

**Metropolitan  
Mosquito Control District**

**Commission Meeting**

July 26, 2023

9:15 A.M.

*Information Packet*

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

July 26, 2023, 9:15 A.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome and Introduction

CONSENT AGENDA \*The following items (3-4) 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 March 6, 2023
4. Financial Statements June 30, 2023
5. Approval of Checks and Claims  
General 77305 – 77728

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
7. Auditor’s Report on MMCD Financial Statements Ending December 31, 2022 – (Redpath and Company)
8. Technical Advisory Board (TAB) Report – Elizabeth Schiffman, Minnesota Department of Health\*
9. MMCD 2024 Preliminary Levy\* and 2024 Budget discussion
10. Executive Committee Report for May 24, 2023
11. Anoka County Lease – approve lease termination discussion
12. Discuss the need to adopt Commission Bylaws \*
13. Discuss purchase of equipment, vehicles, and capital improvements
14. Executive Director’s Report
15. Operations Report (Jon Peterson, Mark Smith, Kirk Johnson)
16. Public Affairs Report (Alex Carlson)
17. Other Items
18. Adjournment

\* Action Requested

**Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 9:15 a.m.**

**Next Executive Meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 9:15 a.m.**

COMMISSIONER	COUNTY	COMMISSIONER	COUNTY
<input type="checkbox"/> Mandy Meisner	Anoka	<input type="checkbox"/> Angela Conley	Hennepin
<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Gamache	Anoka	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris LaTondresse	Hennepin
<input type="checkbox"/> Julie Jeppson	Anoka	<input type="checkbox"/> Mai Chong Xiong	Ramsey
<input type="checkbox"/> Gayle Degler	Carver	<input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Frethem	Ramsey
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Workman	Carver	<input type="checkbox"/> Rena Moran	Ramsey
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Wolf	Scott
<input type="checkbox"/> Laurie Halverson	Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/> David Beer	Scott
<input type="checkbox"/> Liz Workman	Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Kriesel	Washington
<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Anderson	Hennepin	<input type="checkbox"/> Fran Miron	Washington

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
COMMISSION MEETING**

MINUTES  
February 22, 2023  
9:15 A.M.

(SPECIAL MEETING - MARCH 6, 2023, AT 1:00 PM DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER)

Vice Chair Rena Moran called meeting to order at 1:25 pm

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Mike Gamache	Anoka County
Commissioner Julie Jepson	Anoka County
Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Anoka County
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Carver County
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Rena Moran	Ramsey County
Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong	Ramsey County

**Staff:**

Arleen Schacht, Interim Executive Director  
Kirk Johnson, Vector Ecologist  
Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Coordinator  
Jon Peterson, District Operations Manager  
Mark Smith, Technical Services Manager  
Cassie Sweeney-Truitt, Administrative Assistant

**Visitors:**

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

Commissioner Chris LaTondresse joined the meeting after the roll call.

Vice Chair Rena Moran welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

**Approval of December 14, 2022, Commission Meeting Minutes**

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

**Resolution 1:**

The following administrative items were moved in one motion.

Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2022

Approval of Organizational Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2023

Approval of Checks and Claims 76869-77069

Commissioner Gayle Degler seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

**Approval of Tentative Labor Agreement**

In January 2023, Jennifer Early and Arleen Schacht negotiated a three-year agreement, Union members voting for approval on February 21, 2023. Arleen Schacht recommended that the Commission approve the tentative labor agreement.

Commissioner Mike Gamache offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**Whereas**, the District’s Field Operations Supervisors are represented for collective bargaining purposes by City Employees’ Union 363 of the Laborers’ International Union of North America (“363”), and;

**Whereas**, the most recent labor agreement between the District and 363 expired by its terms on December 31, 2022, and the parties have been engaged in negotiations toward a new agreement since July 2022, and;

**Whereas**, the Commission authorized the District’s negotiators to negotiate in good faith but within certain economic guidelines, and;

**Whereas**, the District’s negotiators and 363 have been successful in reaching a tentative agreement with respect to terms of a new labor agreement, and that tentative agreement has been accepted by the local 363 union committee, and;

**Whereas**, the economic provision modifications of the tentatively agreed upon labor agreement, as well as the overall provisions of said agreement are based on the total package wage and benefit adjustment factor authorized by the Commission, and they represent economic adjustments which are reasonable and beneficial for both the District's staff and our taxpayers, and;

**Be It Now Resolved**, that the tentatively agreed upon labor agreement, the major provisions of which are summarized below be approved by the full Commission, and staff be directed to implement the same.

**Wage Rates and Benefits: a total package increase for the next three years (2023, 2024 and 2025) that is within a cumulative three-year increase of 10%.**

**Term/Duration:** A three-year agreement effective on March 6, 2023, (retroactive back to January 1, 2023) and expiring at midnight on December 31, 2025.

Commission Anderson seconded the motion, and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

## **Intergovernmental Issues**

Kim met with the House State and Local Government Committee Chair, Ginny Klevorn, to discuss the change to Minn. Stat. § 473.704 Subd. 3, the statute that describes the Powers and Duties of MMCD, per the Commission’s request. Chair Klevorn had some questions and was open to amending the statute to clarify that the MMCD Director is not required to be an entomologist. In subsequent conversations, Chair Klevorn was provided with suggested language for an amendment, as well as a letter from the Commission requesting that the Legislature make the change to existing law. The matter was also discussed with Environment Chair Hansen and the Republican lead on the State and Local Government committee, Rep. Nash, to solicit their input and support.

Commissioner Anderson followed up these conversations in a meeting with Chair Klevorn and further solidified support from the Chair, who provided assurances that the language, to eliminate the requirement that the Director be an entomologist, would be included in the State and Local Government omnibus bill.

### **Executive Committee Report for January 25, 2023**

The Executive Committee discussed and agreed to put on hold the Executive Director search until more information is available on how the legislative bill, changing the statutory language, is moving along. Arleen and Jennifer Macchia met with Pat Melvin, the recruiter, explaining the situation and he had no issue putting the process on hold and agreed to resume his search when directed by MMCD. The committee understands the importance of the District maintaining a science background and agreed that MMCD will continue, at a minimum, to have entomologists on staff as members of the Technical Services Department. When the Executive Director search resumes, a hiring committee will be established to work with the recruiter in the process to select a candidate to fill the position.

### **Budget and Levy Development Schedule**

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 5 for a schedule outlining steps to be taken by staff and the Commission to develop the 2024 levy and budget.

An initial review of legislative requirements and deadlines 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 2022, the MMCC approved a preliminary 2023 levy at its July 27 meeting.

Both the 2023 levy and 2023 budget were approved by the MMCC at its meeting on December 14, 2022.

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 2024**

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Commission and Executive Committee provide direction to develop budget	May / June 2023
Commission approves preliminary 2024 levy and budget direction	July 26, 2023
Approved proposed levy deadline for the District	August 1, 2023
Review 2024 budget and levy proposals	August 23, 2023
Proposed levy certification due	September 10, 2023
Executive Committee reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	September 27, 2023
Commission reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	October 25, 2023
Executive Committee reviews budget	November 16, 2023
Parcel Specific Property Tax Notice	November 10 – 24, 2023
Commission adopts Final 2024 Levy & Budget (December Commission meeting)	December 20, 2023
Truth in Taxation Hearing (Commission & Staff)	December 20, 2023
Continuation Hearing, if necessary, (Commission & Staff)	December 20, 2023
Certify Adopted Payable 2024 Levy (Staff)	December 21, 2023

## **Executive Director’s Report**

The February 22, 2023, commission meeting was rescheduled for March 6, due to inclement weather. Initially the meeting did not have a quorum, so Vice Chair Moran proceeded with the topics of the agenda that did not require a vote. Commission LaTondresse was able to adjust his schedule and attend the meeting. The meeting then proceeded through the agenda.

The main discussion was approval of the labor agreement. After negotiations were unsuccessful by the year end 2022, the negotiations went to mediation in January 2023. With wages, parental leave, and Health Saving Account contributions, being main topics of discussion. After a couple of days and several hours the Labor Union and MMCD were able to reach an agreement which satisfied the bargaining units requests while at the same time kept MMCD within their financial limits set previously by the Commission.

There was some discussion related to the statutory language change and the issue with MMCD not having bylaws and what other information could be provided to support the change.

## **Operations Report**

### **Operations**

The seven-county metro is still in a moderate drought, according to the US drought monitor ([droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)). It will be interesting to see how much water is in the wetlands as the snow starts to melt.

Staff are working on the following to prepare for the upcoming field season.

Job applications for our seasonal positions were posted on February 6<sup>th</sup>. As of today, we have received over 157 applications, and have hired 81. We plan to hire approximately 190 seasonal staff this season.

Staff are busy recruiting for the upcoming season. This includes placing online ads, putting up posters, and attending job fairs.

Staff are updating their maps and the data associated with the wetlands. Seasonal staff will utilize these for inspections and treatments this season.

### **Vector-borne Disease**

Preparing for 2023 risk reduction services, will include training seasonal staff in disease prevention and equipment maintenance.

Lacrosse Encephalitis - 1st case in the District in six years, with three Minnesota cases in 2022 suggest risk is rising. Plan to focus training on recognizing risks and eliminating larval habitat (tires, containers, tree holes)

West Nile Virus (WNV) – High levels of circulation in 2021 & 2022. We expect an above average number of infected mosquitoes to survive the winter, but it is too early to predict level of WNV transmission in 2023. The larval control of WNV vectors will begin in late May with



treatments of CBs, other stormwater management structures and wetlands for Culex vectors of WNV.

Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) - Spring Aedes species

Heavy snowpack following two dry spring seasons, we are likely to see high populations in areas not receiving larval control. Our regular spring larval control efforts will greatly reduce JCV risk in most of the District.

### **Public Affairs**

MMCD is continuing to deliver presentations for upcoming County Commission meetings to provide a recap on the 2022 season and plans for 2023. If any commissioners would like copies of the presentations or any supplementary materials, please contact Alex Carlson.

MMCD staff have been participating at high school events that showcase careers at MMCD. Recently we have visited Como Park High School and we have upcoming events this month at Creative Arts High School in St. Paul and Robbinsdale Cooper High School.

### **Adjournment**

Vice Chair Moran adjourned the meeting at 2:35pm.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT						
FINANCIAL STATEMENT						
June 30, 2023						
COUNTY		2023 LEVY		REC'D TO DATE		DUE
Anoka	\$	1,870,095		0	\$	1,870,095
Carver		701,043		0		701,043
Dakota		2,540,067		0		2,540,067
Hennepin		8,911,594		0		8,911,594
Ramsey		2,811,939		0		2,811,939
Scott		918,541		481,237		437,304
Washington		1,666,191				1,666,191
Market Value Credit		0		0		0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>19,419,470</b>		<b>\$ 481,237</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>18,938,233</b>
Tax Delinquent Income	\$	0		\$ 2,451		
Miscellaneous (Rent/Misc./Non-Levy)		100,000		28,734		
Interest Income		250,000		392,784		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>19,769,470</b>		<b>\$ 905,206</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>18,864,264</b>
<b><u>BALANCE SHEET</u></b>						
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>						
Cash and Investments				\$ 21,832,637		
Accounts Receivable				95,749		
Prepaid Expenses				126,663		
Consumable Material				1,429,655		
Equipment net of Acc Depreciation				2,026,707		
Land				1,118,867		
Building net of Acc Depreciation				2,506,144		
<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>					<b>\$</b>	<b>29,136,422</b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>						
Vouchers Payable				\$ 350,371		
Pass thru Revenue						
Deferred Revenue				95,749		
<b><u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u></b>					<b>\$</b>	<b>446,120</b>
<b><u>NET WORTH</u></b>						
Fund Balance:						
Nonspendable				\$ 2,590,959		
Prepaid				0		
Committed				1,500,000		
Assigned				1,037,110		
Unassigned for Working Capital				25,617,240		
Total Fund Equity				\$ 30,745,309		
Assets-Equipment				5,651,718		
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 36,397,027</b>		
ADD Income				905,206		
DEDUCT Expenditures				8,611,934		
<b>TOTAL NET WORTH</b>					<b>\$</b>	<b>28,690,299</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH</b>					<b>\$</b>	<b>29,136,422</b>

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT					
CUMULATIVE OPERATIONS STATEMENT					
June 30, 2023					
EXPENDITURES		ACTUAL		BUDGET	+OVER/-UNDER
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>					
Operations	\$	514,058			
Capital Items		0			
Repairs		0			
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>514,058</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>609,243</b>	<b>\$ (95,185)</b>
<u>CONTROL DIVISION</u>					
Operations	\$	7,428,449			
Capital Items		458,446			
Repairs		210,620			
<b>TOTAL CONTROL DIVISION</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,097,515</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,329,160</b>	<b>\$ (2,231,645)</b>
<u>COMMISSION</u>					
Per Diem	\$	0			
Mileage		361			
<b>TOTAL COMMISSION</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>\$ (1,180)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,611,934</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,939,944</b>	<b>\$ (2,328,010)</b>
<b>BUDGET REMAINING</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>8,993,930</b>	
<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>19,933,874</b>	
<b>EMERGENCY FUNDS</b>				<b>0</b>	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>19,933,874</b>	

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING****JULY 26, 2023**

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**Requested by:**

Arleen Schacht

**Informational:**Auditor's Report on MMCD Financial  
Statements Ending December 31, 2022

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**Background:**

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 473.703 subd. 10, we hereby submit the Annual Financial Report of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District for the year ended December 31, 2022. This report includes the financial statements for the District and the disclosures necessary to accurately present the financial condition and results of operations for the year then ended. The report has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for government units.

This report consists of management's representations concerning the finances of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD). Consequently, management assumes full responsibility for the completeness and reliability of all the information presented in this report. To provide a reasonable basis for making these representations, management of the MMCD has established a comprehensive internal control framework that is designed both to protect the government's assets from loss, theft, or misuse and to compile sufficient reliable information for the preparation of the MMCD's financial statements in conformity with GAAP. Because the cost of internal controls should not outweigh their benefits, the MMCD's internal controls have been designed to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance that the financial statements will be free from material misstatements. As management, we assert that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, this financial report is complete and reliable in all material respects.

The MMCD's financial statements have been audited by Redpath and Company. The goal of the independent audit was to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements of the MMCD for the year ended December 31, 2022, are free of material misstatement. Redpath and Company issued an unmodified opinion on the MMCD's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022. The Independent Auditor's Report from Redpath and Company is the first component of the financial section of this report.

A representative of Redpath and Company will provide a detailed report of their audit results at the meeting of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission on July 26, 2023.



## COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

To the Chair and  
Members of the Commission  
Metropolitan Mosquito Control District  
St. Paul, Minnesota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Metropolitan Mosquito Control District for the year ended December 31, 2022. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated February 27, 2023. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

### Significant Audit Matters

#### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Metropolitan Mosquito Control District are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. Effective January 1, 2022, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District adopted new accounting guidance, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87, *Leases*. However, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District currently has no material leases that fall within the scope of GASB Statement No. 87 and therefore, implementation of the standard has no effect on the financial statements. We noted no transactions entered into by Metropolitan Mosquito Control District during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected.

The most sensitive estimates affecting Metropolitan Mosquito Control District's financial statements are estimates used to calculate the net pension liability, net OPEB asset, the pension and OPEB related deferred outflows and inflows of resources, and pension and OPEB expense. These estimates are based on actuarial studies. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. Determining sensitivity is subjective, however, we believe the disclosures most likely to be considered sensitive are Note 4B – Note Payable, Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pensions Plans, and Note 9 – Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB).

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

#### *Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit*

We encountered no difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

#### *Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements*

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no corrected or uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit.

#### *Disagreements with Management*

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

#### *Management Representations*

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated May 25, 2023.

#### *Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants*

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to Metropolitan Mosquito Control District's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to

check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

### *Other Audit Findings or Issues*

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as Metropolitan Mosquito Control District's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

### Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the management's discussion and analysis and the schedules of OPEB and pension information, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were not engaged to report on the introductory section, which accompanies the financial statements but is not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

### Other Reports

Various reports on compliance and internal controls are contained in the Other Required Reports section of the audited financial statement document.

### Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the Commission and management of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.



REDPATH AND COMPANY, LTD.  
St. Paul, Minnesota

May 25, 2023

## **METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING**

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**Requested by:**

Arleen Schacht  
Mark Smith

**Action requested:**

Approval of 2022 Operational Review and  
Plans for 2023

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**Resolution:**

**Whereas**, the Chair of the District’s Technical Advisory Board (TAB) has reported that the TAB reviewed District operations in 2022 and plans for 2023; and

**Whereas**, the TAB and MMCD staff discussed in detail 2022 operations and plans for 2023; and

**Whereas**, the TAB supports the program presented in the 2022 Review and 2023 Plan and acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of the MMCD staff in its presentation; and

**Whereas**, the TAB encourages the MMCD Commissioners to keep a requirement that the Director has an entomological or biological background, so science continues to drive MMCD decisions; and

**Whereas**, the TAB thanks MMCD for developing a strong Integrated Vector and Pest Management program based on prevention and reducing the need for reactive techniques for pest management such as adulticides. The TAB urges the Commission to continue this emphasis, including ensuring that the budget must be based on preventative measures; and

**Whereas**, the TAB supports the District’s intent to explore collection of updated public input to inform its practices.

**Resolved**, that the Commission accepts the report of the TAB Chair and approves the 2022 Operational Review and Plans for 2023.

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*Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of All Minnesotans*

April 6, 2023

Commissioner Fran Miron  
Chair  
Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission  
2099 University Ave West  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear Commissioner Miron,

The Technical Advisory Board (TAB) met on February 7, 2023, to review and discuss MMCD operations in 2022 and plans for 2023. Since the Board's formation in 1981, the member representatives have met at least once per year to provide an independent review of field control programs and to enhance inter-agency cooperation.

After an excellent interchange of questions and information between the TAB and MMCD staff, the TAB approved the following resolutions:

Resolution #1 – The TAB supports the program presented in the 2022 Review and 2023 Plan and acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of the MMCD staff in its presentation.

Resolution #2 – The TAB encourages the MMCD Commissioners to keep a requirement that the Director has an entomological or biological background, so science continues to drive MMCD decisions.

Resolution #3 – The TAB thanks the MMCD for developing a strong Integrated Vector and Pest Management program based on prevention and reducing the need for reactive techniques for pest management such as adulticides. The TAB urges the Commission to continue this emphasis, including ensuring that the budget must be based on preventative measures.

Resolution #4 - The TAB supports the District's intent to explore collection of updated public input to inform its practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Schiffman'.

Elizabeth Schiffman, MPH, MA  
Chair, Technical Advisory Board

Minnesota Department of Health  
Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention, and Control Division  
St. Paul, MN 55164  
[www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)

*An equal opportunity employer.*

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 26, 2023

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**Requested by:**

Arleen Schacht

**Action Request:**

Approve MMCD 2024 Preliminary Levy

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**Background**

**Fund Balance Impact**

- By year end 2016 the unassigned portion of the fund balance had fallen to \$6.5M approximately \$2M below the minimum requirement based on the policy,
- 2017 Cost Reduction strategies were implemented – reduced budget by \$1.2M
- 4+ seasons of lower-than-normal precipitation or drought conditions.
- COVID 19 pandemic (2020-2022) restrictions.
- Since 2017 each year revenue exceeded expenses
- Based on 2022 annual audit unassigned portion of the fund balance is \$25M, an increase of \$19M, since 2017.

**2024 Expense Budget Factors**

-Currently we are not prepared to provide a proposed budget increase. We feel it is premature to provide a budget with many factors that could have a significant impact on our 2024 budget. According to the budget schedule, budget discussions begin in August with the final budget approval at the December Commission meeting. (See table on page 19). That timeline provides the opportunity to do our due diligence and gather the information that is needed to provide as accurate budget as possible.

Weather - with our services based so much on weather, with drought conditions the last 4+ years, it is very hard to predict.

Medical Insurance expense

- The District is in the last year of a 2-year agreement with PEIP, (Public Employees Insurance Plan).
- Over the last 5 years our premiums have increased 40 percent.
- Recent discussions with our insurance brokers, compared to other local governments, the District is falling behind in the employer contribution portion of the medical insurance premiums. Below is the 2023 information.

• Average Employer Contributions to Medical Plan – Metro Public Sector:

EE	EE+SP	EE+CH	FAM
90%	70%	70%	70%

Currently the District pays 68% for individual plans and 57% for family plans. The current budget is \$297K.

- Considering an employer contribution increase to 90% for individuals and 70% for families (to be competitive) the increase would be approximately 43%, based on the current participants.
- Currently 32 of the 54 full time employees participate in the Districts health plan, primarily due to finding more affordable coverage under a spouse or another plan. Increasing the employer contribution, the District may see an increase in the number of employees that enroll, possibly doubling the budget.
- In August the District will go out to the market for bids from other healthcare providers. We anticipate to receive renewal information from PEIP late September, early October.

Helicopter Agreement

- Current helicopter agreement (3 years) with Scott’s Helicopter expires in the fall of 2023.
- We can expect to see an increase due to increased rates per acre, increase in jet fuel prices, and additional acreage that could be treated with an expansion plan to extend services further into P2
- Current agreement is \$2.11M, annually with a 75% minimum guarantee is \$1.59M, an 8% increase from the previous agreement.
- Negotiations for a new agreement will begin late summer, early fall

## Service Expansion

- We have begun early discussions related to expanding services, but more work is necessary to determine how aggressive expansion can be and what impact it would have on the budget. The District should consider developing a 3 year expansion plan to make sound decisions, account for adjustments and continue to be fiscally responsible.
- Expansion could mean a variety of things:
  - Expansion could include both surveillance and material treatments
  - Increasing services in turn could require more employees, possibly full-time and/or seasonal.
  - More employees could require increasing the number of vehicles in the fleet, which would require more garages, off-season parking or storage space.
  - If expansion includes more full-time employees, need to consider office space, most facilities have no extra office space, so it could require expansion to some or all of the field facilities, or purchase or lease another location.

The budget decisions will set the stage for the 2025 and 2026 levy and budget.

## **Levy**

One intended goal for the District has been working toward a balanced budget. Requesting small levy and budget increases the last several years to continue to narrow the gap between the levy, (not including other revenue sources).

Other revenues sources can vary considerably, so have not been used toward achieving a balanced budget, however, taking other revenue sources into consideration, with a 2.5% levy increase revenue will exceed expense by \$471,083 (see table on page 19).

In addition, a 2.5% increase could take off some of the financial burden the District may be facing with 2024 expense increases.

### **•We recommend the following:**

- A 2.5% increase in the 2024 levy
- Taking into consideration using reserves in the event the District experiences a wet year and expenses far exceed the levy.

The approved proposed levy deadline is August 1, 2023. (See page 20).

**Resolution**

**Whereas**, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District is required to certify a preliminary levy for payable 2024 to the Minnesota Department of Revenue by August 1, 2023; and

**Whereas**, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission has reviewed property tax levy options to maintain District operational plans; be it now

**Resolved**, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission certifies the preliminary payable 2024 levy in the amount of \$19,904,957 to the Minnesota Department of Revenue, a 2.5% increase over the 2023 levy of \$19,419,450.

This will support our ability to continue to plan for future expansion, including growing the drone program and extending surveillance and possible treatments (where applicable) further out into the P2 areas.

Approving a 2.5% increase in the 2024 levy (preliminary in July) enables us to observe how the weather and other budget factors will impact the financial situation of the District.

The levy cannot increase after July, but it can be decreased in December if it is decided the financial situation justifies a decrease.

Table below shows a 2.5% levy increase and no budget increase.

	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Approved 2023	Proposed 2024
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$17,696,175	\$22,818,534	\$26,246,353	\$30,745,308	\$30,580,904
<i>Revenues/Sources</i>					
<i>Property Taxes</i>					
<b>Anoka County</b>	\$1,700,239	\$1,771,755	\$1,794,143	\$1,837,080	\$1,883,007
<b>Carver County</b>	\$661,245	\$667,310	\$670,605	\$683,585	\$700,674
<b>Dakota County</b>	\$2,435,571	\$2,450,506	\$2,472,427	\$2,528,413	\$2,591,623
<b>Hennepin County</b>	\$8,640,370	\$8,625,821	\$8,746,025	\$8,969,843	\$9,194,089
<b>Ramsey County</b>	\$2,664,781	\$2,673,674	\$2,747,567	\$2,846,891	\$2,918,064
<b>Scott County</b>	\$865,377	\$880,508	\$898,626	\$920,482	\$943,494
<b>Washington County</b>	\$1,557,754	\$1,591,980	\$1,594,397	\$1,633,176	\$1,674,005
<b>Market Value Credit</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Property Taxes</b>	\$18,525,337	\$18,661,553	\$18,923,790	\$19,419,470	\$19,904,957
<b>Other Financing Sources</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$80,788	\$166,410	\$526,554	\$350,000	\$500,000
<b>Total Other Sources</b>	\$80,788	\$166,410	\$526,554	\$350,000	\$500,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$18,606,125	\$18,827,963	\$19,450,344	\$19,769,470	\$20,404,957
<i>Expenditures/Uses</i>					
<b>Commissioners</b>	\$705	\$624	\$783	\$2,802	\$1,400
<b>Control Operations</b>	\$13,182,273	\$14,190,274	\$13,611,930	\$18,295,837	\$18,295,837
<b>Capital Outlay</b>	\$269,275	\$365,746	\$316,798	\$527,520	\$527,520
<b>Administration</b>	\$900,890	\$924,070	\$1,047,032	\$1,107,715	\$1,109,117
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$14,353,143	\$15,480,714	\$14,976,543	\$19,933,874	\$19,933,874
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>					
<b>Nonspendable/Committed/Assigned</b>	\$7,621,567	\$6,387,860	\$5,128,068	\$5,128,068	\$5,128,068
<b>Unassigned/Working Capital/Tax Delinquencies</b>	\$15,196,967	\$19,939,063	\$25,642,394	\$25,452,836	\$25,923,918
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$22,818,534	\$26,246,353	\$30,745,308	\$30,580,904	\$31,051,986
<b>Amount From Fund Balance Used For Expenditures</b>	(\$4,252,982)	(\$3,347,249)	(\$4,473,801)	\$164,404	(\$471,083)

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## MMCD Calendar for Budget Year 2024

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Commission and Executive Committee provide direction to develop budget	May / June 2023
Commission approves preliminary 2024 levy and budget direction	July 26, 2023
Approved proposed levy deadline for the District	August 1, 2023
Review 2024 budget and levy proposals	August 23, 2023
Proposed levy certification due	September 10, 2023
Executive Committee reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	September 27, 2023
Commission reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	October 25, 2023
Executive Committee reviews budget	November 16, 2023
Parcel Specific Property Tax Notice	November 10 – 24, 2023
Commission adopts Final 2024 Levy & Budget (December Commission meeting)	December 20, 2023
Truth in Taxation Hearing (Commission & Staff)	December 20, 2023
Continuation Hearing, if necessary (Commission & Staff)	December 20, 2023
Certify Adopted Payable 2024 Levy (Staff)	December 21, 2023

**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.



METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES  
MAY 24, 2023  
9:15 AM

Chair Fran Miron called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Mike Gamache	Anoka County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Rena Moran	Ramsey County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

**Staff:**

Arleen Schacht, Interim Executive Director/Business Administrator

**Visitors:**

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

**Approval of March 22, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes**

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

**Resolution 1:**

**Resolved**, that the March 22, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Rena Moran seconded the motion, the resolution was approved unanimously.

**Legislative Update**

This was a successful legislative session for MMCD. At the request of the Commission, we worked to change the statute that describes the Powers and Duties of MMCD, in order to change the requirement that the MMCD Director must be an entomologist. (See Minn. Stat. § 473.704 Subd. 3). We worked with the House Chair of the State and Local Government committee early in the session to work on a strategy to incorporate change to the statute. Generally, we followed the direction of the chair, answering her questions, and following up with committee members and the Republican lead on the committee to address any concerns and secure their support.

Our lobbying efforts were aided by targeted outreach from MMCD Commissioner's, including a letter from all MMCD Commissioners to the legislature, along with outreach from a few Commissioners directly to their legislators.

The change to the statute was included in House File 1830, the omnibus State and Local Government bill. We continued to advocate for inclusion of the provision during the conference committee process and the provision was accepted by the Senate in conference committee. Ultimately, the omnibus bill was passed by bodies of the legislature in the final days of the legislative session and is scheduled to be signed into law by Governor Walz later this morning.

There was another provision that applies to MMCD that was included in the omnibus Environment bill that was passed by the legislature and signed into law. This provision will allow cities to enact prohibitions around the use of pesticides. We have seen this provision in prior sessions and have worked with the authors and committee chairs to incorporate an exception for "pesticides as used or applied by the MMCD for public health protection." Because we had done the groundwork in prior sessions to educate members about MMCD's public health mission, we did not receive opposition from the majority to retain the exception for MMCD. We recommend that MMCD Commissioners reach out to the State and Local Government conferee chairs and thank them for their work to remove the requirement for the MMCD Executive Director to be an entomologist. The conferees chairs were Rep. Klevorn and Sen. Murphy.

The legislature completed their work by the constitutional adjournment date of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, passing all the major budget bills, plus a tax bill, bonding bill, Legacy bill, paid family leave, and legalized marijuana—to name some of the notable pieces of legislation.

The 2024 session will commence February 12th.

### **Anoka County Lease**

In February 2023 the Anoka County bond debt for the 2007 Andover facility improvements was paid in full by MMCD. On April 20, 2023, the District received termination documents, prepared by the Anoka County bond counsel, to close-out the financing transaction that was required in 2007 to build the facilities at the Anoka County location. The documents are to terminate the lease/subleases and Trustee (Wells Fargo) arrangements that were made for the financing.

The bond counsel also prepared the District a resolution for MMCD Commission approval, to terminate the documents/lease.

Joe Langel is working with Anoka County Attorney's office to get final documentation with respect to ownership of the financed improvements. The intention is to have the resolution to terminate the lease at the July 2023 commission meeting.

## **Executive Director Search Update**

The Legislative bill that was submitted, requesting to change statutory language no longer requiring the Director to be an entomologist was approved and signed by Governor Walz on Friday May 26, 2023.

We have resumed working with Pat Melvin, with DDA Human Resources, Inc., who will begin recruiting for the Executive Director position. As the search begins the MMCC is very aware of the importance of the director to have a science and/or an Integrated Pest Control background and to continue with science-based programs.

A hiring committee was determined and will assist Mr. Melvin with the interviewing/hiring of the next Executive Director. The Commissioners that volunteered are Kevin Anderson, Rena Moran, Tom Wolf and Mike Gamache.

We are hopeful the position will be filled by the end of the year.

## **2023 Plans and Initial 2024 Budget and Levy Discussion**

Arleen Schacht discussed the health of the fund balance at the end of 2022, the fund balance has increased \$19M since 2017 with a fund balance of \$25M at year end 2022. With the health of the fund balance, there was further discussion about 2024 levy and budget with a few scenarios that could be considered.

One scenario is to do nothing and see what happens in 2023 and use that information as a guide for 2024, with permission to use funds from reserves if 2024 would happen to be a wet year and services exceeded the budget, and a second scenario that includes only a 2% levy increase to begin operating with a near balanced budget. Schacht stated that MMCD does not know what spending the full budget looks like because it has not been done in six years.

Further discussion included services that were reduced in 2017 have been restored and plans for service expansion have begun. 2023 operations increased the acres treated in P2 and will continue to add more if the conditions are right, and the budget can sustain it. The goal is to continue expansion over the next few years, which includes all the P2 treatment areas. Management has begun these discussions and what expansion might look like and what budget increases would be necessary in the future. Expansion also includes continuing to develop and expand the Drone program.

Commissioner Liz Workman suggested looking to decrease the fund balance, that it is good to have a healthy fund balance, but MMCD does not want to appear greedy. Discussions continued related to additional purchases of capital equipment, vehicles, and facility improvement. Commission Miron inquired if all the truck orders from 2022 had been fulfilled, Schacht replied that no trucks have been received from the order placed in August 2022, Commissioner Miron asked to add this topic to the July 26 Commission meeting agenda.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Arleen Schacht reported that the 2023 control season started off strong with the snowpack and early warm temperatures, and surveillance was showing early larval development. The first aerial *Bti* treatments to control spring *Aedes* larvae occurred on April 27, about a week earlier than 2022. Black fly treatments have begun on large rivers, water levels in small streams are too high and the treatments will not be effective, and the conditions may not be safe for employees, as the water recedes treatment will begin. As of May 24, we have treated 65,969 acres aerially with about 12,000 acres of cattail treatments ongoing. Total aerial treatments (about 77,969 acres) which is slightly higher than average of 72,726 acres.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

**Metropolitan Mosquito Control District**

**JULY 26, 2023**

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<b><u>Requested by:</u></b>  Arleen Schacht	<b><u>Discussion:</u></b>  Anoka County Lease
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**Background**

In February 2023 the Anoka County bond debt for the 2007 Andover facility improvements was paid in full by MMCD. On April 20, 2023, the District received termination documents, prepared by the Anoka County bond counsel, to close-out the financing transaction that was required in 2007 to build the facilities at the Anoka County location. The documents are to terminate the lease/subleases and Trustee (Wells Fargo) arrangements that were made for the financing.

The bond counsel also prepared the District a resolution for MMCD Commission approval, to terminate the documents/lease.

Unfortunately, the District has encountered an issue with respect to ownership of the financed improvements and we are waiting for a response back from Anoka County with a proposed conveyance agreement.

Joe Langel, MMCD legal counsel, can discuss the matter in more detail if necessary.

## **Metropolitan Mosquito Control District**

**July 26, 2023**

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**Requested by:**

Arleen Schacht

**Action requested:**

Commission Adopt Bylaws

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**Background:**

The Commission made the decision to submit a bill to the legislation to change statutory language removing the requirement that the Executive Director must be an entomologist, Statute § 473.704 Subd. 3. Director; to be an entomologist. The Commission recommended, to fulfill the entomologist needs of the District, to amend the bylaws and include that the District would at all times employ at least one entomologist, as a staff member of the Technical Services Department. The recommendation was made in an effort to help pass the legislative bill, if there was any opposition or concern with amending the language.

After a thorough search for said bylaws, it was found that no bylaws exist and had not been adopted since the start of MMCD in 1958. Bylaws are adopted to govern and serve as an operational document made by the commission that can include but not limited to regulate operating procedures, specific rules on conducting business, officer processes, authority of specific groups or positions as well as staff structure requirements.

After decades of operating with no bylaws, the commission should determine if it is necessary to adopt bylaws now. Statute § 473.703 Subd. 8. Bylaws. The commission may adopt bylaws to regulate its own proceedings.

The decision to adopt bylaws should be done by motion of the Commission.

## **Mission – Vision – Values**

**Mission** – to promote health and well-being by protecting the public from disease and annoyance caused by mosquitoes, gnats (black flies), and ticks in an environmentally safe manner.

**Vision** – to be the leading mosquito abatement district in the world.  
The following tenets are important to MMCD as we work to be the best.

Innovation – continually developing new ideas and methods  
Technology – scientific methods put into practical use  
Public Service – providing essential services to all for the common good  
Stewardship – responsible planning and management of resources  
Partnership - working with others to advance mutual interests  
Effectiveness – producing the desired and or expected results

**Values** – The value statement guides us as we interact with co-workers and others.

MMCD values:

Integrity / Trust – Do what is right, deliver what is promised  
Cooperation – Support each other as we work to accomplish common goals  
Respect – Treat others as you would have them treat you  
Competence – Continually strive to improve ourselves and our processes

**Metropolitan Mosquito Control District**

**July 26, 2023**

**Requested by:**

Arleen Schacht

**Discussion:**

Capital purchases and Improvements

At the May 2023 Executive Committee, there was a preliminary 2024 budget discussion which led to further discussion about the District’s fund balance and whether there is a need to spend down the fund balance; while a healthy fund balance is good, the District does not want to appear “greedy”. Based on current 2023 year-end projections, it is likely the fund balance will increase again.

Vehicle, Equipment and Capital improvements

The greatest concern is vehicles, the District’s vehicle replacement schedule is 15 years, which has not been achieved for quite some time, due to the cost reduction strategies and the pandemic. Currently the District has approximately 35 trucks with no air conditioning that need to be replaced. The most common complaint from seasonal staff is driving a truck in the heat, with no air conditioning.

The most recent purchase order was issued in August of 2022 through the state contract. Last month the District was informed the order cannot be filled due to supply issues. Vendors listed on the state contract will not guarantee any vehicle orders.

The District recently purchased 6 new trucks from dealership lots, \$283,186.

In addition, many of the facilities need repairs and updating. Painting, remodeling (offices, restrooms, lab), new windows and parking lot resurfacing or replacement etc. We are waiting for estimates for many of the improvement projects.

Estimated cost for vehicles and improvements	\$2,000,000
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The District requests the Commission to take into consideration spending down the fund balance, using reserves to make capital purchases and improvement, purchasing trucks from dealership, as they become available and capital improvements to be completed into 2024.

Management will develop a longer-range improvement plan for larger projects.



**To: Commission Members**  
**From: Arleen Schacht**  
**Re: Executive Director Report**  
**Date: July 2023**

## **1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES**

The management team, (Arleen Schacht, Jon Peterson, Mark Smith and Alex Carlson) have set up meetings between July 25 and August 1 to meet with seasonal and RFT staff at five field facilities and the St. Paul office to thank them for their work delivering services and to discuss various topics and get feedback on how things are going, share successes and challenges and address any issues.

On Thursday July 20 the Category A+L Recertification workshop will take place, working in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the U of M Extension. The workshop was held at the St. Paul office with field facilities attending virtually. This workshop educates our staff about the materials we use, safety protocols, and proper application and satisfies the Department of Agriculture's annual recertification requirements for seasonal and full-time staff to maintain their applicator licenses. Approximately 60 full-time and seasonal employees plan to attend.

### Executive Director Search

The Executive Director position was posted on June 28 and will close on July 27, 2023. Ads have been posted through a variety of media platforms, including AMCA, FMCA and GFOA. The recruiter, Pat Melvin with DDA, Inc., has a large network of organizations/companies they collaborate with to get as much exposure as possible. The posting can also be found on MMCD's website with instructions on how to apply.

As of July 13, there have been 31 applicants, unfortunately many of the applicants do not meet the minimum qualifications. Mr. Melvin shared his concern, that there is plenty of interest in the position, but the number of applicants with experience managing an organization like MMCD is less than he was hoping to see.

Once the position has closed, Mr. Melvin will review, and rank applicants based on job-related criteria and select semi-finalists. Tentatively, on August 16, the hiring committee, made up of 4 Commissioners and Mr. Melvin, will select the finalists to move on through the interview process.

## **2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES**

The weather has continued to be dry for much of this summer again. After a wet spring, we have had minimal rain. We responded to two isolated rain events in June and July with a helicopter, treating 5,410 acres June 27th-June 28th, and 880 acres July 6th – July 7th. Overall, the metro is in a moderate to severe drought, causing many wetlands to be dry.

Hiring was very successful for MMCD this year. We hired 195 seasonal employees this season. Full-time staff have worked very hard to train these staff to ensure they are knowledgeable and that they are working in a safe and effective manner. Seasonal staff will continue to work in the field through October.

We are continuing to expand our drone program by purchasing another drone in July. We have had much success this year, treating with drones at two of our field facilities. To date, our drone staff have made over 787 treatments, treating over 1,050 acres of wetlands. In comparison, during the 2022 season, we made 257 treatments, treating 343 acres of wetlands. Our plan is to review the drone program after this year and potential purchase another drone for 2024.

Field staff are working in a safe manner and are busy completing many tasks. So far this year, staff have done the following:

- Laval Inspections and Treatments
  - o Inspected 7,620 air sites.
  - o Treated 80,283 acres by helicopter
  - o Treated a total of 7,500 acres in P2
  - o Inspected and/or treated 60,535 ground sites
  - o Treated 16,086 acres by ground
  - o Taken over 8,161 samples
- Adult Inspections and Treatments
  - o Taken 8,987 adult samples
  - o Made 331 treatments
  - o Treated 1,437 acres
- Tires, containers, and tree holes (eliminate potential vector habitat)
  - o Removed and recycled 5,605 tires
- Customer calls
  - o Received 2,744 customer calls

At the end of July, some of our seasonal staff will attend our annual Pesticide Recertification workshop. This workshop educates our staff about the materials we use, safety protocols, and proper application. This workshop satisfies the Department of Agriculture's annual recertification requirements.

### **3. TECHNICAL SERVICES**

- Continues to support field operations through our Entomology Lab, vector-borne disease program, tick program, black fly program, education, vendor communications, and other technical operations.
- Continues to evaluate new technology for increasing efficiency and improving services. Various adult mosquito traps are being tested and reviewed.

- Reviewing automation in adult mosquito identification and sorting equipment. This technology is early in development. MMCD is looking at ways to assist in Midwest mosquito species identification and providing samples to develop computer algorithms for their technology.
- Working with manufacturers to supply control materials for use in 2023 and 2024. Some production facilities are having staffing issues and manufacturing delays. MMCD is attempting to provide longer-term forecasting to aid manufacturers.
- Evaluating the active ingredient levels of purchased products with an independent laboratory (Legend Technical Services). We work with manufacturers to ensure our products meet label requirements and fulfill District needs.
- Evaluating the requirements for disposal of retired spray equipment. This larger area equipment should only be used by professionally trained individuals. MMCD wants to ensure the protection of the environment, public health, and address Homeland Security issues.
- Has arranged an evaluation of a LIDAR topographic drone flight. A drone vendor will provide a high-resolution ground evaluation in two 150-acre examples of mosquito breeding areas. This LIDAR may be able to see through vegetation and reveal low areas that may produce mosquitoes. This technology can provide new information that cannot be shown through photographic images. This system may assist staff to find unidentified areas, better direct employees, or refine control material applications.

## **MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE**

### West Nile Virus

- Eight of 246 mosquito samples have tested positive for WNV
- Hot, dry conditions are favorable for some WNV vectors
- Extensive ongoing effort to apply larvicides to catch basins and other stormwater management structures to control WNV vectors
- Population of *Culex tarsalis*, the primary vector to humans, has been very low

### La Crosse Encephalitis

- *Aedes triseriatus* population running near or below weekly averages so far this year
- Inspections for larval habitat have resulted in the elimination of 5,606 tires, 2,003 containers, and 66 tree holes

### Eastern Equine Encephalitis

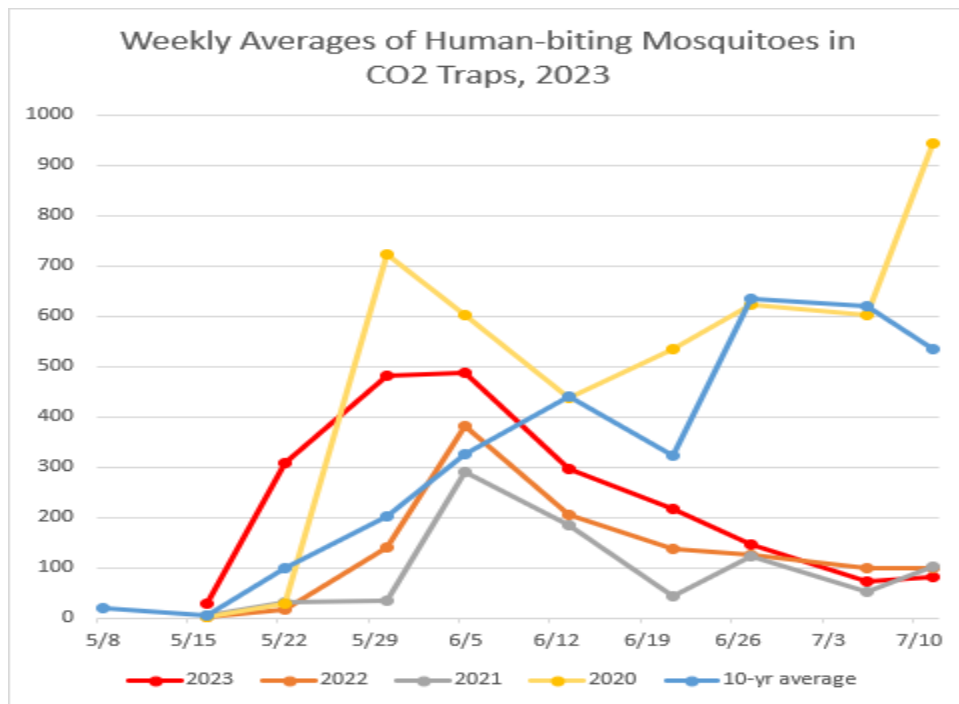
- Surveillance indicates low numbers of the vector *Culiseta melanura*
- Bog habitat used by *Cs. melanura* has been impacted by drought

### Jamestown Canyon Virus

- Primary risk reduction through larval control of spring Aedes and some summer Aedes
- Spring Aedes populations increased over past two years due to excessive snow melt
- Summer Aedes populations have been low under drought conditions

### TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

- The District is in moderate or severe drought for the third year in a row.
- Our surveillance network shows mosquito levels well below the 10-year average.



- We identified a small number of larval samples from spotty rains in early July, which resulted in a small brood in the East region.
- We hosted a group of U of MN extension agents; we gave them a tour of the lab and showed them different species of mosquitoes and described our surveillance methods. They asked many questions and had many positive comments about their visit to MMCD.
- MMCD will be hosting Anita Bharadwaja, Vector-borne Epidemiologist, from the South Dakota Department of Health. We will be providing her mosquito and tick vector identification training as well as a day to experience surveillance in the field.

#### **4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

##### **MMCD in the News**

MMCD has been prominently featured in the news over the past two months with stories about excessive mosquitoes in May and early June and subsequent stories about the decline in mosquitoes in late June and July. Here are some of the highlights:

- [Fox 9: Mosquitoes in the Twin Cities area are worse than the 10-year average](#)
- [Kare 11: CDC: Locally acquired malaria cases found in two U.S. states](#)
- [CBS Minnesota: How concerned should Minnesotans be about malaria's spread?](#)
- [Fox 9 Morning: Drought leads to decrease in mosquitoes](#)

##### **Black Fly Video**

Martin, MMCD's new seasonal public affairs assistant, has been helping produce several videos to help educate the public about the work we do. Here is one of the first ones about our black fly program: <https://mmcd.org/2023/07/11/how-mmcd-monitors-and-controls-biting-black-flies/>

##### **Upcoming Events**

We have been busy this summer attending community events, driving in parades, and offering educational programs for kids. Here are some of the events we have coming in the next month:

- July 13th - **Maple Grove Days Parade**
- July 15th - **Belle Plaine BBQ Days Parade**
- July 16th - **Hopkins Raspberry Days Parade**
- July 25th - 30th - **Anoka County Fair**
- July 27th - 30th - **Scott County Fair**
- July 29th - **Rosemount Leprechaun Days Parade**
- August 2nd - 6th - **Washington County Fair**
- August 6th - **Little Canada Canadian Days Parade**
- August 7th - 13th - **Dakota County Fair**
- August 9th - 13th - **Carver County Fair**
- August 11th - 20th - **Game Fair**
- August 12th - **New Brighton Stockyard Days Parade**
- August 19th - **St. Paul Park Heritage Days Parade**
- August 20th - **Vadnais Heights Heritage Days Parade**
- August 20th - **Woodbury Days Parade**
- August 24th - September 4th - **Minnesota State Fair**

#### **5. TICK-BORNE DISEASE**

- This year, in addition to our usual tick surveillance method we are collecting ticks via dragging cloth along vegetation. This method provides an additional measurement of tick-borne disease risk. Also, we will send the ticks to the Centers for Disease Control

(CDC) where they will be tested to determine whether they are infected with any tick-borne diseases, and if so, with which disease(s).

- Be on the lookout for deer ticks, especially the tiny nymphs!
  - Whether the high numbers of larval *Ixodes scapularis* found by MMCD in 2022 had translated into higher Lyme disease risk (as evidenced by yearly Minnesota Lyme case totals) in 2023 is difficult to assess due to various factors. However, we collected large numbers (several hundred) of *I. scapularis* nymphs at one dragging location, which could indicate that the high numbers of larvae collected in 2022 may have increased the risk of acquiring a tick-borne disease in 2023.
  - The *I. scapularis* nymphal peak is typically in mid-June, but the peak could have shifted this year towards or into July. Check for ticks, especially after being out in deer tick habitat of woods and brush.

### **Progress—tick vector field projects:**

The 2023 tick surveillance began on April 24. The first round of sampling was completed on June 23. As of July 15, sampling has been completed on 3/10 routes in our second round of sampling.

Last year's 2022 tick surveillance report is currently being written.

### **Public education efforts**

*Social media, tick alerts.* We will inform our Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/Tik Tok followers of items of interest as they occur.

*Website tick activity estimates.* Our estimate of current deer tick activity levels (low, medium, high) is updated during tick questing periods on our website via the Tick Risk Meter. The meter settings are based on the dynamics of peaks in the general deer tick life cycle bell curve for Minnesota in combination with deer ticks being found on MMCD field staff. Our Tick Risk Meter is currently MEDIUM.

Distribution and/or re-stocking of brochures, tick cards and posters is ongoing.

### **Signage at dog parks and expansion into new areas.**

Signs to remind the public of deer ticks and disease prevention measures have been posted at dog parks and additional locations throughout the metro. For various reasons some signs remain up year-round.