

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District

Commission Meeting

August 23, 2023

9:15 A.M.

Information Packet

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

August 23, 2023, 9:15 A.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome and Introduction

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

3. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for July 26, 2023
4. Financial Statements July 31, 2023
5. Approval of Checks and Claims
General 77729-77876

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
7. Discuss the need to adopt Commission Bylaws*
8. Executive Director’s Report
9. Operations Report (Jon Peterson, Kirk Johnson)
10. Public Affairs Report (Alex Carlson)
11. Other Items
12. Adjournment

* Action Requested

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 9:15 a.m.

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

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

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES
JULY 26, 2023
9:15 A.M.

Secretary Tom Workman called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Anoka County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Carver County
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner Mai Chong Jong	Ramsey County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County

Staff:

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

Visitors:

Joe Langel, MMCD Legal Counsel
Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting
Kim Scott, RCS Consulting
Andy Hering, CPA, Redpath & Company,

Secretary Tom Workman welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Degler offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 1:

The following administrative items were approved in one motion.

Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for March 6, 2023
Financial Statements June 30, 2023
Approval of Checks and Claims. General 77305 - 77728

Commissioner Wolf seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

Intergovernmental Affairs Report

We are currently outside of the regular legislative session when politicians reintegrate into their families and communities, fundraisers abound, and the public starts to see how the new laws (many of which went into effect July 1st) will impact them. Governor Walz signed the omnibus state and local government bill on May 26th, which included the change advocated for by MMCD that removes the requirement that the MMCD director be an entomologist. That law also went into effect July 1st. We transmitted a thank you letter from MMCD to the State and Local Government Chairs, Rep. Klevorn and Sen. Murphy, for their work to ensure that the MMCD provision was included in the state and local government omnibus bill.

The new law that is currently gaining the most attention is recreational marijuana, which goes into effect August 1st. However, marijuana retail stores will not be open until the new state Office of Cannabis Management’s licensing system is up and running, which could take another year.

An interesting development from the House Republican caucus was the launch of a “Suburban Solutions Caucus” by 6 suburban Republican men: Danny Nadeau (District 34A), Mark Wiens (District 41A), Shane Hudella (District 41B), Andrew Myers (District 45A) Ben Bakeberg (District 54B), and Jeff Witte (District 57B). The House Republican Suburban Solutions caucus expressed that they would like to focus on transportation and infrastructure, affordable housing, education, health care, public safety, and environmental quality. The suburban ring around the Twin Cities, and, in particular, suburban women have the ability to swing majorities in the state legislature.

The 2023 legislative session included passage of a \$2.6 billion bonding bill, that included infrastructure projects that had built up over the last three years after the legislature failed to pass a bonding bill during that time. The 2024 session is a typical bonding year, and a bill is already in the works with bonding tours being planned and projects vetted.

The 2024 session will commence February 12th.

Auditor’s Report on MMCD Financial Statements Ending December 31, 2022

Andy Hering, CPA, Redpath & Company, reviewed the results of the audit of MMCD financial statements ending December 31, 2022. He described four aspects of the audit report.

- Opinion on the Fair Presentation of the Financial Statements
- Report on Internal Controls
- Report on Compliance with Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions
- Communication with Those Charged with Governance

Andy reported that the financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in accordance with GAAP which means a totally clean report. Noted that the auditor report does not include any findings, just the compliance.

Andy reported no findings on internal control over financial reporting and reported no legal compliance findings. Andy reported that the District has a net OPEB asset of \$3,977,536. The District's pension liability is \$4,514,419.

Andy stated that as of December 31, 2022, The District's unassigned fund balance was \$25,617,240 which is \$16,604,698 above the minimum defined in the District's Fund Balance Policy (\$9,012,542). This minimum defines the amount of money needed to support cash flow between January and July when the first tax payments are received.

Andy reported that no difficulties were encountered while performing the audit and that there were no disagreements with District management. Andy thanked the MMCD staff for their assistance, especially Arleen Schacht and Jennifer Macchia.

Technical Advisory Board (TAB) Report

Arleen stated that the Technical Advisory Board's Chairperson is normally the person who would provide the Commission with their report and resolutions. Unfortunately, the 2023 Chair, Elizabeth Schiffman, had a conflict and could not be in attendance. She sent her regrets and Mark Smith, Technical Services Manager, provided a report on her behalf.

The TAB was formed in 1981 as a committee to independently review District's operations and enhance inter-agency cooperation. This board included the five required local agencies (MDH, MDA, MnDNR, MDOT, U of MN) and other pertinent organizations such as US EPA, MPCA, USFW, Henn Co. Health, Three Rivers Parks, and others to broaden its perspective. The TAB members are chosen by each organization to best represent the agency in areas that we interact.

This board meets formally once per year to review our annual report and reflect upon our overview presentations. The board provides MMCD with recommendations, assistance, and advice. This board also provides the opportunity to increase communication between these agencies for mutual benefit of all.

The TAB met with MMCD staff on February 7, 2023, to conduct a 2022 operational review and plans for 2023. The TAB appreciates MMCD's professionalism, and MMCD's ongoing efforts to balance public safety with environmental stewardship. MMCD's data-driven strategies ensure that Minnesotans living in, or traveling through, the District are the beneficiaries of professional staff that provide services necessary to protect the public from disease and annoyance caused by mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks, in an environmentally sensitive manner. After an excellent interchange of questions and information between the TAB and MMCD staff, the TAB approved the following resolutions.

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

Resolution 2:

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.

Commissioner Wolf seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

2023 Plans and Initial 2024 Budget and Levy Discussion

Arleen Schacht discussed factors that will have an impact on the 2024 expense budget, which includes weather, employee medical insurance, helicopter services and expansion of services and wages. All of these areas have a potential impact on the 2024 budget and will be reviewed and finalized prior to the December Commission Meeting, when the 2024 final levy and expense budgets are approved.

Approving a 2.5% increase in the 2024 levy (preliminary in July) enables us to observe the impact the weather will have on operations, to continue to plan for service expansion in the coming year and to narrow the gap between the levy and expense budgets. We cannot increase the levy after July, but we can decrease it in December if necessary.

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

Resolution 3

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.

Commissioner Meisner seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

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

Executive Committee Report for May 24, 2023

Arleen Schacht reported on May 22, the legislature passed the bill to change the statutory language, removing the requirement that the MMCD Executive Director be an entomologist.

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. Joe Langel continues to communicate with Anoka County to resolve the issue with ownership of the financed improvements.

Discussed the 2024 levy and budget impacts, and proposals designed to enable the District to provide all desired services in a long-term sustainable manner.

Executive Director's Report

We discussed the District's unassigned fund balance relative to the defined minimum amount required and to consider ways to spend down a portion of the fund balance. The increased unassigned fund balance is due to the drought conditions over the last 3 years and during the pandemic supply chain issues resulted in the inability to continue with the vehicle replacement schedule and put on hold necessary purchases for other equipment and to address capital improvement needs. MMCD still has several vehicles with no air conditioning, a plan is in place to replace those vehicles as soon as possible, as well as a variety of facility capital improvements that need to be addressed.

Operations Report

Jon Peterson reported the weather has continued to be dry for much of this summer again. After a wet spring, we had minimal rain, until last night. Much of the metro is in a moderate to severe drought, causing many wetlands to be dry. To date, we have treated approximately 140,000 larval acres, which is 10,000 more than last year. We have treated approximately 1,600 acres for adult mosquitoes, which is 100 acres less than 2022.

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 888 treatments, treating over 1,182 acres of wetlands. In comparison, during the 2022 season, we made only 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.

Even though it has been dry, our staff have been very busy doing disease work, inspecting and removing tires, containers, and tree holes. They have also been busy treating catch basins throughout the metro area. We have had some meetings and training these past two weeks for all staff, annual Department of Agriculture recertification class and annual AWAIR Safety meeting.

This season continues to go by very quickly. Our Field staff will start leaving the first week of August. By the first part of September, we will begin our *Perturban* inspections.

Mark Smith reported 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.

Technical Services continues to evaluate new technology for increasing efficiency and improving services. Various adult mosquito traps are being tested and reviewed. One of the mosquito traps detects wing beat frequencies of flying insects and has the ability to isolate mosquitoes in the process.

Technical Services is reviewing automation in adult mosquito identification and sorting equipment. This technology is early in development and MMCD is considering the advantages of purchasing this type of equipment. MMCD is looking at ways to assist development in their Midwest mosquito species identification and possibly providing samples to develop computer algorithms for their technology.

Technical Services 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.

Kirk Johnson reported there were 69 cases of WNV reported to the CDC, 43 in the Phoenix area, with zero cases in Minnesota. We found 31 WNV positive mosquito pools of 372 tested – 8.3% (1.4% '22, 1.8% '21), hot temperatures ideal for WNV amplification. Crews are making considerable effort to control *Culex* vectors this year, in catch basins, stormwater structures, wetlands and residential sources.

There has been one case of LAC in West Virginia, no Minnesota illnesses have been identified. To assist with risk reduction staff have eliminated 7,123 tires and 2,151 other habitats. There has been no Jamestown Canyon virus reported in the US. With Spring *Aedes* populations higher this year it could result in rebound of JCV activity. There was one reported EEE human illness, in Louisiana, there has been detections in four other states, including MI.

Drought is resulting in reduction of larval habitat for primary vector (*Cs. melanura*), closely monitoring adult population and expect low numbers for the late summer generations.

Public Affairs Report

MMCD held our annual recertification workshop on July 20th. Over 60 seasonal and full-time staff viewed presentations on safety, integrated pest management, and species updates.

MMCD has received lots of news coverage in 2023 with over 40 stories in local and statewide outlets including new features in Runner’s World, Axios, and Minneapolis St. Paul Magazine.

Vector Ecologist Kirk Johnson was featured in an hour-long segment on MPR News about the role climate change is playing on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne disease.

We have had excellent success at events this year including all the metro county fairs. We are gearing up for the State Fair!

Other Issues

Commissioner Tom Workman adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT						
FINANCIAL STATEMENT						
July 31, 2023						
COUNTY		2023 LEVY	REC'D TO DATE		DUE	
Anoka	\$	1,870,095	976,799	\$	893,296	
Carver		701,043	370,254		330,789	
Dakota		2,540,067	1,337,463		1,202,604	
Hennepin		8,911,594	4,523,846		4,387,748	
Ramsey		2,811,939	1,435,147		1,376,792	
Scott		918,541	481,237		437,304	
Washington		1,666,191	874,627		791,564	
TOTAL	\$	19,419,470	\$	9,999,373	\$	9,420,097
Tax Delinquent Income	\$	0	\$	29,375		
Miscellaneous (Rent/Misc./Non-Levy)		100,000		72,488		
Interest Income		250,000		475,975		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	19,769,470	\$	10,577,211	\$	9,192,259
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>						
<u>ASSETS</u>						
Cash and Investments			\$	29,904,769		
Accounts Receivable				95,749		
Prepaid Expenses				35,573		
Consumable Material				1,251,581		
Equipment net of Acc Depreciation				2,026,707		
Land				1,118,867		
Building net of Acc Depreciation				2,506,144		
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>					\$	36,939,390
<u>LIABILITIES</u>						
Vouchers Payable			\$	495,466		
Pass thru Revenue				0		
Deferred Revenue				95,749		
					\$	591,215
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>						
<u>NET WORTH</u>						
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		
TOTAL			\$	36,397,027		
ADD Income				10,577,211		
DEDUCT Expenditures				10,626,061		
TOTAL NET WORTH					\$	36,348,177
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH					\$	36,939,390

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT					
CUMULATIVE OPERATIONS STATEMENT					
July 31, 2023					
EXPENDITURES		ACTUAL		BUDGET	+OVER/-UNDER
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>					
Operations	\$	583,290			
Capital Items		0			
Repairs		0			
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$	583,290	\$	720,015	\$ (136,725)
<u>CONTROL DIVISION</u>					
Operations	\$	9,211,277			
Capital Items		673,885			
Repairs		157,609			
TOTAL CONTROL DIVISION	\$	10,042,771	\$	12,207,189	\$ (2,164,418)
<u>COMMISSION</u>					
Per Diem	\$	0			
Mileage		0			
TOTAL COMMISSION	\$	0	\$	1,821	\$ (1,821)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	10,626,061	\$	12,929,025	\$ (2,302,964)
BUDGET REMAINING			\$	7,004,849	
ORIGINAL BUDGET			\$	19,933,874	
EMERGENCY FUNDS				0	
TOTAL BUDGET			\$	19,933,874	

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

AUGUST 23, 2023

Requested by:

Arleen Schacht

Informational:

Commission Adopt Bylaws

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, amending the bylaws and include that the District would always employ at least one entomologist, as a staff member of the Technical Services Department. The recommendation was made to help pass the legislative bill, if there was any opposition or concern with amending the language.

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 a thorough search for said bylaws, it was assumed that no bylaws exist and had not been adopted since the start of MMCD in 1958. However, Most recently it was discovered that in 2002 MMCC did create one bylaw which reads:

The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) shall, in concert with its conduct of annual polling of its member counties to determine the specific Commissioner appointments of those counties to the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission (MMCC), request that each county also identify which of the appointees would be their choice as the county's Executive Committee member.

This information will be provided to the MMCC at its annual organizational meeting, by the Business Administrator of MMCD.

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

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

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TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: ARLEEN SCHACHT
RE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
DATE: AUGUST 2023

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

We discussed the District's unassigned fund balance and permission to move forward with a plan spend down a portion of the fund balance, which includes vehicle and equipment purchases, such as a third drone to continue to move forward with the Drone program and truck fogger's, to adulticide and in preparation if the District encounters a disease outbreak and to address capital improvement needs that were tabled during the pandemic.

Vendors on the state contract are unable to make any guarantee that trucks will be available, the purchase order placed in August 2022 for 10 Ford F150's was cancelled due to the inability to complete the order due to a supply issue.

	Facility	Cost		
Building Improvements				
New tile in hall/lunchroom	Plymouth	10,488.58	replace old/worn tile	Done
Paint Exterior	North	10,810.00	Paid 1/2 Down \$5,405	Scheduled
Office Remodel	Jordan	90,000.00	Create full time EE offices	Estimate
Office Remodel	Rosemount	90,000.00	Create full time EE offices	Estimate
Lighting - to LED	Jordan	11,922.22	Retrofit - Interior and garage/shops	Scheduled 4-6 wks
Total		<u>213,220.80</u>		
Vehicles/Equipment Capital				
London Fog - Foggers	Plymouth	86,001.97	Replace old foggers, not working	Purchased
Drone	Plymouth	26,677.00		Purchased
8 Chev/4 Ford/1GMC trucks	varies	499,211.75		Purchased
5 Chev Trucks (from 2022 PO)	varies	167,287.70		Purchased
1 ton truck	Plymouth	65,814.36	Material Truck	Purchased
Trailer (for 1 ton truck)	Plymouth	10,330.00	Material trailer-\$1000 down	Ordered
		<u>779,178.42</u>		
Parking/Drive ways				
New drive way/front parking lot	Jordan	49,334.40	tear out and replace asphalt	scheduled
Resurface driveway & parking lot	Rosemount	26,100.00	Repair, sealcoat	scheduled
New drive way/front parking lot	St. Paul	93,000.00	tear out and replace asphalt	estimate
		<u>168,434.40</u>		
Total		<u>1,160,833.62</u>		

We have 14 remaining trucks that do not have air conditioning, our hope is to continue to find trucks that meet our needs and budget. The Chevrolet Colorado is the preferred truck due to the size. There are several capital improvements not listed that we intend to continue to get quotes, prioritize and plan to complete by 2025.

The Executive Director search is moving along, we received 55 applications, with 9 applicants based on their education, background, and work experience. The applicants were required by August 9 to complete a variety of assessments, including a video interview. During the week of August 15, the candidates were reviewed by the hiring committee and Pat Melvin, and the panel will narrow it down to 4-5 applicants who will be interviewed for the position on Sept 6.

The management team, Arleen Schacht, Jon Peterson, Mark Smith and Alex Carlson have begun visiting with five of the seven facilities to thank seasonal and full-time employees for their excellent service delivery and to have open discussions about overall experience working at MMCD, things they enjoy and asked how we can improve their work experiences, as well as remind them of how important the seasonal staff are to the success of MMCD, encourages them to return next year and to tell their family and friends about the great seasonal work opportunities that MMCD offers, seasonal staff play a critical role in the recruitment efforts.

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

The weather has continued to be dry for the last month. As of August 10th, the seven-county metro is in a severe drought. We did receive 1-3 inches throughout parts of the District from the rain on August 11th – August 14th. We are responding with helicopter treatments in the wetlands where mosquito larvae are found.

Adult mosquito numbers continue to be very low throughout the metro. To date, we have treated 1,691 acres with adult control materials. These treatments have been in response to potential disease vector mosquitoes, high annoyance counts in parks and neighborhoods, and community events. We will continue to monitor our Monday night traps, inspect for disease vector mosquitoes, and treat areas if necessary. We typically inspect and treat the areas around the state fairgrounds leading up to the Minnesota State Fair.

Staff have been busy representing MMCD at county fairs. We had a booth set up at the Dakota, Scott, Carver, Washington, and Anoka County fairs. We also had a booth set up at the Game Fair in Ramsey. Staff are looking forward to representing MMCD at the State Fair at the end of this month.

Field staff are working in a safe manner and are busy completing many tasks. As of August 13th, staff have completed the following:

- Laval Inspections and Treatments
 - o Inspected 8,833 air sites.
 - o Treated 89,639 acres by helicopter
 - o Inspected and/or treated 88,070 ground sites and structures
 - o Treated 18,220 acres by ground
 - o Taken over 10,26 samples

- Adult Inspections and Treatments
 - o Taken 9,748 adult samples
 - o Made 369 treatments
 - o Treated 1,691 acres

- Black Fly Inspections and Treatments
 - o Inspected 582 locations for black flies
 - o Made 117 treatments
 - o Received 2,887 customer calls

As we look towards the end of August, a large group of our seasonal staff will resign and head to college. The remainder of our seasonal staff will switch gears from inspecting and treating for our summer annoyance and vector mosquitoes, to looking for the mosquitoes that over winter, attached to the roots of cattails. Staff have already started to look at these sites and determine if they need to be inspected based on current water levels.

2. TECHNICAL SERVICES

Working with an AMCA group on a mosquito larvicide symposia for the Pan African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA) conference in September. In addition, the Gates Foundation will be meeting with US programs to review possible techniques to improve regional mosquito control.

Working with a PAMCA workgroup to visit MMCD in October to learn about MMCD's regional control program. This group would be touring multiple US programs to gain experience in larviciding methodology and IPM plans.

Conducted a LIDAR flight on various wetlands and vegetation to see if this technology can provide new insights into our topographical data. This drone-based flight may provide information to find unseen mosquito breeding areas and may improve our operational efficiencies.

Dry conditions and lack of adult mosquitoes have inhibited control material evaluations and surveillance equipment testing. If conditions remain dry, some studies may have limited data and may have to be continued in 2024.

Development of new tick field sampling methods have been successful in large parks and wildlife areas. MMCD will work with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to evaluate collected ticks for pathogens of tick-borne illnesses.

Data Systems – all components of the Webster custom data system that Field Technicians use on the phones have been upgraded to the new software base. We are working on ironing out some remaining issues from the upgrade and getting feedback from field staff for improvements. Plans are under way for upgrading sections for lab and virus data entry, field data maintenance and reporting.

Wiki – we have launched an internal wiki to make it easier to get updated information available to all staff, including Field Technicians. The wiki can serve information optimized for phone viewing as well as for PC. It includes initial information on field operations, safety, IPM plans, public affairs, data system use, and some HR support. We plan to expand content this winter.

MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

West Nile Virus

- Seventy-nine of 554 mosquito samples have tested positive for WNV
- Ongoing effort to apply larvicides to wetlands, catch basins and other stormwater management structures to control WNV vectors
- Population of *Culex tarsalis*, the primary vector to humans has remained very low, however, four of 39 samples have tested positive for WNV

La Crosse Encephalitis

- First Minnesota LAC case of the year diagnosed in a Scott County resident
- *Aedes triseriatus* population running near or below weekly averages so far this year
- Inspections for larval habitat have resulted in the elimination of 8,193 tires, 2,292 containers, and 94 tree holes

Eastern Equine Encephalitis

- Low population of vector species, *Culiseta melanura*, in 2023
- Water levels in bog habitats used by *Cs. melanura* will require an extensive wet period to rebound

Jamestown Canyon Virus

- The peak risk period for JCV infections has passed
- Zero JCV cases reported in Minnesota, thus far

3. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Minnesota State Fair

We are busy preparing for the State Fair where we will once again have a booth in the Dairy building. 35 MMCD staff representing every facility are signed up to work. Stop by and say hello!

WCCO Good Question

MMCD was recently the subject of a “Good Question” segment on WCCO. Field Operations Supervisor Brian Feldhake did an excellent job helping provide the answer:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/mosquito-treating-minnesota/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

Drone Video

Martin, our seasonal public affairs assistant, put together a video about how MMCD uses drone technology for mosquito control. Check it out on the MMCD website:

<https://mmcd.org/2023/07/25/how-mmcd-uses-drones-for-mosquito-control-to-save-time-and-improve-safety/>

4. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

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.
- **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.