

METROPOLITAN
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING
September 15, 2021
9:15 AM

Information Packet

(Rescheduled from September 22, 2021)

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

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

DATE: **Wednesday, September 15, 2021**
TIME: **9:15 AM**

SPECIAL MEETING A G E N D A

1. Approval of Minutes for June 23, 2021 Meeting*
2. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
3. Approve Legal Counsel Contract Renewal (2022-24)*
4. Award of Bid for Financial Auditor Services (2021-23)*
5. Executive Director Retirement (late 2022) 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 Commission Meeting: Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 9:15 a.m.
Next Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021, 9:15 a.m.

This meeting was rescheduled from September 22, 2021.

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

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

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*

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.

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.

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 service 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 two 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 10:43 a.m.

*Other Issues and
Adjournment*

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Action Requested:

Approve Legal Counsel Contract Renewal
(2022-24)

Background:

In May 2015, the Commission reviewed the cost of legal services and decided to go for bids, in part because annual expenses for legal services during 2012 – 2014 ranged between \$42,000 and \$47,500 which seemed excessive. Legal services were billed as a monthly stipend.

The Commission (August 26, 2015) awarded the legal services contract to Ratwik, Rozak & Maloney, P.A. Legal services defined by this 3-year contract are billed hourly, not as a monthly stipend. Annual legal expenses have decreased significantly beginning in 2016 (the first entire year of the legal services contract with Ratwik, Rozak & Maloney, P.A.). Legal service needs have not decreased significantly since 2014.

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021* |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Ratwik, Rozak & Maloney | \$ 15,000 | \$ 10,100 | \$ 15,002 | \$ 36,074 | \$12,263 | \$ 5,264 |

* through August

The current contract for legal services with Ratwik, Rozak & Maloney, P.A. was approved on January 23, 2019 and will expire on December 31, 2021. Ratwik, Rozak & Maloney, P.A. have proposed two changes the current contract (hourly legal services fee increases from \$165 to \$180, hourly litigation services fee increases from \$175 to \$190). Otherwise, only the term (through December 31, 2024) of the new 3-year contract would change.

Resolution:

Be it now resolved, that the contract for legal services with Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney P.A. be renewed through December 31, 2024, based upon their price and experience.

CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES

This agreement is entered into by and between the **Metropolitan Mosquito Control District**, 2099 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55104 (hereinafter “MMCD”) and the law firm of **Ratwik, Roszak, & Maloney, P.A.**, 730 Second Avenue South, Suite 300, Minneapolis, MN 55402 (hereinafter “Law Firm”), for the purpose of utilizing the Law Firm to provide legal services to MMCD.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, MMCD desires professional legal services and solicited proposals for legal services in June 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Law Firm submitted a proposal to MMCD for legal services and has the skill and expertise necessary to perform the duties as set forth in this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, MMCD selected the Law Firm to provide legal services.

NOW THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF the mutual promises contained herein and other good and sufficient consideration the parties agree to the following:

TERMS

1. Scope and Nature of Legal Services. The parties agree to the following description of the nature of the legal services to be provided by the Law Firm:

- 1.1** The Law Firm shall provide all legal services on an as needed basis as requested by the MMCD at the rate of \$180.00 per hour, to be billed in 1/10 hour increments for general legal services and \$190.00 per hour for litigation matters.
- 1.2** The Law Firm shall attend all MMCD Commission and Executive Committee meetings as requested at a flat rate of \$300.00 per meeting.

2. Reimbursable Costs and Expenses.

- 2.1 General Rule.** MMCD will reimburse the Law Firm for actual, necessary, and reasonable costs and expenses incurred by the Law Firm in the performance of the legal services contained in this Agreement.

2.2 Specific Rates:

| <u>Description of Costs</u> | <u>Rate</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Mileage | I.R.S. Rates |
| Parking | Actual Cost |
| Photocopying | \$.20 per page |
| Postage | Actual Cost |
| Messenger | Actual Cost |
| Court Costs | Actual Cost |
| Arbitration Costs | Actual Cost |
| Other Contested Case Costs | Actual Cost |

2.3 Billing Procedures. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph 5 regarding billing and payment procedures, the parties understand and agree that certain expenses may not be known to the Law Firm until after the monthly bill for legal services has been prepared and mailed to MMCD for payment. For example, an arbitrator’s award and bill may not arrive until months after all legal services have been provided, billed, and paid.

3. Responsible Attorney. Joseph J. Langel shall be the primary attorney for MMCD. Mr. Langel shall be responsible for the performance of this agreement, although he may be assisted by other attorneys or support staff in the Law Firm.

4. Conflict of Interest and Attorney/Client Privilege Issues.

4.1 Conflict of Interest: The Law Firm will notify MMCD if the Law Firm represents or has ever represented an opposing party in a legal matter. The Law Firm declares that it represents many school districts, cities, counties, and other public entities throughout the State of Minnesota.

4.2 Attorney/Client Privilege: The Law Firm is authorized to utilize e-mail without encryption to transmit and receive confidential client information. Cordless and cellular telephones may be used by the Law Firm to transmit and receive confidential client information. MMCD specifically acknowledges that it understands the confidentiality risks associated with inadvertent interception.

5. Billing Cycle, Payment Expectations and Interests.

- 5.1 Billing Cycle:** The Law Firm will submit monthly statements, itemizing legal services rendered for the prior month. Generally, bills will go out approximately fifteen (15) days after the end of the prior month.
- 5.2 Payment Expectations:** MMCD will pay the bill of the Law Firm within thirty (30) days or less of its receipt of the bill by forwarding a check to the Law Firm paying for both legal services and expenses shown on the Law Firm’s bill.
- 5.3 Disputes:** In the event that MMCD disputes any aspect of the Law Firm’s bill, the appropriate MMCD representative will contact Joseph J. Langel at the Law Firm stating the nature of the dispute. The parties pledge their mutual good faith in resolving any disputes.
- 5.4 Interest:** Because MMCD will be paying the Law Firm’s bills within thirty (30) days from their receipt, no interest will be charged. If MMCD determines that it will be necessary to deviate from that payment schedule, then it will notify the Law Firm. An interest rate of 8% per annum will be charged to MMCD if it elects a payment schedule greater than thirty (30) days, subject to change as may be mutually agreed between the parties.

6. Term. The term of this Agreement will be from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024, subject to either party’s right to terminate the Agreement upon seven (7) calendar days’ written notice to the other party.

7. Other. MMCD expressly reserves its right to hire independent counsel on matters it determines requires an attorney with expertise in a particular field.

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO
CONTROL DISTRICT**

RATWIK, ROSZAK & MALONEY, P.A.

By: _____
Its Executive Director

By: _____
Ann R. Goering, President

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Action Requested:

Award of Bid for Financial Auditor Services
(2021-23)

Background:

On October 28, 2020, the Executive Committee approved a District request to advertise for bids for annual financial audit services (2021-23) after completion of the 2020 audit. Bids were due on Friday, September 3, 2021. Five bids were received. Four of the five bids described experience with special taxing districts like MMCD. All five bids described experience with local government. Only Redpath stated that their fee included questions outside of performing the audit such as conducting quarterly review meetings to see how things are going, make recommendations, etc. Other firms indicated that they would perform extra services for an additional charge.

When estimated additional fees (based on recent history of extra time asking the auditor questions) were added to the basic audit fee for 2021, only Clifton Larson Allen submitted a lower bid than Redpath. However, Clifton Larson Allen indicated that they would need to provide a quote for additional fees based upon what questions MMCD was asking which makes estimating their probable total cost difficult.

We recommend approving the bid for services submitted by Redpath because they have extensive experience with special taxing districts like MMCD, they offer additional services at no extra charge, and they very clearly identified the scope of work expected including performing functions such as GASB 68 calculations (OPEB) required by the audit.

Resolution:

Whereas, the District has requested bids for Annual Financial Audit Services. The bidder meeting specifications that provided the most services for a competitive set fee is Redpath.

Be it now resolved, that the bid for Annual Financial Audit Services be awarded to the bidder meeting specifications that provided the most services for a competitive set fee, Redpath, in the amount of \$23,000 for the 2021 annual financial audit.

| Agency | Headquarters | Local Government | Charge for District questions outside of audit? | Hourly Rate | 2019& 2020 Average 20 hrs | Possible add to fee | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|---|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| | | | | | | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| CliftonLarsonAllen | Minneapolis/Nationwide | Yes | No if audit related, possibly - if extra project | Provide quote | ??? | \$20,500 | \$21,200 | \$22,000 |
| Redpath | St. Paul | Yes | No | 0 | \$0 | \$23,000 | \$23,700 | \$24,400 |
| Abdo, Eick, Meyers | Edina/Mankato | Yes | No-basic questions, Possibly-if additional services are needed. | \$100-\$385 | \$2,000 | \$21,500 | \$22,100 | \$22,700 |
| Malloy, Montague.. | St. Louis Park | Yes | No-if minor in nature | \$90-\$295 | \$1,800 | \$22,000 | \$22,500 | \$23,000 |
| Wipfli LLP | Minneapolis/Nationwide | Yes | Possibly-if audit takes more substantial time | \$100-\$500 | \$2,000 | \$24,600 | \$25,800 | \$27,100 |

**calculated at lowest hourly rate

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

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

In preparation for the retirement of the Executive Director in late 2022, we posted in July an advertisement for a Technical Services Manager who will oversee the technical services function at MMCD. My goal is to ensure that sufficient staff possessing advanced technical expertise are in place to maintain smooth operation of MMCD's technical functions that directly support operational service delivery when a new Executive Director is hired.

We received 14 applications by the August 11 due date, interviewed seven candidates the week of August 23-27, and four semifinalists on September 1-2. Two finalists will undergo an additional objective assessment of their leadership abilities (Korn Ferry, Minneapolis). We hope the new Technical Services Manager can start by early October.

The Technical Services Manager job is not a new position but instead a modified version of the unfilled Operations and Technical Services Director position previously held by the current Executive Director. The operations oversight of that position was transferred to the District Operations Manager position. The technical services oversight handled by the current Executive Director will be transferred to the Technical Services Manager.

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

The end of August brought the largest rain amounts to the metro this season. At the MSP Airport, over four inches fell during rain events that occurred August 24-30. Some areas of the District received over five inches of rain during the same period. Field staff responded by treating 16,816 acres aerially between August 27 – September 1.

After completing the work associated with this rain event, the majority of seasonal staff are shifting their focus to the cattail (*Coquillettidia perturbans*) mosquito. This mosquito overwinters in the larval stage attached to the roots of cattails. The sites are inspected in the fall and are primarily treated in late May and early June the following year. However, we do plan to treat approximately 4,000 acres with a product called VectoLex that can be applied in mid-September to reduce the number of acres that we'll have to treat next spring. We are very interested to see how very dry conditions this summer have reduced breeding acres compared to last May-June, when we treated over 30,000 acres for *Cq. perturbans*. Staff performed some initial inspections on wetness during the first two weeks of August to determine which sites could be eliminated due to dryness. The cattail inspections will be completed by the middle of October.

The staff who are not working on the cattail mosquito inspections will finish working on any disease vector work, continue to collect adult samples, and collect and recycle tires.

Adult mosquito counts remain low. We expect a bit of a spike from the above-mentioned rain. We will continue to collect and monitor adult mosquito levels through the end of September.

Field Operations Supervisors are starting to plan fall work which entails checking and updating their field maps. They will also began meeting as District teams to review the 2021 season and start planning for the 2022 season.

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

3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

West Nile virus (WNV) activity has been documented in 38 states. The CDC has received reports of 102 human illnesses (six fatalities) from 24 states. There have been no WNV illnesses confirmed in Minnesota, although there are some reports under investigation. Our surveillance has detected more WNV activity locally than we have experienced since 2018. As of the end of August, 46 of 721 mosquito samples tested have returned positive results for WNV. There were only six WNV positive mosquito samples in all of 2020.

Nationally, nine La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) cases have been confirmed in four states. No LAC cases have been identified in Minnesota thus far; however, it is not unusual to learn of cases in September or early October. Field staff continue to reduce the amount of larval habitat available for LAC vector mosquito species. MMCD crews have eliminated 1,065 water-holding containers and 150 tree holes and we have recycled 8,951 tires.

One eastern equine encephalitis illness (EEE) has been reported to CDC from Georgia. Veterinary cases have been reported in six states. There are reports of illness in horses from four Wisconsin counties. The veterinary cases nearest the District are in Burnett County and Monroe County. There have been no reports of EEE activity in Minnesota.

4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

August was one of the warmest on record, that coupled with the drought, resulted in very few adult mosquitoes (Figure 1). We flirted with the 10-year average on August 23, when many traps in the Minnesota River Valley had high numbers of floodwater mosquitoes. The following week, the number of adult mosquitoes collected averaged 15 per trap.

The last week of August brought much needed rain. Many parts of the District received four or more inches of rain from three large rainstorms. As a result, field staff checked many sites and the lab processed over 925 larval samples in four days. We anticipate a hatch of mosquitoes around Labor Day.

We are winding down in the lab. Our Monday Night Surveillance continues until there are no more mosquitoes or it's too cold in the evening for them to fly. Two technicians will

continue in the lab until September 17 and one more will remain on until October 8 to help with tick work.

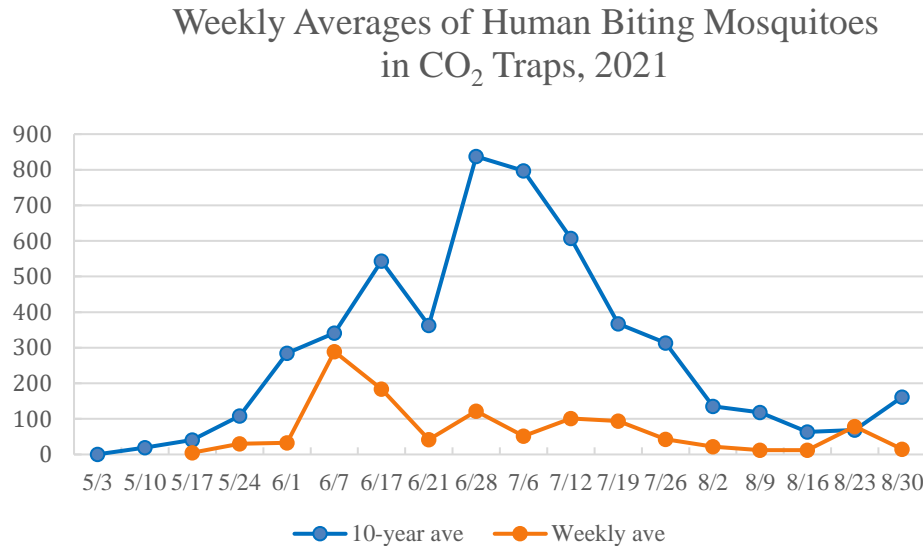


Figure 1. Average number of human biting mosquitoes per week in CO₂-baited traps in 2021 (N = 138). Traps are placed in various locations in the seven-county metropolitan area.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MMCD in the Media

August 28 - Bring Me the News - Heavy rainfall in parts of Minnesota could mean more mosquitoes - [\[Link\]](#)

August 30 - KARE 11 - Recent rain will lead to mosquito 'explosion,' crews use corn cob mixture to kill larvae - [\[Link\]](#)

August 30 - Fox 9 - Officials see increase in mosquitoes throughout metro, expect more after rainfall - [\[Link\]](#)

August 31 - WCCO-TV - West Nile Virus-Carrying Mosquitos On The Rise In Twin Cities - [\[Link\]](#)

August 31 - WCCO Radio - Recorded interview with reporter Laura Oakes

MMCD at the State Fair

MMCD had an excellent time being back at the Minnesota State Fair this year. 2021 was a smaller fair than year's past, but MMCD staff still had excellent conversations with residents of the District about mosquitoes, black flies, ticks, and more!

As of Sunday night, **MMCD staff talked to 3,879 people** - down a bit from 2019, but still a lot more than we would talk to without the Fair so the event was certainly a success. We also collected several dozen e-mails from people who may be interested in working for MMCD in the future and a small number of teachers who may be interested in classroom presentations this year.

The State Fair was a great way to end the events season which was not quite back to normal, but much different than 2020.

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

Calls continue to be far below average for 2021 despite the recent rains we've had and a slight uptick in mosquito population. For comparisons, here is how 2021 compares to the past several years.

| Call Type | 2021 (so far) | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Mosquito Annoyance | 395 | 1,472 | 1,946 | 1,813 | 2,308 |
| Tire Pickup Request | 286 | 413 | 412 | 325 | 363 |
| Restricted Access | 61 | 75 | 69 | 75 | 126 |
| Staff/Helicopter Concerns | 20 | 25 | 16 | 19 | 20 |

Social Media

Our social media has been active this past month providing updates to the public about MMCD's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to comments about gnats and mosquitoes. Here are the latest numbers:

- Facebook – 1,587 Page Likes (Up 5 from August 13)
 - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
- Twitter – 860 Followers (Up 14 from August 13)
 - Twitter.com/metromosquito
- Instagram – 316 Followers (Up 7 from August 13)
 - Instagram.com/metromosquito

6. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

Deer Ticks Will Be Out Questing Soon (If They're Not Already)

In a typical year, deer tick adults (and larvae) emerge around the first week of September and can be found until temperatures stay consistently below 32°F. While one could assume that some mortality occurred due to the drought conditions during the summer, we do not know the extent, if any, of any mortality. From now until winter, check for ticks after having been out in their wooded habitat!

Collaborative Project with the Centers for Disease Control

The tick vector surveillance team will be dragging for deer ticks this fall (and possibly next spring) for the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Rickettsial Zoonoses Branch. The CDC is developing a laboratory technique which will identify deer ticks. This study could also find that deer ticks, like wood ticks in the West*, are not actually *Ixodes scapularis* but a new species entirely. The CDC does not have any ticks from Minnesota so our work will be very helpful.

*Wood ticks in the West, formerly *Dermacentor variabilis*, shown to be a new tick species, *D. similis*.
<https://entomologytoday.org/2021/08/25/american-dog-ticks-western-new-species-dermacentor-similis/>

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 September 8, 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 September 8, three of ten routes in our third round of surveillance have been completed. The first round of surveillance was completed on June 24 and the second round on August 26. Laboratory work and tick identifications have begun.

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).
- Our Tick Risk Meter is currently set to **MEDIUM**.
- Adult (and some larval) deer ticks are out questing now, or will be out questing very soon, and could be found any time throughout the fall.
- Signs to remind the public about deer ticks and disease prevention measures are being posted at dog parks and additional locations throughout the metro.