

METROPOLITAN
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 23, 2022

9:15 AM

Information Packet

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

COMMITTEE: **Executive Committee Meeting**
LOCATION: **Metropolitan Mosquito Control District**
2099 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55104
DATE: **Wednesday, March 23, 2022**
TIME: **9:15 AM**

A G E N D A

1. Approval of Minutes January 26, 2022 Meeting*
2. Legislative Update – RCS Consulting (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
3. Insurance Liability Waiver*
4. Report of Executive Director Performance Review Panel
5. Executive Director’s Report
6. Other Issues
7. Adjournment

* Action Requested

Commissioner Robyn West	Anoka County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County

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

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 9:15 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.

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

Resolution 1:

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

Commissioner Robyn West moved the motion, 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
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 DISTRICT

MARCH 23, 2022

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Action requested:

Determine whether to waive statutory tort limits

Background:

The District has obtained insurance coverage (General Liability, Property Casualty, Worker's Compensation, etc.) through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust for several years.

When renewing liability coverage, the District needs to decide whether or not to waive the statutory tort limits to the extent of the coverage purchased. The decision to waive or not to waive the statutory limits has the following effects:

If the District does not waive the statutory tort limits, an individual claimant would be able to recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total which all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. These statutory tort limits apply regardless of whether the District purchases the optional exceptional liability coverage.

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

If the District waives the statutory tort limits and purchases excess liability coverage, a single claimant could potentially recover an amount up to the limit of the coverage purchased. The total all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to the amount of coverage purchased, regardless of the number of claimants.

- The District has traditionally not waived the statutory limits.
- The limits currently are \$500,000 / \$1,500,000.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

MARCH 23, 2022

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Action requested:

Report of Executive Director Performance Review Panel

Background:

April 30, 2022 will mark the end of the eighth year of Stephen Manweiler's tenure as the Executive Director for the District (the end of the second year of a three-year contract).

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 was solicited using an online system with paper forms available to Commissioners who prefer them. The input has been collected and compiled by Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator.

Instructions for using the online input system (paper forms for those who request paper) was provided to the Commissioners and appropriate staff by early February 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 Mr. Manweiler to discuss his performance. At the January 26, 2022, Executive Committee meeting, all Executive Committee members present agreed to discuss with Mr. Manweiler his performance.

The Commission has suggested that the Executive Director's initiatives be used as benchmarks for his performance. The Panel will report at the March 23, 2022, Executive Committee meeting and the April 27, 2022, Commission meeting.

TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: STEPHEN MANWEILER
RE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
DATE: MARCH 2022

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

Jim Schmit, Field Operations Supervisor (FOS) at our Oakdale Region, will retire from the District on Friday, March 25, 2022. Jim began his career with MMCD as a seasonal employee and has worked as a full-time employee for over 35 years. Jim has been a dedicated employee who has made many contributions to the District. We thank Jim for his service and wish him well.

We have hired two new FOS to fill positions vacated by retirements. Trevor Novotny began work at our Jordan facility on Monday, March 7. Charlie Guenther also began work at our Maple Grove on Monday, March 7. Both Trevor and Charlie have been seasonal employees with the District.

Samantha Peterson will join our St. Paul office as our Human Resource/Payroll Specialist beginning March 28, 2022. Samantha was a seasonal employee from 2017 to 2020 at the Oakdale facility. Samantha has a BA in business with a specialization in Human Resources. Samantha will fill the position vacated by Megan Cook who resigned on January 28, 2022.

We have made wearing a mask optional beginning on Monday, March 14 in line with CDC recommendations released in late February. We do not intend to change other safety requirements yet (including social distancing, one person per vehicle, remote meetings, or reporting potential or known exposure and symptoms) to see how transmission rates change and to be ready to react to the appearance of any new COVID-19 variants. Our goal is to maintain an environment in which all staff continue to feel as protected as possible. We also plan to retain pandemic-related changes that have improved our ability to complete our work.

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

The first part of March has proven to be cold with not a lot of precipitation. Forecast shows it warming up starting the week of March 14. Staff have started to treat a few of the ground sites with methoprene briquets to control cattail mosquito larvae while the wetlands are still frozen. These sites are treated in the early spring due to safety and/or accessibility issues. These treatments will continue over the next few weeks and be finished by the end of March. As the month progresses, and the snow and ice melt, we will see how dry some of these wetlands are. The current predictions from National Weather Service are suggesting it may be a drier season again. We will have to wait and see.

All staff attended the District Operations Services 2022 Preseason meeting. At this meeting, staff learned about plans for the season, protocol, and procedure updates, and reviewed some of the finalized data from last year. Unfortunately, due to some of the Covid-19 protocols, this meeting was still virtual. Our hope for next year is to have all the staff be able to meet in person.

Field staff are very busy interviewing and hiring applicants to fill the seasonal positions. So far, we have not received enough applications to fill all the seasonal positions. To date, managers have hired approximately 56 percent of our seasonal openings. The first seasonal staff will start on April 11.

Staff are making final preparations for the season which include updates to maps and breeding site data, preparing for training, planning, and getting equipment ready to use. A lucky staff member will even find the first mosquito larva of the season within the next couple weeks! The mosquito season is almost upon us.

3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

2022 Season Preparations

We are in the process of finalizing plans for the 2022 mosquito-borne disease season. As seasonal staff are hired, we will begin training in the concepts of disease risk reduction through mosquito control and public education. Over the next several months, they will provide services to prevent La Crosse encephalitis, West Nile illness, Jamestown Canyon illness, western equine encephalitis, and eastern equine encephalitis.

Work to prevent La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) begins as soon as staff are back in the field. We have opportunities to locate container and tire habitats in the spring that were hidden by vegetation during the previous summer. Eliminating those habitats early in the year prevents several generations of LAC vectors from developing there over the course of the summer.

Work to reduce risk of Jamestown Canyon (JCV) illnesses also begins as soon as seasonal staff arrive. Spring *Aedes* are some of the species responsible for transmitting the virus and our larval control program is highly effective at reducing spring *Aedes* populations.

Larval control applications targeting West Nile virus (WNV) vectors will begin in late May. A primary component of WNV risk reduction is larval control within stormwater management systems. We partner with many cities to control mosquitoes in structures that are difficult for our staff to access. We will soon be contacting municipalities to assist us with mosquito control in underground stormwater management structures. We will continue to work with cities that have partnered with us in the past and we will reach out to other cities that maintain underground stormwater structures.

Analysis of mosquito samples for WNV will begin late in May or early June. Having experienced an active WNV year in 2021, we anticipate many overwintering, infected mosquitoes will emerge in May and initiate the WNV cycle as soon as they begin feeding upon birds. Our test results allow us to evaluate WNV risk as it changes during the season and to direct mosquito control services where needed to reduce risk.

For a third consecutive year, an eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) infection caused a fatal illness in a Minnesota horse. Wisconsin reported cases in horses from ten counties in 2021. We will continue to monitor the primary EEE vector, *Culiseta melanura*, and provide control in response to isolated high populations or any indication that the EEE virus is active in the area.

4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

After interviewing a pool of qualified candidates, we have hired five seasonal technicians for the lab: three are returning employees and two are new but have had taxonomic experience. Our first seasonal technician will start April 18 to help with black fly identifications for samples collected in small streams around the metro area and to prepare surveillance equipment for the season.

Since the last update, staff have been working on a variety of projects including compiling and editing the Overview, an internal document highlighting results of the last season, creating presentations for the first annual District-wide pre-season meeting, and preparing and submitting the Black Fly Program's application permit to the MNDNR. Staff have also been updating presentations for the new employee orientation, which new employees receive on their first day. We have finished the identifications for our long-term CO₂ trap locations and the information will be added to the TAB report. Samples remain to be processed for the MN Department of Public Health; those should be finished soon. Finally, Scott Larson, who is on the Board of the North Central Mosquito Control Association, has been busy planning the annual meeting (April 6) and will be presenting there as well.

In March, we will provide the field with labels for larval mosquito collections. Larval surveillance for the spring, snowmelt *Aedes* mosquitoes can begin as soon as the snow melts and the water temperature is 40°F. The first collection last year, was March 18. We will be updating our mosquito identification keys and fine tuning the inspector orientation and training processes. Later, we will be setting up the adult surveillance network.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

County Summaries and Presentations

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

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

Community and School Presentations

On Wednesday, February 23, staff from the MMCD East facility attended the Career and Trade Expo at Como Park Senior High School to talk with students about careers in mosquito control. On Thursday, March 3, Alex Carlson spoke to a senior citizens group at Oak Knoll Lutheran Church in Minnetonka.

In March and April, we have planned in-person presentations at rotary clubs, high schools, and at recertification clinics for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Summer Events

We are currently preparing for summer events by updating our display materials and handouts and registering for county fairs and parades.

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:

- 1) Facebook – 1,732 Page Likes (up 1 from February 12)
 - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
- 2) Twitter – 873 Followers (up 5 from February 12)
 - Twitter.com/metromosquito
- 3) Instagram – 348 Followers (up 7 from February 12)
 - Instagram.com/metromosquito
- 4) TikTok – 344 Followers (up 11 from February 12)
 - 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 March 14, no Asian longhorned ticks or red sheep ticks have been reported as being found in Minnesota.

Manuscript submitted to the Journal of Medical Entomology

Thirty years of tick surveillance data was compiled, and the results have been submitted to the Journal of Medical Entomology. The manuscript is currently under peer review.

Tick Vector Field Projects

Our 2021 tick surveillance report is being written. Laboratory work, tick identification, data entry and most data compilations have been completed. Our first round of surveillance in 2022 will commence in late April.

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.