

METROPOLITAN  
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 17, 2022

9:15 AM

*Information Packet*

# METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT M E E T I N G    A N N O U N C E M E N T

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

DATE:                **Thursday, November 17, 2022**

TIME:                **9:15 AM**

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## A G E N D A

1. Approval of Minutes for September 28, 2022, Meeting\*
2. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
3. Approval of Updated MMCD Purchasing Policy\*
4. Approval to remove committed \$1,000,000 for the Anoka Lease Bond\*
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, December 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

**(Proposed)**

**Organizational Meeting: Thursday January 5, 2023, 9:15 a.m.**

**Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 9:15 a.m.**

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 28, 2022

9:15 a.m.

Chair Angela Conley called the meeting to order at 9:18 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 Robyn West	Anoka County
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Dakota County
Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County

**Staff:**

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director  
Cassie Sweeney-Truitt, Administrative Assistant

**Visitors:**

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

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

**Approval of Minutes for June 22, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting**

Commissioner Gary Kriesel offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**Resolution 1:**

**Resolved,** that the June 22, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Robyn West seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes

Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes

The resolution was adopted.

### **Intergovernmental Issues**

At this point in the election season, the situation has become very interesting. Accusations are flying between candidates and so are the denials of those accusations. Right now, some of the races are tightening up, specifically for statewide elections, the governor and the attorney general races. Whether the polls are accurate is always a question, since it depends on who pollsters ask and how they present the numbers.

Legislators are still talking about coming back for a special session. If that were to occur, which is a big if, a special session would not occur until after the election. There are too many issues that each side does not want the other side to bring up for a vote, prior to the election. Crime is on the radar for voters now more than ever with inflation and abortion still hot topics.

Retiring Sen. Tom Bakk is back to his DFL roots with his endorsements of Representatives Dave Lislegard and Rob Ecklund on the Iron Range. MinnPost has an excellent analysis of the [20 MN Legislative races to watch](#), including:

- The Senate seat in Rochester, where longtime Republican Sen. Senjem is retiring, which is projected to flip to DFL.
- In Anoka/Coon Rapids, incumbent Sen. Jim Abeler is in a battle with challenger Kari Rehrauer (the seat is leaning DFL).
- In Lino Lakes/Vadnais Heights, incumbent Sen. Roger Chamberlain is in trouble after redistricting changed the makeup of the district (the seat is leaning DFL).
- In International Falls, the House seat held by Rob Ecklund is a toss-up.
- Another Range House seat with an incumbent matchup between Julie Sandstede and Spencer Igo is leaning Republican.

It will be a big change to have 50+ new legislative faces in January.

Click [here](#) to see who is running for 2022 elections in Minnesota.

#### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

September 23 - November 7: In person early voting for the general election

November 8: Election Day

**January 3, 2023: 2023 Legislative session commences**

## **MMCD Truck Situation**

Stephen Manweiler reported that apparent supply chain disruptions have significantly delayed receipt of vehicles we ordered through the State of Minnesota Cooperative Purchasing Venture (CPV) this year. The vehicles we order were not available through the CPV in 2021. We have received only one of 18 vehicles ordered in 2022 (\$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 CPV 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, 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 CPV. We found four trucks ranging in cost from \$35,000 to \$45,000 (including fees and license) that were available for immediate delivery. No source has had more than two trucks available; most had none or one truck. The total cost of vehicles available from a single source is much less than the threshold in the District's purchasing policy that requires sealed bids. We plan to continue our queries. We also plan to continue to order vehicles through the CPV in 2023 and thereafter.

Commissioner Nicole Frethem offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**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.

Commissioner Gary Kriesel seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Stephen Manweiler reported that we finished our final aerial larvicide treatments on September 20 to control cattail mosquitoes that would have emerged early next summer. Staff are finishing surveillance to determine which additional sites need to be treated late next May to control cattail mosquitoes. We treat some cattail mosquitoes the year before to decrease pressure during late May when winds can hamper aerial treatments. Staff also are finishing vector-related work. Friday, October 7 is the last day for seasonal employees.

The WNV situation in 2022 has been similar to 2021 overall. To date CDC has reported two human WNV cases in Minnesota (one within the District). We tested 617 pools of vector mosquitoes, 42 of which were WNV positive. Most of these were the species that amplify WNV in birds (*Culex restuans*, *Culex pipiens*). The species that brings WNV to humans (*Culex tarsalis*) has been less abundant overall in 2022 compared to 2021. Our lower high temperatures in August 2022 compared to 2021 also seem to have slowed amplification in 2022. We still expect to learn about more human WNV cases because the required lab work takes time to be reported to the Minnesota Department of Health and CDC after which we learn about it. We will present a more complete report at the October 26 Commission meeting.

Stephen Manweiler reminded all Commissioners that ticks now are active. Activity will not be as great as in the spring but the risk of tick-borne disease still becomes elevated. Be sure to protect yourselves when you are out in areas where ticks might be active. Check yourself after you have been in wooded habitats.

### **Other Items**

Stephen Manweiler reminded everyone that during the August 24 Commission meeting we decided to convene this September 28 Executive committee meeting remotely based upon Covid transmission and risk. We also agreed to review the situation at this meeting (September 28) to decide how to meet on October 26. Stephen reported that current Covid transmission is lower than it has been between late May through August 24 and proposed convening the October 26 Commission meeting in person at MMCD's St. Paul headquarters. No Commissioners objected. Several noted that most other meetings currently are being held in person. We will hold the October 26 Commission meeting in person.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Angela Conley adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

# METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

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**Requested by:**

Stephen Manweiler  
Arleen Schacht

**Action requested by:**

Approval of updated Purchasing Policy

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**Background (to be updated)**

The current MMCD Purchasing Policy was designed to satisfy the requirements of Minn. Stat. 471.345. A recent review of the policy and current statute language revealed that the decision threshold amounts in the current policy are below the same thresholds in current statute language. We believe the MMCD Purchasing Policy should be updated to agree with the current statute language.

<b>Current Policy</b>	<b>Current Statute (updated Policy)</b>	<b>Decision Item</b>
> \$100,000	> \$175,000	Require closed bids
\$25,000 – 100,000	\$25,000 – 175,000	Sealed bids, sealed written quotes or by direct negotiations
< \$25,000	< 25,000	May be let upon quotation or in the open market

**Whereas**, the current MMCD Purchasing Policy contains threshold values based on Minn. Stat. 471.345 that are lower than the current language in that statute and,

**Whereas**, the current MMCD Purchasing agreement language otherwise continues to satisfy Minn. Stat. 471.345,

**Resolved**, that the Commission approves the following MMCD Purchasing Policy that includes threshold values from the current language in Minn. Stat. 471.345.

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

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**Requested by:**

Stephen Manweiler  
Arleen Schacht

**Action requested by:**

Approval to remove committed  
\$1,000,000 for the early retirement of the  
Anoka Lease Bond

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**Background:**

In 2013 the Commission approved a resolution that committed \$1,000,000 to early retirement of the Anoka Lease Bond.

The Anoka Lease Bond payments began in 2007 with the last payment scheduled to be made in February 2023. Based on the financial situation, at the time the resolution was approved in 2013, the request for committing fund for early retirement of the bond made sense. However, the years 2014 – 2016 proved to be very high service demand years with expenditures exceeding revenues by nearly \$6M using much of the reserves available, eliminating the opportunity to take advantage of the early retirement of the bond. As of 2023 the District will have fulfilled the lease obligation and it is no longer necessary for the Fund Balance to include the \$1,000,000 committed funds.

**Resolution:**

**Whereas,** the proposed Fund Balance Policy of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District meets the needs of District operations providing information on the committed components of the Fund Balance.

**Resolved,** The Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission modifies the Fund Balance by removing the committed \$1,000,000 for the early retirement of the Anoka Lease Bond.



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

## 1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

Stephen and Arleen are assembling resources to support her as the Interim Executive Director beginning on December 24, 2022. References developed for orienting a new Executive Director also will support the Interim Executive Director. These references include Commission needs and history. The other three managers (District Operations Manager, Technical Services Manager, Public Affairs Manager) also will support both the Interim Executive Director and new Executive Director. My goal is to provide for Arleen everything she needs to lead MMCD.

## 2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

Our weather has continued to be mild so far this fall. This Halloween was the warmest in 22 years. The high on Wednesday, November 2 was 75°F. We received some much-needed rain the first weekend in November but not enough to make up for our season deficit of 9-10 inches. Wetland conditions continue to be very dry. Forecasts include continued mild weather until the end of the second week of November.

The mild weather so far this fall has also allowed Field Operations Supervisors to continue working in the field to update their maps, checking new and old areas for any construction or changes. Field Operations Supervisors use this information along with the aerial photos to produce accurate maps for their seasonal staff to use to inspect and treat the mosquito breeding sites during the season. Staff are also reviewing the data and information that was collected during the 2022 mosquito season. They will use this information to help plan for 2023. On December 1, we will have a meeting that most field and technical staff attend to review this data and start discussing changes and improvements for next season.

Staff at our Plymouth office, particularly Joe Elling and Jake Kirkman, have worked very hard during the 2022 season to expand our treatment drone program. This expansion included hiring two seasonal staff to complete the drone treatments. These two seasonal staff, Cheng Yang and Max Gudmunsen, acquired the necessary licenses and completed hands on training with Joe and Jake to learn how to use and treat with the drone. After training was completed, they were able to do the treatments as a pair. For the 2022 season, they were able to treat 258 sites totaling 344.91 acres. Figure 1 shows total treatments, sites and acres, that occurred in 2020, 2021, and 2022. As you can see from the graph, having two dedicated employees doing the treatments, has enabled an increase in both the number of sites and the acres treated. Treatments using the drone should be more uniform and potentially safer than treatments using a backpack. Plans for 2023 include purchasing another treatment drone and working with the Plymouth office, Field Services, and Technical Services to expand the use of treatment drones by determining which sites are more efficiently treated with a drone to enable us to deliver more service.

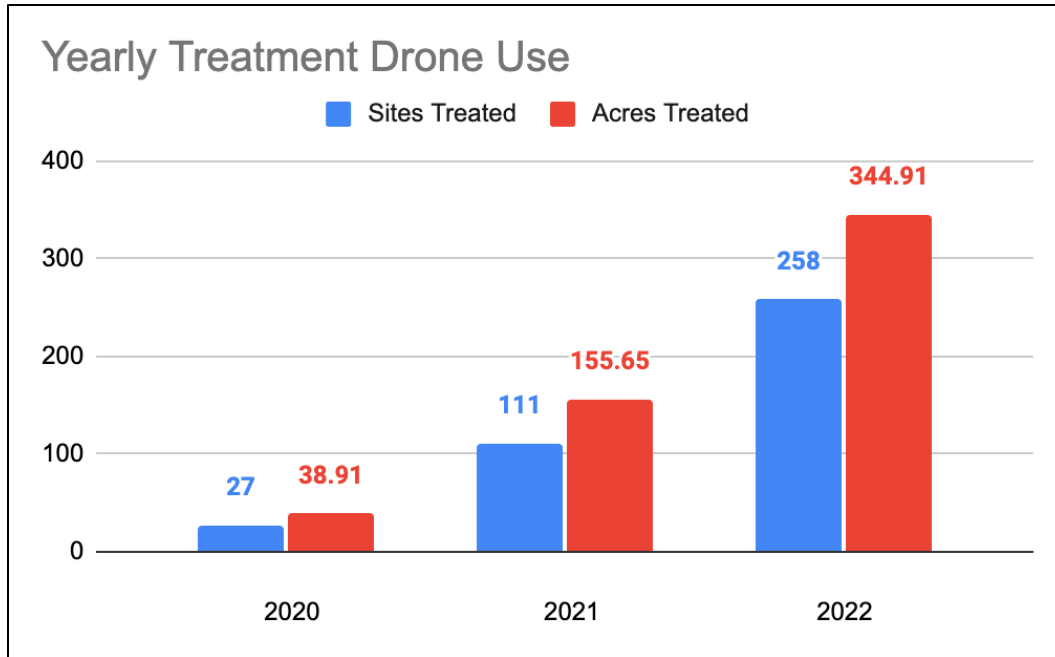


Figure 1. Sites and Acres treated by drone each year (2020-22).

Along with these important tasks, staff are attending team meetings, doing maintenance on equipment and vehicles, and working with our mapping software, QGIS. There are a number of employee workgroups being formed to look at challenges and to continue improving the services we provide the residents of the District. Staff are looking forward to a productive off season.

### 3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

#### West Nile Virus (WNV)

West Nile virus (WNV) activity this year was similar to that in 2021. As of November 1, the CDC received reports of 863 WNV illnesses among U.S. residents. The Minnesota Department of Health has reported eight WNV illnesses to the CDC, two of which are District residents (one each in Hennepin and Ramsey County). There have also been eight veterinary reports of WNV illness in Minnesota, seven horses from outside the District and one reindeer kept in Ramsey County.

Forty-two mosquito samples of 617 tested in the MMCD lab returned positive results for WNV this year. The season's WNV infection rate of 3.56/1000 mosquitoes tested was slightly higher than the infection rate in 2021 (3.23/1000). Carver County was the only District county without a WNV positive mosquito sample. The earliest WNV positive mosquito sample was collected on June 22.

#### La Crosse Encephalitis (LAC)

One La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) case has been confirmed in Minnesota this year. The infected individual is a resident of Olmsted County. Lengthy drought conditions impacted the *Aedes triseriatus* population in the District which remained below average most of the

season. District crews responded in neighborhoods where *Ae. triseriatus* were found by inspecting properties for larval habitats and at times with adult mosquito treatments. Over the course of the 2022 season, MMCD employees removed 11,710 tires from the field for recycling and eliminated 1,087 container habitats and filled 92 tree holes.

#### **Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV)**

The Minnesota Department of Health has confirmed one Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) illness in Minnesota this year. The case is in a resident of Ramsey County who was likely exposed to the virus in another Minnesota county outside of the District. Wisconsin has confirmed two JCV illnesses this year including one in a resident of St. Croix County which borders the District.

#### **Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)**

A second consecutive summer of drought in the District reduced the amount of larval habitat available for the primary eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) vector, *Culiseta melanura*. Their population remained low in the District in 2022. No EEE human cases in Minnesota have been reported to CDC in 2022. Only four samples of *Cs. melanura* were pooled for testing in our lab. All four were negative for EEE virus.

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

As of November 7, we completed the identifications of all larval samples. We identified 10,024 larval samples, which is about half the number of samples we would get in a year with normal rainfall. The 10-year average is 23,907 samples per season. Now, we turn our attention to finishing adult identifications for NJ Light trap samples, long-term CO<sub>2</sub> trap location samples, and black fly CO<sub>2</sub> trap samples. Once all IDs are finished, we can begin data quality checks and run summaries to be included in the surveillance chapter for the report to the Technical Advisory Board.

In November, Scott Larson will be making a presentation at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Vancouver, BC. Diann Crane will attend virtually. Scott's talk is titled *Invasion and extirpation: Changes in mosquito community composition over time in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, USA*. We will also be preparing presentations for the District Operations 2022 Year End Review which will be held December 1, 2022.

### **5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

#### **Commissioner Anderson as Vectoria!**

At the October 26 Commission meeting we were asked when the next appearance would be made by the MMCD mascot "Vectoria." Well, the giant mosquito was found roaming around Hennepin County on Halloween thanks to Commissioner Kevin Anderson! Here's a photo that he posted:



Thanks, Commissioner Anderson, for representing MMCD!

### **School Presentations**

MMCD continues to be active in local schools around the Twin Cities delivering presentations to students from 3rd grade through high school. During the past few weeks, we've visited Highland Park High School in St. Paul and Pillsbury Elementary School in Minneapolis. We'll be in the Anoka-Hennepin School District in the coming weeks.

### **Minnesota Department of Agriculture Recertification Classes**

One of the ways that MMCD strengthens our partnership with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota is by offering the Category L ("Mosquitoes, Black Flies, and Ticks") recertification course for private pesticide applicators. In November we presented at two in-person workshops run by the University of Minnesota Extension Office.

### **City Summaries**

City reports were completed and mailed out to City Administrators this week. If you would like to see the report for any city or township in the District, please contact Alex Carlson. Here is a sample report:

## 2022 Activity Summary for Afton

### LARVAL CONTROL

The majority of control done by MMCD targets mosquitoes during their larval stage. Mosquito larvae usually develop in standing water and are most common after a rainfall. Larval control materials are applied via helicopter, backpack, or by hand.

Larval Control in Afton in 2022:  
Sites Inspected: 95 | Acres Treated: 175.91



### ADULT CONTROL

MMCD supplements our larval control program with limited adult mosquito control. Adult control materials are applied via backpack during the day or truck-mounted cold fogger in the evening.

Adult Mosquito Control in Afton in 2022:  
Sites Inspected: 22 | Acres Treated: 0.00

### DISEASE PREVENTION

Controlling the mosquito species that are most likely to spread disease is a top priority for MMCD. Removing containers that could hold stagnant water is critical to reducing the spread.

Disease Prevention Activity in Afton:  
Tires Removed: 76 | Catch Basins Treated: 987  
Disease Prevention Property Inspections: 13



### CUSTOMER CALLS

We encourage residents of the district to call MMCD to report mosquito annoyance, employee or helicopter concerns, request waste tire removal, or for anything else.

Customer Calls from Afton in 2022: 13

For questions about your city's data,  
please contact Alex Carlson -  
acarlson@mmcd.org



## 6. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

### Deer Ticks Are Out Now!

Deer tick adults (and larvae) are out questing! Ticks came out about a month later (October) and in much higher numbers (more like spring numbers than fall numbers). There is potential to encounter them throughout fall and possibly into early winter as they will quest until temperatures stay consistently below 32°F. Check for ticks after having been out in their wooded habitat!

### **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 November 5, no Asian longhorned ticks or red sheep ticks have been reported as being found in Minnesota.

### **Tick Vector Field Projects**

Tick surveillance field work for 2022 began on April 25 and was completed on October 27. Mammal and tick identifications and data entry is in progress.

### **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 2021 tick surveillance report is available on our website (<https://www.mmcd.org/docs/publications/tickreport2021.pdf>).
- 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.