

METROPOLITAN  
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

February 23, 2022

9:15 AM

*Information Packet*

# METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

FEBRUARY 23, 2022 9:15 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome and Introduction

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

3. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for December 15, 2021
4. Approval of Organizational Meeting Minutes for January 6, 2022
5. Approval of Checks and Claims  
    General     75595 - 75772

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Intergovernmental Issues – Peg Larsen, Kim Scott
7. Executive Committee Report for January 26, 2022
8. Budget and Levy Development Schedule
9. Executive Director’s Report
10. Operations Report– Jon Peterson, Kirk Johnson
11. Public Affairs Report – Alex Carlson
12. Other Items
13. Adjournment

\* Action Requested

**Next Executive Meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 9:15 a.m.**

**Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 9:15 a.m.**

COMMISSIONER	COUNTY	COMMISSIONER	COUNTY
___ Mandy Meisner	Anoka	___ Angela Conley	Hennepin
___ Mike Gamache	Anoka	___ Chris LaTondresse	Hennepin
___ Robyn West	Anoka	___ Jim McDonough	Ramsey
___ Gayle Degler	Carver	___ Nicole Frethem	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	___ Fran Miron	Washington

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES  
DECEMBER 15, 2021  
6:00 PM

Chair Angela Conley called meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted remotely using GoToMeeting software. Roll call votes were recorded for each item because this meeting was conducted remotely.

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Angela Conley, Chair	Hennepin County
Commissioner Scott Schulte	Anoka County
Commissioner Robyn West	Anoka County
Commissioner Gayle Delger	Carver County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Dakota County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Ramsey County
Commissioner Michael Beard	Scott County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Washington County

**Staff:**

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

**Visitors:**

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

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

Because of the ongoing threat of severe weather and the need for at least one Commissioner to leave early to attend another meeting, Stephen recommended that the items requiring a vote and the public comment period item be addressed first followed by the reports. The Chair and other Commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

*Consent Agenda*

**Resolution 1:**

The following administrative items were approved in one motion.

1. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for October 27, 2021
2. Financial Statements November 30, 2021
3. Approval of Check and Claims  
    General   75447 - 75594

Commissioner Laurie Halverson seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Scott Schulte	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Chair Angela Conley opened the meeting for public comment and asked anyone from the public who wanted to comment to please come forward. Nobody stepped forward to comment about the 2022 MMCD payable levy and MMCD 2022 Budget.

*Public Comment*  
*MMCD Payable 2022*  
*Total Levy and 2022*  
*Budget*

Commissioner Lisa Weik moved that the public comment period be closed. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Scott Schulte	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes

Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Stephen reported that we recommend the Commission approve a 2022 Property Tax Levy of \$19,038,676, a 2% increase over 2021. This levy is the same as the preliminary 2022 levy approved by the Commission in July. This levy increase is part of the long-term plan to restore services cut in 2017 and ultimately expand services to meet the needs of increased development and population in the District.

*Approval Payable 2022  
Levy*

Commissioner Scott Schulte offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**Resolution 2:**

**Whereas**, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission has reviewed the proposed property tax levy for payable 2022 considering the needs of the program, and

**Whereas**, the 2022 levy is proposed to remain at \$19,038,676, a 2% increase over the 2021 original levy, and

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

**Be it now resolved**, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission adopts the payable 2022 levy in the amount of \$19,038,676, a 2% increase over the 2021 levy of \$18,665,369, and authorizes staff to certify the levy to the Minnesota Department of Revenue and the Counties of the District.

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Scott Schulte	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Stephen Manweiler requested that the Commission approve the proposed 2022 budget of \$19,741,768, a 1% increase from the original 2020 budget of \$19,551,584.

*Approval 2022 Budget*

Commissioner Michael Beard joined the meeting

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**Resolution 3:**

**Whereas,** the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission has reviewed the proposed 2022 operations budget of \$19,741,768, a 1% increase from the original 2021 budget, which is sufficient to meet the needs of the program, and

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

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

**Be it now resolved,** the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission approves the final 2021 operations budget in the amount of \$19,551,564, and adopts the proposed 2022 expenditures budget in the amount of \$19,741,768, an increase of 1% from the 2021 budget.

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

Commissioner Scott Schulte	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes

Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Stephen explained that safety has been the number one goal at the District since long before the pandemic. While this policy began as a response to the federal OSHA emergency vaccination mandate released in early November, MMCD believes it needs to require that as many employees be fully vaccinated as possible to maximize safety of all employees. The CDC and MDH recommend full vaccination as the best way to protect oneself and others from COVID-19. The MMCD policy requires either proof of full vaccination or weekly testing. No employees will be disciplined if they do not show proof of full vaccination. MMCD will pay for the testing that will be completed during work hours. This policy does not supersede other safety rules.

*Approval MMCD  
COVID-19 Proof of  
Vaccination or Testing  
and Masking*

Commissioners asked about confidentiality maintenance and flexibility in testing relative to the employee’s work schedule.

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

**Resolution 4:**

**Whereas**, the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health have recommended that all residents be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to most effectively protect themselves and others, and

**Whereas**, the State of Minnesota and local counties including Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington have approved vaccination requirements for their employees, and

**Whereas**, MMCD has patterned its vaccination mandate policy after that of the State of Minnesota and local counties to most effectively protect MMCD employees and others,

**Be it now resolved**, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission approves the COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination or Testing and Masking policy.

Commissioner Laurie Halverson seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Scott Schulte	No
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Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	No
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	No
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	No
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Commissioner Gayle Degler left the meeting prior to the vote.

Peg Larsen and Kim Scott reported the state is anticipating a \$7.7 billion revenue surplus. This will greatly impact the session for 2022 that begins on January 31. Across the different party lines, the minority republicans in the House feel that it is obvious that Minnesota is overtaxing. The majority DFL in the House is suggesting that money goes to first responder education, and healthcare. The House DFL is also looking at paid sick leave for all. Governor Walz describes the surplus as an incredible opportunity to help the people of Minnesota. The large surplus promises to divide the Legislature as the different priorities are far apart. This does not include federal dollars that are expected to come to our state.

*Intergovernmental  
Issues*

The federal dollars are expected to come through the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA). The House held a joint information hearing of the Transportation and Capital Investment committees yesterday to discuss the IIJA dollars. Additional clarity and direction on how the federal dollars will be accessed, as well as, earmarked is still needed. As an example of funding that was discussed in the joint committee hearing, Minnesota will receive a specific amount of funding for projects, like bridges, that is already known based upon the Dept. of Transportation schedule for such projects. Airports and Amtrak will also receive a specified amount of direct funding based upon factors, such as, number of passengers. There are a whole host of direct funding mechanisms and a smaller portion of the IIJA dollars will be available for competitive grants. Much of the funding will go through agencies, potentially without the need for legislative approval.

Redistricting: On a party-line vote, the House approved a voting district map that attempts to align the legislative districts with school districts, while the Senate has not yet released a map. The Legislature must come to an agreement over redistricting by February 15 or it will be decided by the Special Panel for Redistricting, appointed by the Supreme Court.



In the last redistricting, the Court released their order by 1pm on February 15, so we may expect a final decision on February 15.

When the Legislature returns to session on January 31, the House will complete its work mostly remotely with floor sessions at the Capitol and the State Office Building remaining locked to the public. The Senate will meet in some hybrid fashion, the details of which have not been released; it is expected that committees will decide individually whether to meet in person.

Additional retirements announced, since we last discussed this in October, include Rep. Alice Hausman from district 66A and Sen. Patricia Torres Ray from district 63.

Stephen reported that in September the Executive Committee preferred that MMCD HR staff advertise for a new Executive Director in preparation for the retirement of the current incumbent. Candidates will be interviewed by a MMCD hiring committee including Mosquito Control Commissioners. Finalists will be evaluated by a professional in a manner similar to how the current incumbent was evaluated prior to starting as the Executive Director. Stephen introduced Dr. Jane Coffey who described how she evaluates candidates. Dr. Coffey uses standardized tests and simulations designed to evaluate candidate's responses to challenges likely faced on the job. Dr. Coffey tailors the evaluations to investigate needs and issues expressed by the MMCD hiring committee. Executive Committee members also reiterated that they felt Dr. Coffey was highly qualified and that her evaluations would very much help the MMCD hiring committee to choose the candidate most likely to succeed as the next MMCD Executive Director.

*November 18, 2021*  
*Executive Committee*  
*Report*

The timeline includes advertising in spring 2022 (to include the American Mosquito Control Association annual meeting in late February that will facilitate contacting a large number of qualified potential candidates), interviews in late spring to early summer, and Dr. Coffey's evaluations soon after completion of the interviews followed by a final selection by the MMCD hiring committee. This timeline should provide enough time before the late December 2022 retirement of the current incumbent for knowledge transfer to the new Executive Director.

Stephen briefly described changes to annual staff training previously conducted in early December based upon feedback from staff about that training. We split this training into three meetings. The first was held on November 17 (spearheaded and facilitated by Jon Peterson). It involved a review of the control programs [described as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans] and outcome of the 2021 season (successes and issues experienced).

*Executive Director's*  
*Report*

A second meeting will be convened on December 8 as an employee recognition and a celebration of successes including surviving our second year of COVID-19 without work-related infections and delivering excellent services in spite of the pandemic. We typically enjoy a lunch together. That was prevented by the pandemic. We hope that we can meet personally for a celebratory lunch in 2022.

The third meeting will be convened in early March 2022. That meeting will be where staff finalize plans for the 2022 season. It will be the culmination of ongoing planning work. We intend to solicit staff about what went well and how this training can be improved.

Jon Peterson reported, to sum up the 2021 season, it was dry! The acres treated for larval and adult mosquitoes were significantly lower than previous years. Staff still did very important work controlling annoyance and disease vector mosquitoes and working to eliminate and to treat structures that could potentially breed disease vector mosquitoes.

*Operations Report*

Up until this past weekend, staff were still taking advantage of the mild weather and lack of snow to map in the field. Staff have also been attending team meetings virtually, doing maintenance on equipment and vehicles, and continuing to learn the mapping software QGIS. Staff are also continuing to work on recruiting and hiring for the 2022 season.

The Rosemount Facility partnered with the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District to have a natural prairie installed on part of the facility property on November 17. This 3.2-acre prairie will have native plants and flowers, creating a natural area for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

Kirk Johnson reported that there were 27 cases of West Nile virus in Minnesota, 22 were District residents, and zero fatalities. There were zero cases of La Crosse encephalitis in Minnesota.

There were 20 cases of Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) in the U.S., with six cases in Minnesota, in Hennepin, Ramsey, and St. Louis counties. We will continue working with partners at Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-borne Disease to improve knowledge of JCV transmission.

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) was diagnosed in one Minnesota horse in 2021, in Itasca County. There were three human EEE illnesses reported nationally, including one in Wisconsin. We will continue to monitor and control EEE vectors and remain prepared to respond to EEE detections in the District.

Customer calls were down about 50% from 2021 over 2020 which is mainly due to annoyance calls which were 1,472 in 2020 but only 410 in 2021. Most other call categories remained about the same.

*Public Affairs Report*

Community events in 2021 were back, the biggest of which was the Minnesota State Fair where we talked with over 3,900 fairgoers and where 33 MMCD full and part-time staff members worked shifts.

We established great partnerships with groups like the Monarch Joint Venture and the Pollinator Festival at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

We released several new videos including our Tips to Reduce Mosquitoes in Your Yard and Introduction to Cattail Mosquitoes.

We were featured on the news 31 times this year including a lengthy feature on Minnesota Bound and several other unique stories. All of our social media channels grew in 2021 and we added a TikTok page, led by our East Facility where we've been able to reach new audiences.

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 7:23 p.m.

*Adjournment*

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
ORGANIZATION MEETING

MINUTES  
JANUARY 6, 2022  
9:15 AM

2021 Chair Angela Conley called meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted remotely using GoToMeeting software. Roll call votes were recorded for each item because this meeting was conducted remotely.

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Anoka County
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Anoka County
Commissioner Robyn West	Anoka County
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Carver County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Ramsey County
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Ramsey County
Commissioner Michael Beard	Scott County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

**Staff:**

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director  
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator

**Visitors:**

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

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

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

*Appointment of  
Temporary Chair*

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Yes
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Fran Miron	Yes

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

*Roll Call and  
Swearing in of  
Commissioners*

Stephen referred the Commissioners to the recap of the rotation of the Commission officers. Officers serve for two years. The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary in 2021 all were in their first year serving as these officers. The rotation would have Commissioners from the same counties as in 2021 serve as Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary in 2022 which would be their second year. The rotation indicates that a Commissioner from Hennepin County would become the Chair, a Commissioner from Washington County would become the Vice Chair, and a Commissioner from Ramsey County would become the Secretary. Stephen Manweiler asked if anyone would like to make a motion to nominate Commissioners as officers in 2022.

*Election of  
Officers*

Commissioner Fran Miron moved to nominate Commissioner Angela Conley as Chair, Commissioner Gary Kriesel as Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Nicole Frethem as Secretary in 2022.

Commissioner Michael Beard seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Yes
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Fran Miron	Yes

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

Chair Angela Conley reviewed the composition of the Executive Committee in 2021. Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland moved that Commissioners Angela Conley, Gary Kriesel, Nicole Frethem, Robyn West, Tom Workman, Liz Workman and David Beer be Executive Committee members in 2022.

*Appointment of  
Executive  
Committee*

Commissioner Michael Beard seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Yes
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes

Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Fran Miron	Yes

The Commission reviewed the proposed 2022 meeting schedule. Commissioner Robyn West moved that the proposed 2022 Commission and Executive Committee meeting schedule be adopted.

*Meeting Schedule  
Commission,  
Executive  
Committee  
Meetings*

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Yes
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Fran Miron	Yes

Peg Larsen reported that the legislature has begun the 2022-2023 session. Representative Jim Davnie is retiring, more retirements expected, so far about 11 House and Senate members have indicated they plan to retire.

*Legislative Update*

The courts will now do the redistricting for the state.

The \$7.7 billion anticipated surplus is being discussed by the chairs of the different committees in both parties.

Chair Angela Conley asked if there was any additional business. No Commissioners brought up anything.

*Adjournment*

Chair Angela Conley declared the meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES  
JANUARY 26, 2022  
9:15 AM

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. Roll call votes were recorded for each item because this meeting was conducted remotely.

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Robyn West	Anoka County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County

**Staff:**

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director  
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator  
Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Manager  
Cassie Sweeney-Truitt, Administrative Assistant

**Visitors:**

Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting  
Kim Scott, RCS Consulting  
Jennifer Earley, MMCD Counsel

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

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

**Resolution 1:**

**Resolved**, that the September 15, 2021 and November 18, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

*Approval of  
September 15, 2021  
and November 18,  
2021 Executive  
Committee Meeting  
Minutes*



Commissioner Tom Workman seconded the motion and the Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes

The Minnesota legislative session will begin next Monday, January 31. The House will conduct its business remotely and the Senate will meet in a hybrid fashion. Governor Walz has announced his recommendations for a capital investment bonding proposal this year totaling \$2.7 billion, made up of \$2 billion in general obligation bonds, \$276 million in general fund spending, and \$250 million in appropriation bonds (compared to the 2020 bonding bill signed into law that totaled \$1.9 billion). A record \$5.5 billion in bonding requests were received for the current cycle. Some common ground between the Governor, House, and Senate is likely to include asset preservation and deferred maintenance projects.

*Legislative Update*

There is also a \$7.7 billion surplus currently and the February forecast will determine the final number that the Legislature will use to negotiate their budget targets. Some of this money is already committed, like \$870 million to replenish the state's budget reserve. The Republicans would like to make permanent tax cuts and the Democrats would like to focus the surplus on childcare and healthcare. There is also a proposal to spend \$100 million on public safety.

Kendall Qualls has put his hat in the ring on the Republican side for governor. He is a conservative businessman. There is talk of Tad Jude, former senator, running for the AG position and of Rich Stanek running for governor.

The issues that will likely be focused on this session include:

- the budget surplus and bonding
- health care, COVID-19, and frontline worker bonuses
- public safety
- The Page Amendment and education spending
- recreational marijuana
- legalizing sports betting
- climate action
- equity and diversity

There have already been 192 bills pre-filed in the House, none of which pertain to MMCD's work. This does not include the over 5,000 bills that will roll over from last session.

The list of people retiring is growing by the minute. Right now, there are 10 senators and 14 house members who have announced that they will not run again or are running for another office.

Since our last report, new announcements include Rep. Rena Moran from district 65A, who will be running for Ramsey County Commissioner, Rep. Paul Marquart from district 4B, Rep. Carlos Mariani from district 65B, Rep. Shelly Christensen from district 39B, Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen from district 8, Sen. Michael Goggin from district 21, and Rep. Jordan Rasmusson from district 8A and Rep. Tou Xiong from district 53A who will both be running for their respective Senate seat.

The Minnesota Legislative Reference Library keeps a running list.

Commissioner Gary Kriesel joined the meeting after the Legislative update.

Stephen explained that page 9 of the information packet summarizes a calendar of different steps in the 2023 levy and budget development process. The dates have been updated to reflect 2022 but otherwise steps have not been changed. Page 10 includes a legal explanation of why the Commission needs to approve a preliminary levy at its July meeting, a requirement that is a bit different than for other agencies.

*Budget and Levy  
Development  
Schedule*

Stephen reported that now is time to begin his annual performance review process. The process that we have used includes input from all MMCC Commissioners, the Executive Director's direct reports, and a few random fulltime District employees. Input will be solicited using an online survey system. The input will be collected and compiled by Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator. Instructions for using the online input system will be provided to the Commissioners and appropriate staff by February 1, 2022 with a return due date by the February 23, 2022 Commission meeting. A Performance Review Panel has, customarily, been made up of some members of the Executive Committee and other interested Commissioners, who will receive the compiled input and meet with Dr. Manweiler to discuss his performance. The Commission has suggested that the Executive Director's initiatives be used as benchmarks for his performance. A brief summary of these initiatives will be provided with the email that includes the online survey link. The Panel will report at the March 23, 2022 Executive Committee meeting.

*Executive Director  
Performance Review  
Process*

Stephen reported that staff are very enthusiastic about being able to restore all 2017 service cuts in 2022. Staff currently are reviewing the most recent census data to update their understanding of where District residents live and reviewing years immediately before 2017 when full services were provided. We are determining which larval and adult control strategies will deliver the most services to the most District residents given current resources.

*Executive  
Director's  
Report*

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 9:38 a.m.

*Other Issues and  
Adjournment*

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

FEBRUARY 23, 2022

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**Requested by:**

Stephen Manweiler  
Arleen Schacht

**Informational:**

Budget and levy development schedule

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**Background:**

During 2015 and 2016 there were questions about when during the season specific decisions about the District's budget and levy must be made. These questions arose during a time when the MMCC was deciding how to balance District resource and funding needs (levy) relative to service demand and reserves (fund balance). See page 19 for a schedule outlining steps to be taken by staff and the Commission to develop the 2023 levy and budget. Months or specific dates are taken from the 2022 Commission meeting schedule.

An initial review of legislative requirements and deadlines (see page 20) revealed that the MMCC must approve a preliminary tax levy for the following year by August 1 of the current year. The July Commission meeting is the closest meeting before this deadline. In 2021, the MMCC approved a preliminary 2022 levy at its July 28 meeting.

Both the 2022 levy and 2022 budget were approved by the MMCC at its meeting on December 15, 2021.

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

## **MMCD Calendar for Budget Year 2023**

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Commission and Executive Committee provide direction to develop budget	May / June 2022
Commission approves preliminary 2023 levy and budget direction	July 27, 2022
Approved proposed levy deadline for the District	August 1, 2022
Review 2023 budget and levy proposals	August 24, 2022
Proposed levy certification due	September 10, 2022
Executive Committee reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	September 28, 2022
Commission reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	October 26, 2022
Executive Committee reviews budget	November 17, 2022
Parcel Specific Property Tax Notice	November 10 – 24, 2022
Commission adopts Final 2023 Levy & Budget (December Commission meeting)	December 21, 2022
Truth in Taxation Hearing (Commission & Staff)	December 21, 2022
Continuation Hearing, if necessary (Commission & Staff)	December 21, 2022
Certify Adopted Payable 2023 Levy (Staff)	December 22, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

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: FEBRUARY 2022**

**1. DIRECTOR’S INITIATIVES**

The annual Technical Advisory Board (TAB) meeting was held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. Each year the TAB reviews the District’s programs. The status of the District’s financial situation and implications for control services (especially as impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic), work to identify and respond to recent black fly issues associated with a formerly rare species (*Simulium tuberosum*) with surveillance and larval control, potential District operational responses if the monarch butterfly is listed as threatened, and work to integrate drone technology into District surveillance and control were reviewed at this meeting. The TAB made recommendations for 2022. The Chair of the TAB will report their evaluation of the program at the April 27, 2022 Commission meeting.

**2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES**

It’s only February, and staff are already starting to look at the weather and the conditions in the field. This week has been a bit warmer, with colder temperatures forecasted again for next week. Staff are looking at how much snow is in the wetlands right now, trying to determine if it will be enough to fill them up with water as the snow melts. Right now though, there is not a lot of snow out there, but there is still plenty of time for more to fall before spring arrives.

Planning is continuing for the 2022 field season. Staff are working with their teams to finalize the plans for the 2022 season, utilizing the District’s IPM plans for vector mosquitoes, annoyance mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks. It’s a balancing act throughout the summer, as these types of work overlap (Figure 1). There is a constant conversation between field staff and technical services during the season to determine what the priorities are, which is dependent on many factors. All staff will attend a preseason planning meeting to review the plans, and to help with communication and understanding of each plan’s priorities in mid-March.

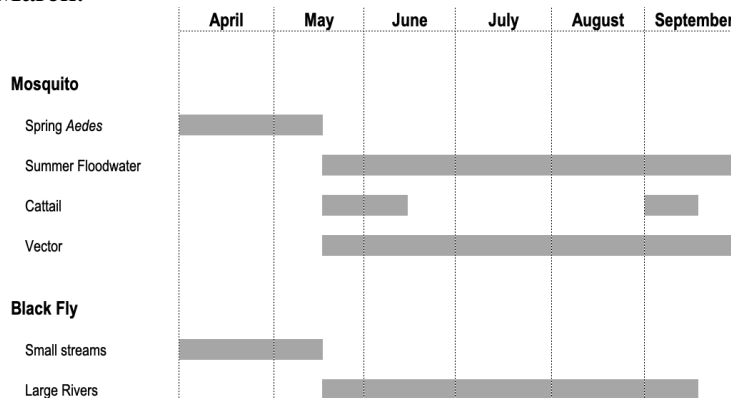


Figure 1. Periods during the control season when different services are delivered.

Staff are continuing to work on the District's drone program. For the 2022 season, we are planning on hiring two seasonal staff with drone experience, to focus on drone treatments throughout the summer. We are excited to see how many treatments and how many acres these two specialized staff are able to treat.

Staff are continuing to update their maps with changes to mosquito larval breeding sites. Along with updating the physical maps and comments about the breeding sites (where to access, safety information, etc.), they are analyzing inspection and treatment data to prioritize mosquito larval breeding sites to ensure that the appropriate sites are being treated. This occurs on a yearly basis to ensure we are continuing to be efficient and effective in our treatments.

Applications have started to come in for the seasonal positions. To date, we have received 145 applications. Over the next few months, managers will interview and hire approximately 190 seasonal staff. To help increase the number of applicants, field staff are helping to recruit by placing online ads, putting up posters, and are working "virtual" job fairs.

We are also in the process of interviewing for two Field Operations Supervisor positions, one in Scott County and one in Hennepin County. These supervisors will be hired and in place by the beginning of March.

This is an exciting and busy time of year for us. Staff cannot wait for winter to end and to start our work in the field.

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

Planning is underway for vector surveillance and disease prevention in 2022. West Nile virus (WNV) was slow to start in 2021. Following several weeks of drought and warm weather, conditions that are ideal for WNV amplification, we experienced a record number of WNV illnesses in the District. When recent reports of cases are submitted to the CDC, the state total will likely rise to 34 WNV illnesses with 27 cases among District residents. This tops the previous District record of 25 cases set in 2003.

Given the level of WNV transmission documented in 2021, we can expect elevated numbers of mosquitoes to carry WNV infections through hibernation and into the 2022 season. Larval control applications against WNV vector species will be crucial for mitigating WNV risk. That work will begin in late May and will continue through the summer months. Supplemental WNV risk reduction efforts will include surveillance-driven adult mosquito control targeting vector species and numerous public education opportunities.

There were no La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) cases in Minnesota in 2021. It was the fifth consecutive year without a case in the District. La Crosse encephalitis remains a perennial concern as both the virus and its primary vector are endemic to the District. We will continue to focus on training seasonal employees to recognize and eliminate situations that lead to undue LAC risk. We successfully reduce the likelihood of LAC infections by



eliminating larval habitats such as tires, containers, and tree holes. We will also conduct surveillance for adult vectors and provide adult mosquito control when warranted.

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) was detected for the third consecutive year in Minnesota in 2021. An illness was confirmed in a horse from Itasca County. Over the past two decades, we have worked to refine our techniques for surveillance and control of the primary EEE vector in the District, *Culiseta melanura*, and we will continue to target the species for control due to the severity of the illness the virus can cause in both humans and horses.

Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) infections resulted in seven Minnesota illnesses in 2021. There were four cases in District residents, all of whom live in communities that would rank as low-risk areas for JCV illness. Learning the histories of travel to other locations would assist in determining the likelihood of infections near home versus other possible exposure areas. The mosquito species of greatest concern as vectors of JCV are aggressively targeted by MMCD for control. Some of the earliest larval control work completed by our staff against spring *Aedes* species reduces risk for JCV illness in the District.

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

For most of January and February, Entomology Lab staff have been working on writing, editing, and assembling the report to the Technical Advisory Board (TAB). At the TAB meeting, Diann Crane presented an overview of the environmental conditions we experienced which ultimately determined the mosquito populations. Another major effort was in spearheading writing Integrated Pest Management plans for species we target for control. Those plans will be finalized by March and will be ready for the new season.

We have finished identifications of the New Jersey light trap samples; results of those identifications will be added to the Technical Advisory Board report, as will the results of our long-term CO<sub>2</sub> trap sampling. We will then work on the small number of adult mosquito samples sent from MN Department of Health.

Carey LaMere has been working with John Walz to submit the MNDNR permit application for our Black Fly Control Program. They also organize the national meeting of the North American Black Fly Association; unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the meeting was canceled again this year. Scott Larson, who is on the board of the North Central Mosquito Control Association, has been planning the upcoming meeting which will be held April 6. This meeting will be virtual and free of charge. Scott will be presenting on how the 2021 drought affected mosquitoes in the District.

Other projects for late winter are archiving previous MMCD studies into a digital database, attending team meetings, and writing and publishing a checklist of the mosquito fauna of the District. Finally, we are starting to review summer technician applications and will begin interviewing in mid-February.

## **5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

### Preparing for Summer Events

The Communications Team is putting together materials as we prepare to increase our attendance at public events in 2022. A subset of the team met in January to set up the booth as it will be for the State Fair and various county fairs this year and determine what materials we need to make these events a success.

### Community and School Presentations

On Wednesday, January 19 Alex Carlson did a virtual presentation for River Grove Elementary in Washington County.

In February, we will be appearing at the Como Park High School Career and Trade Fair in St. Paul.

### County Summaries and Presentations

Executive Director, Stephen Manweiler, and Public Affairs Coordinator, Alex Carlson, will be presenting at several county commission meetings starting in February either virtually or in-person. The presentation will include a summary of activities for 2021 and early plans for 2022.

County commissioners will receive a packet including the summary of mosquito control activity for the cities in their community prior to each presentation.

### Social Media

Our social media has still been active this month despite there not being much new mosquito happenings. Here is how metrics have changed:

- Facebook – 1,731 Page Likes (same as January 15)
  - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
- Twitter – 868 Followers (up 4 from January 15)
  - Twitter.com/metromosquito
- Instagram – 341 Followers (up 5 from January 15)
  - Instagram.com/metromosquito
- TikTok – 333 Followers (up 111 from January 15)
  - tiktok.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 February 12, no Asian longhorned ticks or red sheep ticks have been reported as being found in Minnesota.

### Collaborative Project with the Centers for Disease Control

The tick vector surveillance team and MMCD staff collected deer ticks last fall 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 determine that deer ticks in Minnesota, 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. We will collect more ticks this spring.

### Collaborative Projects for Spring 2022

#### 1. SARS in mice.

We will collaborate with Jeff Bender, Veterinarian Epidemiologist (U of M). Mice will be tested for SARS-Cov-2 as part of a multi-year project. This project has taken on more significance because genetic evidence suggests that the SARS-Cov-2 Omicron variant evolved in mice.

<https://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/35489/20220111/covid-19-omicron-variant-evolved-mice-instead-humans.htm> . Understanding more about how mutations enable pathogens to jump from other species to humans will help scientists prepare for potential future human diseases and potential vector associations.

An initial sampling test was completed in October 2021. Results showed that all rodent samples collected by Abbey Novotny of our North Facility were negative for SARS-Cov-2.

#### 2. Testing for pathogens in mice.

We will collaborate with Jon Oliver, Assistant Professor Division of Environmental Health Services, School of Public Health (U of M) by providing mice from our tick-borne disease surveillance project for testing for various pathogens.

### Tick Vector Field Projects

The 2021 tick surveillance season was successful. The work began April 26. The first round of surveillance was completed on June 2, the second round on August 26, and the third round

on October 28. A report describing the results of the 2021 tick surveillance project was presented at the TAB meeting on February 16, 2022.

Public Education/Outreach

- We continue to alert our Facebook followers to tick activity and other items of interest and are periodically reminding people that we would like any unusual ticks mailed to us.
- Our Tick Risk Meter is currently off. Ticks could quest any time temperatures are above freezing.
- Signs to remind the public of deer ticks and disease prevention measures will be posted at dog parks and additional locations throughout the metro.

## 2022 Operations Plan Recap

- In April 2020, we canceled plans to restore one third of services cut in 2017 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We paused the long-term plan in July 2020 (0% increase in the 2021 levy).
- We successfully limited 2020 expenditures to \$14,353,143 in response to an expected 10-15% deficit levy receipts due to COVID-19.
- This deficit largely did not happen in 2020; savings went into reserves.
- In 2021, we chose to restore services originally planned in January 2020.
- We restarted the long-term plan in July 2021 (2% increase in 2022 levy).
- Budget-levy parity will be achieved in 2025 if the complete long-term plan is implemented.
- We plan to use funds saved in 2020 (in reserves) to fully restore services (Figure 2) beginning in 2022 by covering the 2022-24 cumulative budget-levy difference.

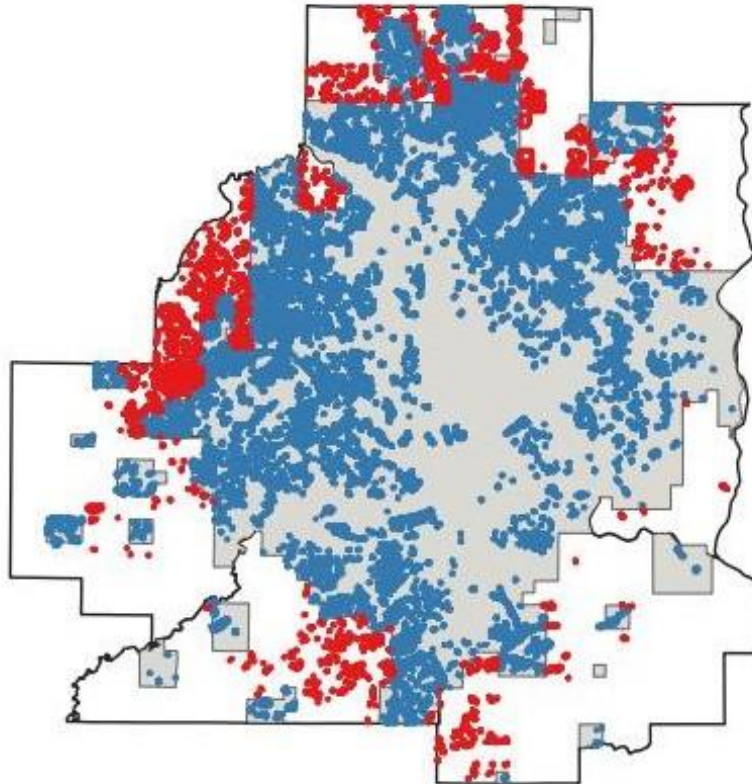


Figure 2. Full air larval mosquito control service coverage plans in P1 (blue) and P2 (red) in 2022 (gray area depicts P1 as of 2022).