of the roof (flat sections), is estimated at \$350,000.

The bid opening will be at 2:00 p.m., June 15, 2021. The bids will be evaluated and presented to the Executive Committee, with a recommendation, at their June 23 meeting.

**Resolved:**

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



## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 26, 2021

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**Requested by:**

Stephen Manweiler  
Arleen Schacht

**Informational:**

Pandemic Transition Safety Plan

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**Background:**

On May 6, Governor Walz announced a stepwise ending of COVID-19 safety restrictions as the percentage of Minnesota residents who are fully vaccinated increases (Figure 1).

- On May 7, many COVID-19 safety restrictions on outdoor activities were reduced; indoor restrictions (masks and distancing) largely remained
- On May 28, indoor capacity restrictions will be ended; masks and distancing still are required indoors and all businesses must continue to have plans in place to keep their employees safe
- On July 1 or when 70% of Minnesotans age 16 and older are vaccinated (whichever is sooner), the statewide mask mandate will end (**mask mandate dropped May 13 after CDC update**)

On May 13, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) modified guidelines it released on April 26 describing what fully vaccinated people can do safely in various scenarios (Figure 2).

- Fully vaccinated means two weeks after the final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine
- (April 26) Fully vaccinated people should continue to wear masks at all indoor and large outdoor events except at small events where most or all participants are fully vaccinated
- (May 13) Fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear masks

District personnel will continue to implement all COVID-19 safety measures until no longer required by the state for the following reasons.

- Current daily Covid-19 transmission rates in Minnesota still are quite high (~18 per 100,000); 40% of all Minnesotans are fully vaccinated and 50% have received at least one dose (May 17). CDC data via: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/minnesota-covid-cases.html>
- District staff are confident that current COVID-19 safety measures protect them
- Determining what percentage of District employees (especially seasonal) are fully vaccinated is difficult (could aim for 70% of overall population as representative of District employees)
- The District will end safety restrictions in coordination with the CDC, Minnesota Department of Health, State (Governor) and Counties

Meetings will remain remote until July 1. Thereafter we will begin to transition back to in-person meetings with a remote option available.

- By July 1, both District boardrooms used for Executive Committee and full Commission meetings will have remote participation capability (GoToMeeting)
- We will decide when to transition back to in-person meetings by July 1
- We probably will continue to offer a remote participation option to make participation easier

Figure 1. Stepwise plan to end COVID-19 restrictions announced by Governor Walz on May 6.

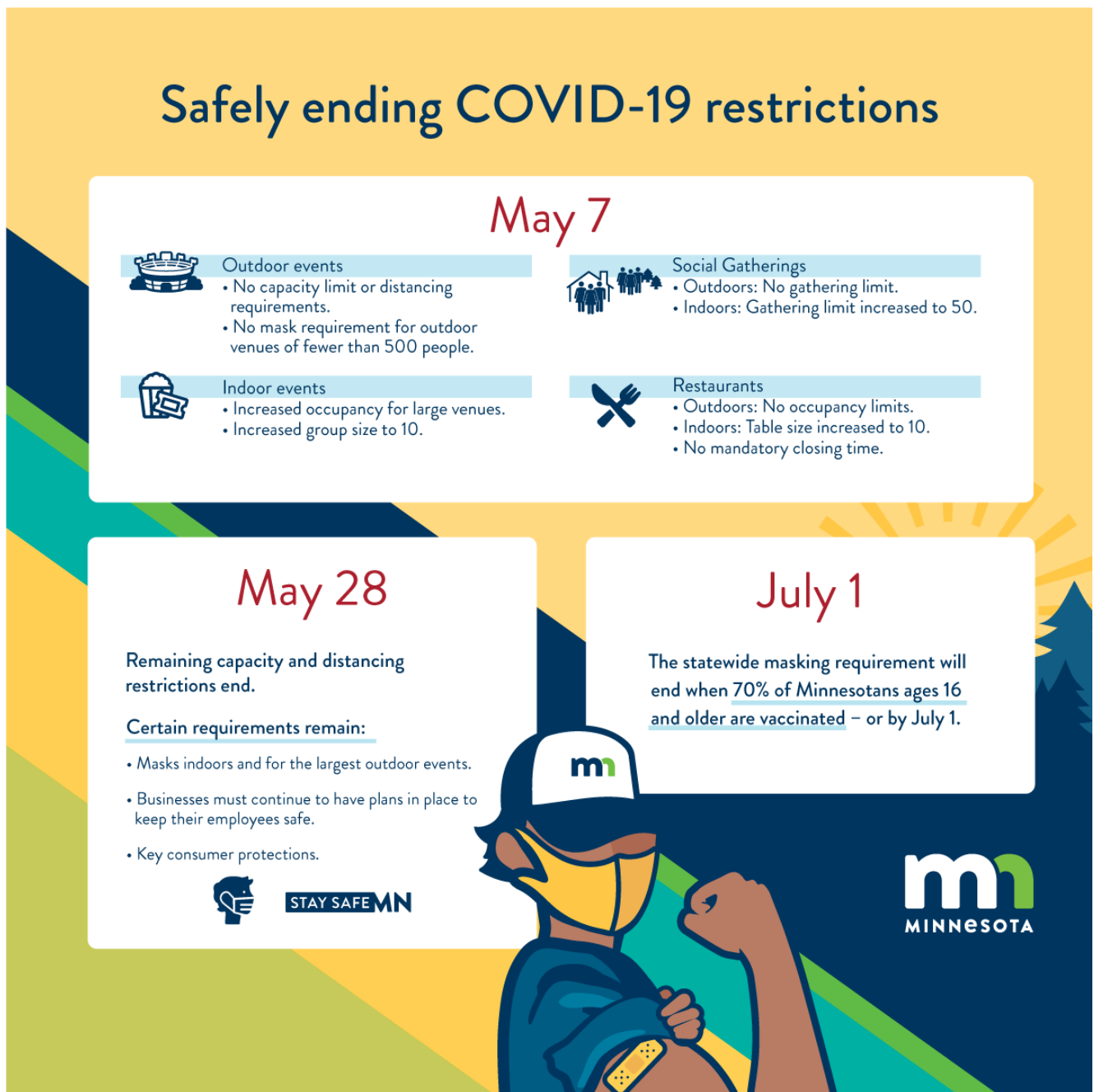


Figure 2. Guidelines released by CDC on May 13 describing what fully vaccinated people can do in various scenarios (compared to unvaccinated people).

	Unvaccinated People	Examples of Activities	Fully Vaccinated People
		<b>Outdoor</b>	
Safest		Walk, run, wheelchair roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
Least Safe		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		<b>Indoor</b>	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 26, 2021

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**Requested by:**

Stephen Manweiler  
Arleen Schacht

**Informational:**

Longer Term Budget/Funding Plan

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**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.

- 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 1% budget increase in 2022 to accommodate increased expenses due to inflation
  - We recommend completely resuming the long-term plan with a 2% levy increase in 2022
  - We forecast requiring budget increases (1%) only every other year through 2026 and therefore have included 1% budget increases only in 2022, 2024 and 2026. This will help mitigate the delay in when the levy and budget are equal caused by COVID-19

**Results of Three Different 2022 Levy Scenarios**

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy is predicted to recover significantly in 2021 and thereafter. The amount of services we can restore in 2022 and levy increases needed in 2025 and 2026 to achieve complete service restoration in 2025 or 2026 are impacted significantly by how much we increase the 2022 levy (all scenarios include 2% levy increases in 2023 and 2024) (Table 1 and Figure 3).

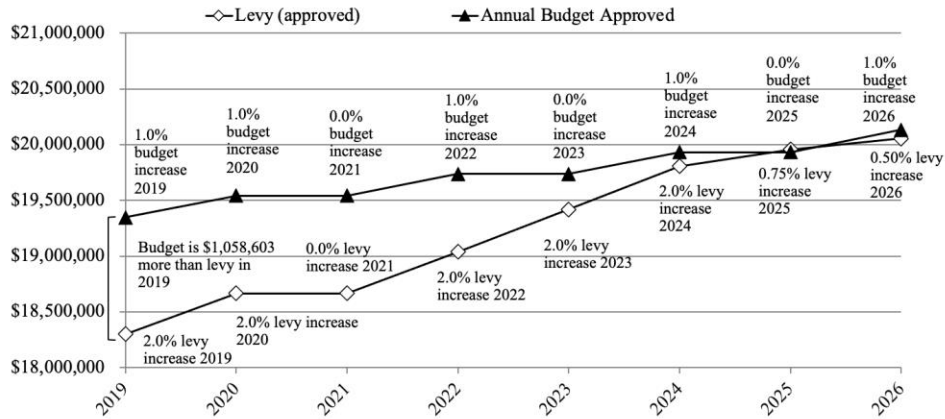
- We recommend increasing the 2022 levy by 2% because that will enable the District to:
  - Restore more services in 2022 (\$502,198) than in 2021
  - Require smaller levy increases in 2025 (0.75%) and 2026 (0.50%)
  - Enable complete restoration of services in 2025
  
- Increasing the 2022 levy by 1% will enable the District to:
  - Restore about the same amount of services in 2022 (\$315,545) as in 2021
  - Require larger levy increases in 2025 (2.0%) and 2026 (0.75%)
  - Enable complete restoration of services in 2025 with a higher (2.0%) 2025 levy increase
  
- Increasing the 2022 levy by 0% will enable the District to:
  - Restore fewer services in 2022 (\$128,891) than in 2021
  - Require the largest levy increases in 2025 (2.0%) and 2026 (2.0%)
  - Delay complete restoration of services until 2026

Table 1. Impacts to long-term plan of three 2022 levy scenarios (all scenarios include 2% levy increases in 2023 and 2024). \*\$1.2 million minus the amount the budget is greater than the levy

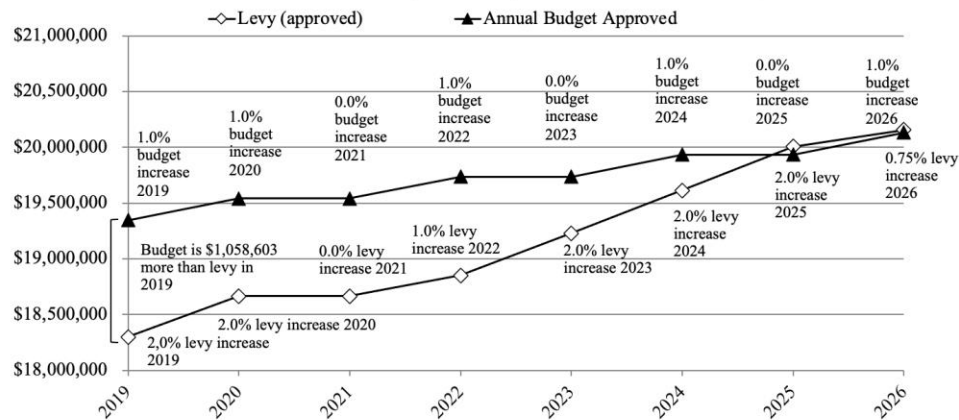
2022 Levy Increase	Amount the Budget is Greater than the Levy		Services Restored in 2022*	Year that the Levy Equals the Budget	Required Levy Increases	
	2019	2022			2025	2026
2%	\$1,058,603	\$697,802	\$502,198	2025	0.75%	0.50%
1%	\$1,058,603	\$884,455	\$315,545	2025	2.0%	0.75%
0%	\$1,058,603	\$1,071,109	\$128,891	2026	2.0%	2.0%

Figure 3. Impacts to long-term plan of three 2022 levy scenarios (all scenarios include 2% levy increases in 2023 and 2024).

**Completely resume long-term plan Funding and Budget (2019 - 2026) - 2% Levy Increase 2022**



**Partially resume long-term plan Funding and Budget (2019 - 2026) - 1% Levy Increase 2022**



**2nd year pause of long-term plan Funding and Budget (2019 - 2026) - 0% Levy Increase 2022**

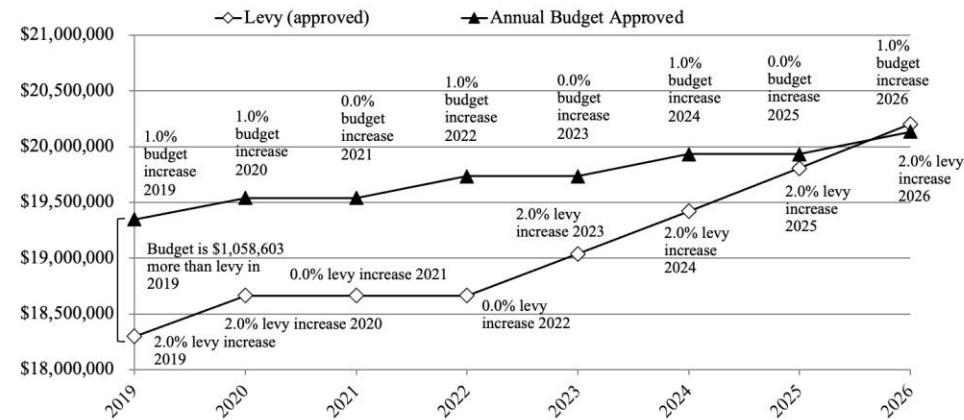


Table 2. Actual expenditures 2018-2020, budgeted 2021 expenditures and proposed 2022 levy (2% increase) and budget (1% increase). Amount of fund balance used assumes 2021 and 2022 expenditures equal budget.

		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	ADMINISTRATION	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	PROPOSED
1	Salary and Wages	\$765,333	\$765,333	\$694,649	\$792,046	\$799,966
2	Building Expense	\$66,571	\$66,571	\$52,320	\$52,770	\$53,298
3	Office Supplies	\$30,207	\$30,207	\$15,717	\$33,870	\$34,209
4	Travel and Mileage	\$1,735	\$1,735	\$1,164	\$4,250	\$4,293
5	Insurance	\$10,182	\$10,182	\$13,088	\$12,500	\$12,625
6	Interest	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
7	General Expenses	\$113,166	\$113,166	\$123,951	\$114,000	\$115,140
8	Repair and Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$505
9	Total Admin. Operations	\$987,194	\$987,194	\$900,889	\$1,009,936	\$1,020,035
10						
11	Administration Capital	\$12,493	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
12						
13	Total Administration -	\$999,687	\$987,194	\$900,889	\$1,009,936	\$1,020,035
14						
	COMMISSION					
15	Per Diem	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
16	Travel and Mileage	\$2,177	\$2,177	\$705	\$3,660	\$3,660
17						
18	Total Commissioners -	\$2,177	\$2,177	\$705	\$3,660	\$3,660
19						
	CONTROL/MONITORING					
20	Salary and Wages	\$6,559,521	\$6,561,904	\$6,281,129	\$7,652,148	\$7,728,669
21	Rent and Building Costs	\$846,623	\$851,853	\$830,944	\$894,660	\$903,607
22	Supplies & Expenses	\$248,544	\$321,860	\$315,346	\$281,850	\$284,669
23	Control Materials	\$4,137,801	\$4,013,552	\$3,546,099	\$5,831,000	\$5,889,310
24	Helicopter	\$1,553,479	\$1,746,405	\$1,487,582	\$2,527,560	\$2,552,836
25	Transportation Expenses	\$175,049	\$156,594	\$120,679	\$186,390	\$188,254
26	Insurance	\$251,095	\$239,335	\$226,075	\$268,510	\$271,195
27	General Expenses	\$180,498	\$109,931	\$80,442	\$156,630	\$158,196
28	Repair and Maintenance	\$290,161	\$198,509	\$167,050	\$211,700	\$213,817
29	Total Control Operations	\$14,242,771	\$14,199,943	\$13,055,346	\$18,010,448	\$18,190,552
30						
31	Control Capital	\$351,209	\$667,746	\$269,275	\$527,520	\$527,520
32						
33	Total Control Division -	\$14,593,980	\$14,867,689	\$13,324,621	\$18,537,968	\$18,718,072
34						
35	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**

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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



## M E M O R A N D U M

TO: MMCD Board of Commissioners

FROM: Joseph Langel, MMCD Attorney

DATE: August 26, 2016

RE: Tax Levy Schedule

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At the Commission meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup> (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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>. *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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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

## **1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES**

As of April 30, about half of our seasonal employees have started their jobs. The remainder should begin by the week after Memorial Day. District Human Resources staff and other interested employees have worked hard to attract a more diverse pool of qualified candidates for District jobs. Their efforts are succeeding. Because about half of our seasonal hires are returning staff who bring back their past experience, we expect a gradual increase in diversity. Of the first-year employees we hired so far this year, 35% are female, 26% are a minority, and 13% are individuals with a disability. Our creative staff have done a great job communicating that MMCD is a great organization that people, all kinds of people, want to work for. Our ultimate goal is to continuously improve the already fine services we deliver to District residents. Our employees are a reflection of the residents we serve.

## **2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES**

The weather has continued to be unseasonal the first two weeks of May. With below normal temperatures and below normal rainfall, staff have reported that many of the mosquito breeding sites are drier than normal.

Staff finished treating our spring brood the last week of April. In total, we flew 34,412 acres by helicopter (including 2,961 acres in P2). During the first two weeks of May, staff were out treating productive floodwater mosquito ground sites with a 30-day pre-hatch larvicide called Natular G30. This biological larvicide controls mosquito larvae for 30 days.

Starting the third week of May, staff will begin to treat the larger wetlands with a 30-day pre-hatch insecticide by helicopter. These targeted treatments help to make the helicopter operations more efficient when we get large rains during the summer. Starting the last week of May and first week of June aerial treatments to the cattail mosquito sites will begin. The majority of citizen calls are from individuals inquiring if we have treated a certain wetland near their home or could pick up their tires. There have been some calls from citizens from isolated areas regarding annoyance from a species of black fly, *S. tuberosum*. We did work with the MNDNR to have this species added to the permit for treatments in some small streams for 2021, but we have now determined that we may have to expand these treatments to even more small streams for 2022.

Most of the seasonal staff have been hired but some regions still have a few positions to fill. Deer tick surveillance routes have started. Staff are out picking up tires. Catch basin treatments will start the last week of May. Except for the treatment of adult mosquitoes, operations are in full swing.

### **3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE**

Services to prevent mosquito-borne diseases are underway. Crews have been working to reduce La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) risk by eliminating container habitats since the field season started. We have removed 1,528 tires from the field for recycling and we have eliminated 67 other LAC vector habitats thus far.

Larval treatments targeting spring *Aedes* species are nearly complete. Each year this work results in a significant reduction of the populations of mosquitoes capable of transmitting Jamestown Canyon virus, thereby reducing the risk of District citizens contracting an illness caused by the virus.

Treatments of catch basins are scheduled to begin on June 1. The first round of treatments will be complete by June 26. Catch basins are the source of significant numbers of WNV vectors. Last year we made over 276,000 larvicide applications to catch basins. Additionally, 17 municipalities are already assisting with treatments of underground WNV vector habitats, and we are reaching out to others who have assisted in the past.

As new Catch Basin Technicians arrive on staff, we focus on training in the many aspects of their new job including the intricacies of vector-borne disease prevention. They are instructed on the methods of reducing risk for La Crosse encephalitis, West Nile illness, eastern equine encephalitis, and Jamestown Canyon illness. We educate staff on the vectors of each pathogen and on our strategies to control each vector species.

### **4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB**

Rainfall from mid-April to mid-May has been below normal, consequently, we've had another slow start to the season. The slow start has allowed for ample training time in the lab. Three new technicians were hired this year; all have some entomological experience, so training is going well. Two people are long-time seasonal staff who can jump right in where needed.

Adult spring *Aedes* mosquitoes are just about ready to emerge. In April, we identified over 2,000 larval samples from sites that were treated by helicopter. Our Monday Night Surveillance Network for mosquitoes was scheduled for the week of May 10 but was postponed due to cold temperatures. May 17 is the first night of sampling; temperatures and precipitation are cooperating.

In April, around 200 small stream larval black fly samples were processed and 57 sites that met threshold were treated. Larval sampling also began on the Rum, South Fork Crow, Crow, Mississippi, and Minnesota rivers with 22 treatments completed so far. The black fly adult surveillance network, consisting of sweep collections and CO<sub>2</sub> traps, began the week of May 3. Spring black fly species emerge early in the season and are on the wing now. Black fly annoyance complaints from the public started in early May and have increased significantly in certain areas of the District since. Staff are taking larval and adult samples in complaint areas to verify species present. Non-target monitoring samplers were placed on the Mississippi River on May 3. These are collected each month through September. Results

from this monitoring work, done since 1995, indicate there has been no large-scale changes in the macroinvertebrate community in the *Bti*-treated reaches of the Mississippi River.

## **5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

### School Presentations

MMCD did virtual school presentations at Groveland Elementary and Minnewashta Elementary in Minnetonka and Five Hawks Elementary in Prior Lake this month for classes of 4th and 5th graders. Staff involved include Ben Lubeck, Aubrey Soukup, and Alex Carlson.

### MMCD in the Media

- KSTP - May 4 - Minnesota could experience mild spring when it comes to mosquitoes  
<https://kstp.com/news/metropolitan-mosquito-control-district-minnesota-could-experience-mild-spring-when-it-comes-to-mosquitoes-other-insects/6096785/>
- WCCO - May 12 - Biting gnats out in full force in south metro  
<https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2021/05/12/theyre-really-kind-of-nasty-little-bugs-biting-gnats-out-in-full-force-in-south-metro/>
- Bring Me the News - May 13 - South Twin Cities metro besieged by aggressive, biting gnats: <https://bringmethenews.com/minnesota-lifestyle/south-twin-cities-metro-besieged-by-aggressive-biting-gnats>

Look for a special about MMCD on Minnesota Bound on KARE 11 on June 6!

### Community Events

With the lifting of social distancing and mask mandates, many summer events are planning to return this year! MMCD is currently planning to attend several county fairs, parades, and local events. Find out where we'll be each week by viewing our events calendar:

<https://mmcd.org/mmcd-events/>

### Social Media

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

- Our helicopter notifications on Twitter have gotten attention (mostly positive) and some people even sent in pictures of our helicopters in action.
- Our Facebook ads for seasonal jobs were successful with a bump in applications after each one is posted.
- An inspector from the East facility rescued some ducklings that were stuck in a culvert.

You can view videos of the rescue on any of our social media pages.

- Facebook – 1,550 Page Likes (Up 4 from April 16)
  - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
- Twitter – 804 Followers (Up 36 from April 16)

- Twitter.com/metromosquito
- Instagram – 273 Followers (Up 13 from April 16)
  - Instagram.com/metromosquito

## 6. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

### Ticks Are Out!

As of May 15, we have not seen deer ticks at their typical higher spring questing levels, but we continue to recommend checking yourself for ticks after having been out in their wooded/brushy habitat. Nymphal deer ticks should be out questing and their small (freckle) size makes them difficult to detect which makes them, not the more heavily infected adult ticks, primarily responsible for tick-borne disease transmission. Wood ticks are out at what will likely be their peak population levels.

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 May 14, no Asian longhorned ticks or red sheep ticks have been reported as being found in Minnesota.

### 2020 *I. scapularis* Distribution Study Update:

Our 2020 tick surveillance report is being written and will be up on our website in June.

### Tick Vector Field Projects

Our 2021 tick surveillance season began April 26. As of May 15, three of ten routes in our first round of surveillance have been completed. Due to impacts of COVID-19, St. Paul staff are assisting as needed in the field in 2021.

### Public Education

- Distribution and/or re-stocking of brochures, tick cards and posters will begin in spring.
- We continue to inform our Facebook followers of items of interest as they occur, with new items for 2021 including blogs, posted on our website or elsewhere.
- Our Tick Risk Meter is currently set to MEDIUM. Some adult deer ticks are out questing and the likelihood of encountering nymphal deer ticks is on the rise. Adult wood ticks have most likely reached their peak numbers.

### Signage

Signs to remind the public of deer ticks and disease prevention measures may be posted at dog parks and additional locations throughout the metro. For various reasons some signs remain up year-round.