

METROPOLITAN
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 28, 2022
9:15 AM

Information Packet

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

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

DATE: **Wednesday, September 28, 2022**
TIME: **9:15 AM**

A G E N D A

1. Approval of Minutes for June 22, 2022 Meeting*
2. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
3. MMCD Truck Situation*
4. Executive Director’s Report
5. Other Issues
6. 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, October 26, 2022, 9:15 a.m.
Next Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2022, 9:15 a.m.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES
June 22, 2022
9:15 a.m.

Secretary Nicole Frethem 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 Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Michael Beard	Scott County

Commission Gary Kriesel joined the meeting after the roll call at 9:25 a.m.

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator
Cassie Sweeney-Truitt, Administrative Assistant

Visitors:

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

Secretary Nicole Frethem welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Approval of May 25, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Liz Workman offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 1:

Resolved, that the May 25, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Tom Workman seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes

The resolution was adopted.

Legislative Update

Peg Larsen reported that there is no agreement on special session. Governor Walz seems to think it would last no longer than 15 minutes. However, even though he has the power to call them into special session, he does not have control over how or when it ends. Some major issues that could be pivotal in the November elections would certainly be addressed by someone! Adding in the fact that the Senate has all along said there is no reason to spend all the surplus why would they want to meet to spend.

Governor Walz has increased the amount he wants to give in Walz checks to \$2000 a couple and \$1000 for an individual. It remains to be seen if this will push the leaders to meet.

All is pretty much quiet as most are campaigning!

Approve Lobbyist Contract Renewal (2023-24)*

Stephen Manweiler reported that we advertised for bids for professional representation for the District in September 2020. Bid specifications were advertised through the League of Minnesota Cities. The deadline for submission to the MMCD front desk at 2099 University Avenue W., Saint Paul, MN, 55104 was 2:00 PM Central, Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Three potential providers of professional representation contacted the District. Two (Flaherty & Hood, P.A., Knaak & Kantrud, P.A.) asked various questions. Only one (RCS Consulting LLC) submitted a proposal. A two-year contract was awarded to RCS Consulting LLC that expires on December 31, 2022.

Kim Scott and Peg Larsen (RCS Consulting LLC) have provided very effective representation by identifying legislation that could potentially impact District operations and bringing together authors of this legislation and District employees to craft amendments that mitigate negative impacts while preserving the intent of the legislation. Most of this legislation involves allowing cities to regulate and even ban pesticides that could potentially impact pollinators. Because of Kim and Peg's work, the District has been able to secure amendments exempting the District from these regulations and bans thereby preserving the District's ability to protect public health and quality of life.

Peg Larsen and Kim Scott have both expressed their interest in continuing to represent the District. They have requested no changes to the current contract including no fee increases. We recommend renewing the current contract for two years (services through 2023 and 2024).

Commissioner Liz Workman offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 2:

Whereas, RCS Consulting has represented MMCD very effectively to the Legislature in 2021 and 2022; and

Whereas, the contract between RCS Consulting and the MMCD ends on December 31, 2022; and

Whereas, RCS Consulting has developed contacts and relationships with legislators that will serve as a foundation for MMCD to educate legislators about its services and potential impact upon those services by proposed legislation in 2023 and thereafter; and

Whereas, RCS Consulting has agreed to provide the same services with no change to its annual fee of \$20,000 through 2024; be it now

Resolved, that the current contract between RCS Consulting and MMCD be renewed through December 31, 2024.

Commissioner Tom Workman seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

2022 Plans and Initial 2023 Budget and Levy Discussion

Stephen Manweiler reviewed the three goals of the long-term plan which are (1) restore District reserves to the minimum required for cash flow needs [achieved end 2019]. (2) restore all 2017 service cuts, and (3) enable the District to provide all services to a greater area within the District as human population expands in the District.

In 2020, we paused the long-term plan because of feared levy deficits due to the COVID-19 pandemic by keeping the 2021 levy and budget the same as 2020 which delayed achieving goal 2 by one year. In 2021, we resumed the long-term plan by approving a 2022 levy of \$19,038,676 which is a 2% increase over 2020 and 2021.

We anticipate impacts to the transportation (fuel) and wage portions of the current and 2023 budgets because of high inflation (8.9%) during the last year. For this reason, we recommend a 1% increase in the 2023 budget. We also recommend continuing with the long-term plan by increasing the 2023 levy by 2%.

We reviewed three 2023 levy scenarios to highlight impacts to when we achieve goal 2 and the estimated cumulative cost of restoring all 2017 service cuts between now (2022) and when we achieve goal 2 (2025 or 2026).

Approving a 2% increase in the 2023 levy (preliminary in July) enables us to observe how the economy performs between July and December. We cannot increase the levy after July but we can decrease it in December if we decide the economic situation justifies a decrease.

In July 2020, we approved a 0% increase in the 2021 levy because of a feared levy deficit and potential recession. Neither of those had happened by December 2020 but we were unable to increase the 2021 levy because of our decision in July 2020.

Executive Director's Report

Stephen Manweiler reported that our seasonal hiring situation has improved with most positions filled at most facilities. Covid has not significantly impacted staff available to work recently. In terms of aerial larval control through June 22, we have treated 81,021 acres consisting of spring treatments, cattail and summer floodwater pre hatch.

Last year at the time we had treated 92,058 acres. There are two main differences between 2021 and 2022. Treatments in 2022 started later because of a longer, colder spring. That slowed mosquito development which helped us finish all required work with fewer seasonal employees. Because 2021 was such a dry year, required cattail treatments were lower in 2022. We were able to shift some of those control materials to summer floodwater pre hatch in 2022. In 2021, about 4.7% of aerial larval control through June 22 was in P2. This year, about 8% of aerial larval control was in P2.

Mosquito abundance measured by Monday night trapping the first Monday in June 2021 was about equal to the ten-year average (~320 per trap). Abundance the first week of June 2022 was slightly higher (~380 per trap), mostly in the north and northwestern outer regions of the District, the parts of the District that received significant rain in very late May.

Labor Negotiations (closed meeting)

Secretary Nicole Frethem closed the meeting at 9:53 a.m. for discussion about upcoming bargaining unit negotiations. Secretary Nicole Frethem reopened the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Other Issues

Stephen Manweiler reminded everyone that during the May 25 Commission meeting we decided to convene this June 22 meeting remotely based upon Covid transmission and risk. We also agreed to review the situation at this (June 22) meeting to decide how to meet on July 27. Stephen reported that current Covid transmission is essentially the same as it was in late May and proposed convening the July 27 Executive committee meeting remotely. No Commissioners objected.

Adjournment

Commissioner David Beer moved to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Gary Kriesel seconded the motion.

Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes

Secretary Nicole Frethem declared the meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Action Requested:

MMCD Truck Situation (approve truck purchases)

Background:

The District has a longtime process of replacing 12 trucks (vehicles) per year (15-year replacement cycle). Old trucks are auctioned after we receive the replacement trucks. The District has purchased its pickup trucks and other light vehicles through the State of Minnesota Cooperative Purchasing venture because of an expected price reduction compared to bidding on our own multi-vehicle purchase due to the large volume the State deals with. Since the beginning of 2021, we have not been able to maintain our vehicle replacement process mostly due to unavailability (trucks we order not included on the State Cooperative Purchasing venture and supply chain issues significantly delaying receipt of ordered vehicles).

Vehicles ordered and received since 2016

2016 ordered and received 12 trucks

2017 ordered and received 12 trucks

2018 ordered and received 4 trucks – 4 Prius

2019 ordered and received 12 trucks – 3 Prius

2020 ordered and received 10 trucks

2021 Zero ordered (the models we order were not on the State Cooperative Purchase venture)

2022 ordered 18, received 1 (remainder unlikely to be received until 2023) (\$31,000 per vehicle before other fees and license costs of about \$2,000 per vehicle)

At present, we are 24 vehicles behind our replacement process. If receipt of vehicles ordered through the State Cooperative Purchasing venture continues to be delayed in 2023, we will be up to 36 vehicles behind by the end of 2023.

We have retained older vehicles resulting in many being older than 15 years [2003 (8), 2004 and 2005 (30) and 2006 (16)], some of which have incurred increased maintenance costs. The situation has been manageable to date but will become less so if we cannot secure new vehicles soon.

We have contacted fleet managers at dealerships to determine potential availability and cost of vehicles comparable to those we have acquired via the State Cooperative purchase venture. We found four trucks ranging in cost from \$35,000 to \$45,000 (including fees and license) that are available for immediate delivery. We plan to continue our queries.

We would like to purchase up to ten vehicles from fleet managers at dealerships to get closer to catching up with our standard replacement cycle. We do not intend to discontinue future purchases through the State of Minnesota Cooperative Purchasing venture.

Resolved:

Staff are authorized to purchase vehicles needed in 2022-23 from fleet managers at dealerships to acquire vehicles that we have not been able to get through the State of Minnesota Cooperative Purchasing Venture with a total cost not to exceed \$425,000.

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

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

In preparation for the selection of the next Executive Director, Stephen Manweiler and Jane Coffey have been developing onboarding for the successful candidate. Stephen has assembled reference archives including descriptions of District history, Commission operations and interaction with District staff, the history of legislative and political issues faced by the District, District operations as they relate to current job positions (organizational chart) and District financial history. Stephen is working with his Direct Reports to plan how to best introduce the next Executive Director to all District employees. Stephen plans to connect District lobbyists and legal counsel with the next Executive Director as soon as possible. We also are reviewing existing policies and contractual issues to ensure everything is current. The overall goal is to help the next Executive Director establish themselves as quickly and smoothly as possible.

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

The District received significant rain that covered much of the metro at the end of August, similar to the same period in August 2021. Due to the dry conditions in the wetlands, field staff did not find a large amount of acres breeding. Field staff responded by treating 5,720 acres by helicopter on 8/31 and 9/1. A rainfall such as this in a year of more typical wetness would have resulted in many more acres being treated.

After completing the work associated with this rain event, seasonal staff have shifted their focus to the cattail mosquito. This single-generation 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, during the third week of September, we do plan to treat approximately 4,000 acres with a product called VectoLex that can be applied this time of year to control cattail mosquito larvae. This will help reduce the number of acres that we'll have to treat next spring. With it being so dry again this summer, we are assuming that there will be a further reduction in acres treated for the cattail mosquito in the spring of 2023. For comparison, these cattail inspections resulted in 30,000 acres treated for the cattail mosquito in 2021 and 18,000 acres treated in 2022. The cattail mosquito inspections will be completed by the middle of October.

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. This has a direct effect on customer calls. Our current volume of customer calls remains very low, with the majority of them related to picking up tires.

Field Operations Supervisors are starting to plan for fall work which entails checking and updating their field maps. They will also begin meeting as District teams to review the 2022 season and start planning for the 2023 season.

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

3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

West Nile virus (WNV) activity has been documented in 39 states. The CDC has received reports of 198 human illnesses (11 fatalities) from 26 states. There have been two WNV illnesses confirmed in Minnesota. One patient, a Hennepin County resident, is from the District. The Minnesota Department of Health is currently investigating the case. Our surveillance has detected a level of WNV activity locally that is similar to what we experienced last year. As of the end of August, 33 of 523 mosquito samples tested (6.3%) have returned positive results for WNV. Through the same period in 2021, 6.4 percent of mosquito samples tested were positive for WNV.

Nationally, five La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) cases have been reported, all from Ohio. No LAC cases have been identified in Minnesota thus far and drought conditions have helped keep the risk of illness low. 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 1,081 water-holding containers and 92 tree holes and we have recycled 8,802 tires.

Two Jamestown Canyon virus illness (JCV) have been reported to CDC. One of the illnesses is in a resident of Ramsey County. The Minnesota Department of Health is working to learn more about the case; however, the initial indication is that the exposure to JCV may have occurred outside of the District in a county further north in Minnesota. The other JCV case reported to CDC is from Rhode Island.

4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

Like July, August was again relatively dry. Much of our service area was in moderate to severe drought. We experienced a few localized rain events and one widespread rain event which resulted in two small and two medium-sized broods in all of August. After August, mosquito eggs enter diapause – a kind of hibernation – and will not hatch even with sufficient rainfall.

In 2022, the highest mosquito averages occurred the first week of June and populations declined thereafter (Fig. 1). Not even the emergence of the cattail mosquito (*Coquillettidia perturbans*) around July 4 was enough for mosquito levels to reach the 10-year average. Our

trapping will likely end after September 19, as evening temperatures are too cold for mosquitoes to fly.

Even though there has been little rainfall, we still can capture mosquitoes that lay their eggs in permanent water (e.g., *Anopheles* and *Culex*). We have detected 3,559 *Anopheles quadrimaculatus* (a vector of malaria) and 213 *Culex erraticus* (a vector of eastern equine encephalitis) as of September 13. These species typically inhabit the southern U.S., but we have been detecting them in high numbers since 2010.

Black fly surveillance is winding down as well – we have discontinued sampling and treating the rivers. However, our non-target monitoring on the Mississippi River continues through September and the samplers will be picked up at the end of the month.

Two lab technicians worked until September 16 and then transferred to the East facility to help with cattail mosquito surveillance. One more lab technician will remain on until October 18 to help with the tick surveillance program.

On September 19, a public health entomology class from the U MN visited MMCD to hear about our program. Diann Crane and Kirk Johnson gave nine students an overview of the District focusing on surveillance, control, vectors, and integrated pest management. We have been collaborating with Dr. Jon Oliver since 2017 to provide these tours.

Weekly Averages of Human Biting Mosquitoes
in CO₂ Traps, 2022

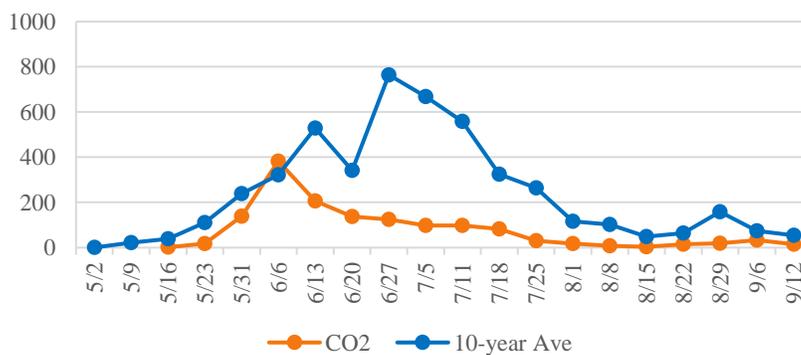


Figure 1. Average number of human biting mosquitoes per week in CO₂-baited traps in 2022. Traps (N=138) are placed in various locations in the seven-county metropolitan area.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

State Fair Success!

MMCD had another successful year at our booth in the Dairy building at the Minnesota State Fair! Here are some of the highlights:

- MMCD had interactions with over 6,000 people!

- We had 31 people give us their e-mail and request to be notified when our seasonal application opens!
- We had 94 teachers request classroom presentations!
- We met several past employees (one of whom worked for MMCD in the '60s) and had great conversations with District residents.

We appreciate the many MMCD employees that helped make our booth a success!

Back to School Presentations

School is in session and MMCD is back to the classroom offering interactive presentations to students of various ages. We have already done several this year including classroom-based presentations and field work for kids.



Customer Calls

The customer calls slowed down throughout August as dry weather led to fewer overall mosquitoes. We received only 100 total calls between August 10 and September 10, most to request tire pickups (63). Here is a breakdown of calls coming in by county:

- Anoka County - 22 calls
- Carver County - 9 calls
- Dakota County - 8 calls
- Hennepin County - 18 calls
- Ramsey County - 9 calls
- Scott County - 10 calls
- Washington County - 22 calls

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 (black flies) and mosquitoes. Here are the latest numbers:

- Facebook – 1,783 Page Likes (Up 0 from August 13)
 - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
- Twitter – 954 Followers (Up 12 from August 13)
 - Twitter.com/metromosquito
- Instagram – 397 Followers (Up 6 from August 13)
 - Instagram.com/metromosquito
- TikTok – 373 Followers (Up 0 from August 13)
 - tiktok.com@metromosquito

6. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

Deer Ticks Are Out Now!

Adult deer ticks are out questing now. Deer tick larvae are out too, but we don't typically encounter them as they are questing too low to the ground to be able to grasp onto us. Ticks can be found until temperatures stay consistently below 32°F.

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

Tick Vector Field Projects

Our 2022 tick surveillance effort began April 25. Round 1 was completed June 23 and Round 2 was done on August 25. As of September 17, 4 of 10 routes have been completed in our final round of surveillance.

Public Education/Outreach

- Distribution and/or re-stocking of brochures, tick cards and posters is ongoing.
- We continue to inform our Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/Tik Tok followers of items of interest as they occur.
- Our Tick Risk Meter is currently set to **MEDIUM**. Adult and larval stage deer ticks are out now.
- Be sure to check yourself for ticks after being in wooded habitat.
- Signs to remind the public of deer ticks and disease prevention measures may be posted at dog parks and additional locations throughout the metro. For various reasons some signs remain up year-round.