

**Metropolitan  
Mosquito Control District**

**Commission Meeting**

October 25, 2023

9:15 AM

*Information Packet*

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

October 25, 2023, 9:15 AM

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 August 23, 2023
4. Financial Statements September 30, 2023
5. Approval of Checks and Claims  
General 77877 – 78150

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
7. Executive Committee Report for September 27, 2023
8. Adopt and approve Commission Bylaws\*
9. Approve Executive Director Employment Contract\*
10. Approve 2024-2026 Helicopter Contract\*
11. Review and Discuss Other Post Employment Benefit plan (OPEB)
12. Executive Director’s Report
13. Operations Report – (Jon Peterson, Kirk Johnson, Mark Smith)
14. Public Affairs Report (Alex Carlson)
15. Other Items
16. Adjournment

\* Action Requested

**Next Executive Meeting: Thursday, November 16, 2023, 9:15 a.m.**

**Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

COMMISSIONER	COUNTY	COMMISSIONER	COUNTY
___ Mandy Meisner	Anoka	___ Angela Conley	Hennepin
___ Mike Gamache	Anoka	___ Marion Greene	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**  
AUGUST 23, 2023 - 9:15 AM

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

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Mike Gamache	Anoka County
Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Anoka County
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Carver County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Laurie Halvorson	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Chris LaTondresse	Hennepin County
Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong	Ramsey County
Commissioner Rena Moran	Ramsey County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

**Staff:**

Arleen Schacht, Interim Executive Director, Business Administrator  
Jon Peterson, District Operations Manager  
Kirk Johnson, Vector Ecologist  
Mark Smith, Technical Services Manager  
Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Manager

**Visitors:**

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

Chair Fran Miron welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Kevin Anderson 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 July 26, 2023

Approval of Financial Statements July 31, 2023

Approval of Checks and Claims. General 77729 - 77876

Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong seconded the motion and the Commissioners voted as follows:

Commissioner Mike Gamache	Yes
Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halvorson	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Chris LaTondresse	Yes
Commissioner Rena Moran	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Fran Miron	Yes

### **Intergovernmental Issues**

Much of the political focus is on the national front now. Congressman Dean Phillips confirmed that he will not run against President Biden for President but has not ruled out a future run. There has also been speculation that Governor Walz aspires for a federal position due to his recent appearances stumping for Biden in Iowa and elsewhere.

Tonight’s Republican presidential debate is highly anticipated and controversial because the leading Republican candidate, Donald Trump, declined to participate. The former President believes that voters are already familiar with his performance, so he will instead provide an interview to Tucker Carlson. (There is the additional obligation for Trump to show up in Georgia for his arrest that may be further complicating his schedule.)

Former Minnesota Governor Al Quie died at the age of 99 one week short of his 100th birthday. He served 20 years in Congress and one term as Governor. A moderate Republican known for working across the aisle, he will be missed.

Minnesota Farmfest took place in early August featuring several Minnesota lawmakers, including the Dept. of Agriculture Commissioner Peterson, DNR Commissioner Strommen, Gov. Walz, and Senate Agriculture Chair Aric Putnam who touted their bipartisan success during the legislative session with regard to agriculture policy. Much of the attention at Farmfest, however,

was on the panel discussion with Representatives Emmer, Stauber, Fischbach, Finstad, and Craig about the upcoming federal Farm Bill. Policy issues around pesticides were not brought up as a priority.

Even though Minnesota state representatives are not up for election until November 2024, challengers are starting to surface. Teacher Caleb Steffenhagen announced that he will challenge DFL incumbent Lucy Rehm in the Chaska area for the District 48B seat as the Republican candidate.

Rebate checks of up to \$1,300 per family are being delivered to eligible Minnesotans as part of the legislation passed last session, apparently confusing many. The Dept. of Revenue has received more than 8,000 contacts with questions about the rebate.

### **Commission Bylaws**

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.

The Commission discussed the importance of adopting Bylaws, a sub-committee was formed of Commissioners Anderson, Frethem and Meisner, to establish Bylaws and a recommendation made by the Commission was to ensure the bylaws include a statement in the ‘Purpose’ section that commits that MMCD will continue using a science-based approach to drive control and treatment decisions.

The Bylaws will be presented to adopt at the October 25, 2023, Commission meeting.

### **Executive Director’s Report**

Arleen Schacht reported the status on capital purchases and facility improvements. Due to the pandemic and supply chain issues the District has fallen behind in their vehicle replacement schedule. The issues encountered during the pandemic continue to influence making purchases through the State contract program, with the inability to place and receive vehicle orders. In an effort to get back on track with the vehicle replacement schedule the District made several purchases from local dealerships. Some facility capital improvements were long overdue and

have been started, with completion scheduled by the end of the year. Taking into consideration the health of the fund balance, the timing for these purchases and improvements was warranted.

The hiring of the new Executive Director was moving along, with interviews scheduled for September 6, 2023.

## **Operations Report**

### **Mosquito Control Services**

John Peterson reported the weather has continued to be dry for the last month. As of August 17<sup>th</sup>, the seven-county metro is mostly in a moderate drought, with the very south parts of Scott and Dakota counties being in a severe drought. We did receive 1-3 inches throughout parts of the metro from the rain on August 11<sup>th</sup> – August 14<sup>th</sup>. From this rain, we treated 7,850 acres of wetlands. This week we are treating 12,000 acres around the metro with pre-hatch. These treatments will help with our limited staff in September.

The MMCD drone program has continued to be successful. To date, our drone staff have made 1,113 treatments, treating over 1,470 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, including inspecting and removing tires, containers, and tree holes. They have also been busy treating catch basins throughout the metro area.

During the week around labor day, we will switch gears and start inspecting for our cattail mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are found in our cattail type wetlands. They attach themselves to the roots of the cattail to breathe and survive over winter. For these inspections, our plans are to inspect and treat most, if not all, of the seven-county metro. These inspections will finish around the middle of October.

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.

### **Technical Services**

Mark Smith has been 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 info 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**

Kirk Johnson stated, to date this year, CDC has reported 879 West Nile Virus (WNV) cases in the U.S., two cases in Minnesota in Grant and Nicollet Counties. Twenty-one WNV positive asymptomatic blood donors in Minnesota (8 District residents).

There have been fourteen U.S. La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) cases, one case identified in Minnesota, (Scott County). Inspections for larval habitat have resulted in the elimination of 9,236 tires, 2,324 containers, and 96 tree holes.

Low population of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) vector species, *Culiseta melanura*, in 2023. Collections of *Cs. melanura* have been so low in the District that no samples have been pooled for EEE testing. Water levels in bog habitats used by *Cs. melanura* will require an extensive wet period to rebound

There has been seven U.S. case of Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) reported to the CDC. There have been zero cases reported in Minnesota, with three cases in Wisconsin. The peak risk period for JCV infections has passed.

## **Public Affairs Report**

Alex Carlson reported event season was a success! We had a table at most county fairs and the Game Fair, and we attended several city parades and festivals.

We continued outreach to environmental groups and recently had tables at the Pollinator Festival at Bruce Vento and spoke at the Monarch Joint Venture meetup.

The State Fair begins Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> and we are excited to introduce some new features this year including a Kids Table and an interactive display for people to look up their neighborhood and see what wetlands are being monitored.

We are transitioning into school presentations in the Fall, and we are already booked at several schools in the month of September.

## **Adjournment**

Commissioner Fran Miron adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.



METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT				
FINANCIAL STATEMENT				
September 30, 2023				
COUNTY	2023 LEVY	REC'D TO DATE		DUE
Anoka	\$ 1,870,095	976,800		\$ 893,295
Carver	701,043	370,255		330,788
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
Market Value Credit	0	0		0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 19,419,470</b>	<b>\$ 9,999,375</b>		<b>\$ 9,420,095</b>
Tax Delinquent Income	\$ 0	\$ 29,375		
Miscellaneous (Rent/Misc./Non-Levy)	100,000	109,296		
Interest Income	250,000	634,810		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 19,769,470</b>	<b>\$ 10,772,856</b>		<b>\$ 8,996,614</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>				
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and Investments		\$ 26,171,203		
Accounts Receivable		95,749		
Prepaid Expenses		0		
Consumable Material		594,257		
Equipment net of Acc Depreciation		2,026,707		
Land		1,118,867		
Building net of Acc Depreciation		2,506,144		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>				<b>\$ 32,512,927</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Vouchers Payable		\$ 212,226		
Pass thru Revenue		0		
Deferred Revenue		95,749		
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>				<b>\$ 307,975</b>
<b>NET WORTH</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		10,772,856		
DEDUCT Expenditures		14,964,929		
<b>TOTAL NET WORTH</b>				<b>\$ 32,204,957</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH</b>				<b>\$ 32,512,927</b>

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT					
CUMULATIVE OPERATIONS STATEMENT					
September 30, 2023					
EXPENDITURES		ACTUAL		BUDGET	+OVER/-UNDER
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>					
Operations	\$	773,673			
Capital Items		0			
Repairs		0			
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>773,673</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>941,558</b>	<b>\$ (167,885)</b>
<u>CONTROL DIVISION</u>					
Operations	\$	12,484,226			
Capital Items		1,344,742			
Repairs		362,288			
<b>TOTAL CONTROL DIVISION</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,191,256</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,963,247</b>	<b>\$ (1,771,991)</b>
<u>COMMISSION</u>					
Per Diem	\$	0			
Mileage		0			
<b>TOTAL COMMISSION</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>\$ (2,382)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,964,929</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>16,907,187</b>	<b>\$ (1,942,258)</b>
<b>BUDGET REMAINING</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>3,026,687</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 DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 27, 2023  
9:15 a.m.

Chair Fran Miron called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m.

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Anoka County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Rena Moran	Ramsey County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County

**Staff:**

Arleen Schacht, Interim Executive Director/Business Administrator  
Cassie Sweeney-Truitt, Administrative Assistant

**Visitors:**

Kim Scott, RCS Consulting

Chair Fran Miron welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes for May 24, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting**

Commissioner Kevin Anderson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**Resolution 1:**

**Resolved**, that the May 24, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Mike Gamache seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

## **Intergovernmental Issues**

The crisis of the day is the possibility of a federal government shutdown. As to how a shutdown may impact Minnesota, there could be delays in reimbursement of federal funds and, in the agriculture sector, negotiations around the next Farm Bill will be delayed, among many other impacts. Congress has until Sunday to figure out an agreement.

In Minnesota, this week saw the appointment and resignation of its first cannabis management director, Sen. Tina Smith canceled events this week after coming down with COVID, and the United Auto Workers' picket lines have expanded to Plymouth. Since we last met, Rep. Brian Daniels, a Republican from Faribault, and Heather Edelson, a Democrat from Edina, have both announced that they will not be running for reelection to the Legislature in the next election.

The upcoming session is a bonding year, but there may be a supplemental budget—we will know more when the November forecast comes out. The revenue forecasts are expected to be more predictive this year than they were during the height of COVID when revenues were difficult to predict. There is a lot of pre-work happening to have legislation ready to go out the gate in February. The DFL is very aware of the opportunity that exists with the DFL trifecta and does not want to squander that opportunity. The Republicans have been talking a lot about the need to fix mistakes when they come back in February and also to address permitting reform.

Thinking about how the upcoming 2024 legislative session will affect MMCD, PFAS (Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, which are chemicals that resist grease, oil, water, and heat) are being discussed as they relate to pesticides. This would be a good time to review the types of pesticides that MMCD utilizes to understand whether any contain PFAS and to consider the risks or benefits (both politically and otherwise of continuing their use).

## **Approval of Bylaws**

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.

Statute § 473.703 Subd. 8. Bylaws. The commission may adopt bylaws to regulate its own proceedings.

Bylaws will be created and include in the 'Purpose', to continue to use science-based data to drive the control operations, to commit to employ at least one entomologist at all times, and to add the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) as a required advisory board. The committee requested a letter be sent to the TAB so ensure MMCD's is taking steps to satisfy the concern brought up by the TAB when changing the statute.

Commissioner Kevin Anderson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**Resolved:**

The Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the full commission to accept the Bylaws as amended, to include a letter sent to the Technical Advisory Board.

Commissioner Mike Gamache seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

### **Executive Director Selection**

The hiring committee discussed with the Executive Committee the hiring and interviewing process and candidate they chose, providing in detail the reasoning behind their decision, and what they believe the candidate can contribute to the District. They will begin working on an employment contract that will be provided at the October 25, 2023, Commission Meeting for approval.

### **Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB)**

Arleen Schacht provided information related to the Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) Trust fund, requesting the permission to review the current plan, and work with VIA Actuarial Solutions to conduct an evaluation showing the impact on the trust if the plan provisions were changed to include all employees. According to the plan provisions, only employees that were hired prior to January 1, 2008, are eligible (19 of 53 employees).

After a lengthy discussion, the Executive Committee approved to move forward with the review and to include on the October 25, 2027, commission meeting more detailed information about the trust and the results of the review.

Commissioner Mike Gamache made a motion, to support the consideration of including all employees in a post-employment benefit, to be determined after review of more detailed information, and further discussion at the full Commission meeting on October 25, 2023

Commissioner Rena Moran seconded the motion.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Arleen Schacht worked with the Bylaws sub-committee to establish the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission Bylaws and presented them for review of the Executive Committee.

Provided information related to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB), an irrevocable trust, showing the current value of the trust, stating that the trust investments are managed by PERA, and the plan provisions are administered by MMCD. Every other year, to comply with GASB 74/75, the District is required to have a full actuarial evaluation conducted, which is performed by VIA Actuarial Solutions.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Commissioner Fran Miron adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

OCTOBER 25, 2023

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**Requested by:**

Arleen Schacht

**Informational:**

Recommendation to approve Bylaws

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**Background:**

Bylaws are adopted to serve as an operational document that can include operating procedures, specific rules on conducting business, officer processes, authority of specific groups or positions as well as staff structure requirements.

Earlier this year, the Commission submitted a bill to the Legislature to remove the statutory requirement that the Executive Director be an entomologist.

The language change caused some concern with the Technical Advisory Board (TAB), some members of which felt strongly that changing the Executive Director requirements may lead to the District control programs no longer would use a science-based approach.

The Commission agreed to adopt Bylaws providing that the District would always employ at least one professional entomologist, as a staff member of the Technical Services Department.

In addition, the Bylaws will also include an Article that acknowledges the Technical Advisory Board, it's membership and purpose.

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

OCTOBER 25, 2023

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**Requested by:**

Arleen Schacht

**Action Requested:**

Adoption of the Metropolitan Mosquito  
Control Commission Bylaws

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**Resolution:**

**Whereas**, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission (MMCC) is the governing body of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD); and;

**Whereas**, the MMCC may, at its option, formulate and adopt bylaws for its own internal operations; and;

**Whereas**, the recent removal of the statutory requirements for the Executive Director to be an entomologist was predicated in part on adopting bylaws addressing the need for a staff entomologist.

**Be It Now Resolved** that the following Bylaws be approved for its adoption.

### BYLAWS OF METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

#### ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: **Name:** The name of the organization shall be Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD).

Section 2: **Purpose:** The purpose of the organization:

Created to control the impact of mosquitoes, ticks, and black flies (Simuliidae) on human populations in the metropolitan area. Committed to using scientific data, research, integrated pest management (IPM) principles, and best management practices to drive control and treatment decisions. The area of the district is the metropolitan area defined in Minnesota Statute section 473.121.

#### ARTICLE II – COMMISSION



The Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission (MMCC) is the governing body of the District. MMCC is governed by Minnesota Statute section 473.703.

### ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

The Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission conducts their meetings under Robert’s Rules of Order and the majority of the voting power shall be a quorum, and any motion other than adjournment shall be favored by a majority of the voting power.

**Section 1 - January organizational meeting.** The MMCC shall meet on the first Thursday after the first Monday in January of each year to select the officers of the commission and the executive committee members for the current year and to conduct such other organizational business as may be necessary.

The MMCD shall, in concert with its conduct of annual polling of its member counties to determine the specific Commissioners appointments of those counties to the MMCC, request that each county also identify which of the appointees would be their choice as the county’s Executive Committee Member.

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

**Section 2 – Monthly meetings.** The commission and/or the executive committee shall meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, with the exception of November, to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday and December to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday.

**Section 3 – Truth and Taxation Meeting.** The meeting scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in December is a Truth and Taxation meeting, to be held in the evening and open to the public.

**Section 4 – Special Meetings, Notice.** The Chair of the Commission or Committee must deliver written notice of a special meeting to each member of the Commission or Committee using official e-mails at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time of such meeting as specified in the notice.

### ARTICLE IV – COMMITTEES

**Section 1 – Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee is made up of three officers plus one member from each of the counties not represented by an officer. The Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving fiscal procedures, proposed levy and budgets and make recommendations to the full commission for approval.

**Section 2 - Officers.** Commission officers shall be elected on a rotating schedule so that no commissioner holds the same office as a commissioner from their county held in the previous year and a commissioner from each county holds each office every seven years.

Section 4 – **Other Committees.** The MMCC may create ad hoc committees as needed.

#### ARTICLE V – ADVISORY BOARD

Section 1 – **Technical Advisory Board (TAB).** The TAB acts in an advisory capacity to the MMCC and the Executive Director. Board membership is required by five agencies (Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and the University of Minnesota’s Department of Entomology). The goal is to have relevant expertise, understanding, and pertinent experience to review District programs on an annual basis and provide recommendations on operational plans.

#### ARTILCE VI – DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Section 1 - **Listed here.** The commission shall have the powers and duties set forth in this section and as otherwise provided by law.

Section 2 - **Control programs.** It may undertake control programs in the district in accordance with expert and technical plans.

Section 3 – **Entomologist.** The commission must ensure that the organization employs at least one professional entomologist as part of the control program.

#### ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – **Amendments.** These bylaws may be amended with a 30-day notice and majority vote.

#### Certification

These bylaws were approved at a meeting of the commission on October 25, 2023

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ [date]



Website: [www.mmcd.org](http://www.mmcd.org)

Metro Counties Government Center      Phone: 651-645-9149  
2099 University Avenue West              FAX: 651-645-3246  
Saint Paul, MN 55104-3431                TTY use Minnesota Relay Service

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October 11, 2023

TO: Elizabeth Schiffman, Chairperson, Technical Advisory Board,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission, (MMCC) I would like to take this opportunity to address the concern brought up by members of the Technical Advisory Board, and their recommendation to not remove the requirement that the Director be an entomologist. As you may be aware, the request to remove that requirement from statute passed. The MMCC values the relationship and expertise that the TAB provides and would like to share the steps that have been taken to ensure that the control program MMCD uses continues to maintain a science-based program.

The MMCC has established bylaws to include using science in operational decisions in the purpose statement and the requirement to employ at a minimum of one entomologist. Currently the Entomologist and Assistant Entomologist positions at MMCD both have met this qualification of a degree in Entomology and our Vector Ecologist is a board-certified entomologist. An Article was added that identifies the requirement to have a Technical Advisory Board. This board is to conduct annual reviews of the control programs, to provide input, to aid in its direction, and provide recommendations to the District.

MMCD will continue to collaborate with the TAB, other organizations, and industry. We will strive to be innovative, sensitive to our environment, and to develop new treatment strategies that will enhance and expand services to the constituents of the seven-county Metro area.

Thank you for your support.

*Arleen Schacht*

Interim Executive Director/Business Administrator  
Metropolitan Mosquito Control District  
Email: [aschacht@mmcd.org](mailto:aschacht@mmcd.org)  
Direct 651-643-8361

Enclosures: Bylaws, Entomologist/Assistant Entomologist job descriptions

**Metropolitan Mosquito Control District - Technical Advisory Board**

2099 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55104

651-645-9149 [www.mmcd.org](http://www.mmcd.org)

**The Technical Advisory Board (TAB)** is an independent advisory board to the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission (MMCC) and is composed of member agencies with representatives appointed by the agency.

The TAB was formed in 1981 by the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission to provide annual independent review of the field control programs and to enhance inter-agency cooperation. In addition, the TAB was created to facilitate compliance with Minnesota State Statute 473.716 Cooperation with other agencies; advisors:

“Subdivision 2. The commissioners of agriculture, of natural resources, of transportation, the commissioner of Minnesota department of health, the head of the department of entomology and economic zoology of the University of Minnesota shall act in an advisory capacity to the metropolitan mosquito control commission and the director of the said commission shall furnish to each of these departments a copy of the operational plan and pertinent technical reports of said district.”

**TAB Authority:** The TAB is an advisory board and as such has no direct authority over the actions of MMCD or MMCC, although member agencies may have authority over particular activities. Subdivision 2 mandates only mutual communication and understanding.

**TAB Meetings:** The TAB meets once each year, usually in mid-February. Additional meetings may be arranged if desired.

**TAB Purpose:** The TAB goal is to have relevant expertise, understanding, and pertinent experience to review District programs on an annual basis and provide recommendations on operational plans. To evaluate the technical merits of the MMCD programs as described in the annual operational review, and make suggestions to staff and recommendations to the MMCC regarding the program and future operations reports.

**TAB Membership:** Membership in the TAB derives from two main sources, subdivision 2 (marked with an asterisk below) and the actions of the MMCD Director, in the 1980s designed to increase diversity in the TAB. Designation of members from agencies not named in subdivision 2 is at the discretion of MMCD. (below on right). Inclusion of such members will be justified by the relationship between the agency they represent and MMCD, and the expertise of the member in subjects deemed by MMCD to potentially significantly impact mosquito control programs.

Agency

Mn Dept. of Agriculture\*  
Mn Dept. of Natural Resources\*  
Mn Dept. of Transportation\*  
Mn Dept. of Health\*  
University of Minnesota\*

Agency

Mn Pollution Control (PCA)  
US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Hennepin Co. Community Health  
Three Rivers Park District

**Member Selection:** The MMCD Director will request that the Commissioner of an Agency named in subdivision 2 recommend a representative to serve on the TAB. Other potential members will be contacted directly by the MMCD Director or Technical Services Manager.

**Designation of the TAB Chair:** The TAB Chair will rotate among the members representing agencies designated in subdivision 2.

**Responsibilities of the TAB Chair:** The TAB Chair will facilitate TAB meetings and coordinate with MMCD Technical Services Manager. Each year the Chair will attend one MMCC meeting (usually April) and present an annual report from the TAB to the MMCC.

**Subcommittees/Membership:** MMCD may desire more frequent TAB input about some issues, especially research projects. MMCD may request that a subcommittee including TAB members be formed to provide ongoing review and feedback.

**Subcommittees/Meeting Schedule:** To be determined by the subcommittee Chair, as deemed necessary.

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

OCTOBER 25, 2023

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**Requested by:**

Arleen Schacht

**Action Request:**

Renewal of Helicopter Services 2024-2026  
Contract

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**Background:**

The District uses contracted helicopter services to make control material applications in mosquito breeding sites throughout the District. The District has been contracting for multiple year services. Contracts covering 2018-2020 and 2021-2023 have helped the District develop multiyear budget plans that meet service delivery needs.

Scott's Helicopter Services has proposed to renew the current contract with no changes except for a price increase of 10 % based upon increased insurance premiums, fuel prices and operating costs. Prices last increased three years ago and have been steady since 2021.

<b>Aerial Application – Six Helicopters with Upgraded GIS Systems</b>	<b>Per Year</b>	<b>Three-Year Contract</b>
Proposed Rates (2024-26)	\$2,351,000.00	\$7,053,000.00
Current Rate (2021-23)	\$2,114,260.00	\$6,342,780.00

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

### SECOND AMENDMENT TO AERIAL APPLICATION CONTRACT

The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (“District”) and Scott’s Helicopter Services, Inc. (“Scott’s”) (collectively, “the Parties”) hereby amend their Aerial Application Contract dated April 1, 2018, as amended April 1, 2021.

**Whereas**, the Parties entered into an initial contract for aerial application of mosquito control products on or about April 1, 2018, for a term of three years; and

**Whereas**, the Parties extended the initial contract for another three years on or about April 1, 2021, with modified terms of compensation; and

**Whereas**, the Parties wish to extend the initial contract, as modified, for another three years pursuant to this Second Amendment.

**Now, therefore**, the Parties agree as follows:

1. All terms of the initial contract, as amended, remain unchanged except as provided herein.
2. Section 2.01, Compensation, is replaced with the following: The District shall compensate Scott’s as referenced in the Contract Specifications and Proposal Sheet. Minimum compensation to be paid to Scott’s by the District for products/services provided under this contract shall be 75% of \$1,763,250.00, as reflected in the submitted 2024 Proposal Sheet attached hereto as Exhibit A.
3. Section 3.01, Term, is replaced with the following: The provisions of the contract shall be renewed effective April 1, 2024, and shall terminate on October 31, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this contract amendment to be executed by the undersigned duly authorized representatives.

[Signatures on the following page.]

SCOTT'S HELICOPTER SERVICE, INC.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO  
CONTROL DISTRICT

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Churchill

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fran Miron, Chair

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved by Commission: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



**PROPOSAL SHEET (6 helicopters with Upgrade)**

NAME OF FIRM: Scott's Helicopter Services Inc.  
TELEPHONE: 507-665-4064

To supply six (6) helicopters for aerial application of mosquito control materials for a three year period (2024, 2025 2026) to the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District in accordance with the specifications attached.  
This proposal includes an upgrade of AgNav GPS guidance system (according to specifications - section 4).

APPLICATION CATEGORY	ANTICIPATED ACREAGE	BID PER ACRE	EXTENDED AMOUNT (bid purpose only)
5.0 lb/ac CORN COB GRANULE	100,000	\$ 10.35	\$ 1,035,000.00
8.0 lb/ac CORN COB GRANULE	80,000	\$ 11.60	\$ 928,000.00
10.0 - 20 lb/ac CORN COB GRANULE	100	\$ 15.00	\$ 1,500.00
2.5-5.0 lb/ac GRANULAR LARVICIDE	30,000	\$ 10.35	\$ 310,500.00
5.5-10.0 lb/ac GRANULAR LARVICIDE	0	\$ 12.50	\$ 0.00
15-20.0 lb/ac GRANULAR LARVICIDE	4,000	\$ 19.00	\$ 76,000.00
1 gal/acre LIQUID LARVICIDE	0	\$ 14.00	\$ 0.00
**10.0 fl. oz. ULV INSECTICIDE CONCENTRATE	--	\$ 0.00	

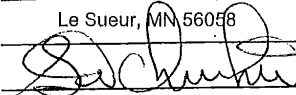
TOTAL ACRES 214,100

TOTAL 2,351,000.00

\* It is expressly understood that the MMCD will make the bid decision based on the application category bid, and will guarantee to the successful bidder 75% of the total of this column.  
\*\* ULV applications would only be needed if a mosquito-disease outbreak or exotic species infestation were to occur.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE TO BE ENCLOSED AS PART OF THIS PROPOSAL:

1. Insurance policies or affidavits
2. Performance bonds or affidavits
3. Insurance coverage exceptions, if any
4. Aircraft availability exemptions, if any
5. Minnesota Human Rights Compliance (or exemptions)
6. Information on GPS & Navigation system on aircraft.

NAME OF FIRM: Scott's Helicopter Services Inc.  
ADDRESS: 780 S Elmwood Avenue  
Le Sueur, MN 56058  
SIGNATURE:   
TITLE: President  
DATE: 9/21/2023

**ORIGINAL**

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
CONTRACT FOR PROVISION OF PRODUCTS/SERVICES**

**THIS CONTRACT** is entered into this April 1, 2018, between the **METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT**, ("District"), and **Scott's Helicopter Services Inc**, ("Scott's").

**I. SCOPE OF SERVICES**

The District agrees to contract with Scott's for the provision of aerial application of mosquito control products, and Scott's agrees to provide in a satisfactory and proper manner, the products/services specified in the "Aerial Application Contract Specification" which is attached to and made a part of this contract, as directed by District. Scott's must adhere to local, state and federal laws governing the services included in the contract.

**II. COMPENSATION: METHOD OF PAYMENT**

2.01 Compensation. The District shall compensate Scott's as referenced in the Contract Specification and Proposal Sheet. Minimum compensation to be paid to Scott's by the District for products/services provided under this contract shall be \$1,465,556.25 each year for the period of April 1 to October 31, as reflected in the submitted bid Proposal Sheet (Exhibit A) and bid specifications.

2.02 Method of Payment.

- A. The District shall prepay the contract as follows:
  - 1.) April 15                      \$100,000
  - 2.) May 15                        \$400,000
  - 3.) June 15                        \$400,000
  - 4.) July – Oct                    pay under established contract guidelines below.
- B. Starting July 1, Scott's shall submit to the District a bi-monthly (15<sup>th</sup> and final day of a month) written invoice including a detailed listing of products provided/services performed and/or conducted under the contract.
- C. Upon verification and acceptance by the District's authorized agent of each bi-monthly invoice, if any, the District shall pay Scott's the invoiced amount.
- D. Any charges for services over the established pre-payments during the months of April – June, will be reconciled, agreed upon by both parties and paid in one payment prior to October 31 of the contract year.
- E. In the event that services rendered and invoiced in a calendar year do not meet the minimum compensation amount of the contract prior to October 15 of that year, the remaining balance of the guaranteed compensation for that year

will be paid by October 31st of that year.

### III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

3.01 Term. The provisions of this contract shall commence on April 1, 2018, and shall terminate on October 31, 2020.

3.02 Renewal. This contract may be renewed (up to two times with a maximum of six additional years) with the mutual agreement of both parties evidenced in writing. A written addendum to this contract must be completed, agreed upon and signed by both parties for a renewal to be engaged. This addendum must be completed and signed by both parties by December 20, 2020. The District reserves the right to offer this renewal and will determine if it is in its best interest to extend this offer by December 10, 2020. If both parties do not agree to a written renewal addendum, this three-year contract will end October 31, 2020.

3.03 Work Product. The client-specific content, as well as the form and structure, of all reports, data, materials, information and other work products prepared by Scott's in connection with the provision of services contemplated, shall become the property of the District.

3.04 Amendments. The entirety of the parties' agreement is expressed within this contract and its attachments, and the terms of the parties' agreement may be changed only by mutual agreement of the parties. Such changes shall be effective only on the execution of written amendment(s) signed by the District and Scott's.

3.05 Assignability. It is recognized that one of the District's inducements to enter into this contract is Scott's unique combination of training, experience, and knowledge in the field(s) of aerial application of mosquito control products. As such, Scott's agrees not to assign or transfer this contract without receiving the prior express written consent of the District. Nothing in this provision, however, is intended to limit or restrict in any way, Scott's freedom to hire, train, and utilize as it sees fit, any assistant(s), agent(s), employee(s), representative(s), contractor(s), or service(s).

3.06 Audits and Inspection. Scott's agrees to keep and maintain during the performance of this contract and for a period of three years following its completion, records and files relating to the final financial aspects of this contract including, if applicable, payrolls, time records, invoices, receipts, and vouchers, and other records and files relating to the services performed. Scott's further agrees to allow the District, its designated agents, or appropriate federal or state personnel to enter on its premises, at reasonable and mutually agreed to time(s), to inspect, copy and/or audit the above records, and files, and inspect and review, if applicable, Scott's equal employment opportunity and affirmative action programs.

3.07 District's Authorized Agent. The District's authorized agent for purposes of administration of this contract is its Business Administrator.

3.08 Conflict of Interest. Scott's certifies that, to the best of its knowledge, no employee,

official, or officer of the District or other agency interested in the contract, has any pecuniary interest in its business or in the contract. Further, that no person associated with Scott's has any interest that would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of the contract. Finally, that Scott's is an Independent Contractor and not an employee of the District and, therefore, is not entitled to any of the benefits of employment from the District.

3.09 Equal Employment Opportunity Affirmative Action Targeted Group Businesses. Scott's agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations as they relate to Equal Employment Opportunity and/or Affirmative Action.

3.10 Liability. Scott's agrees to indemnify and save and hold the District, its agents, officials, officers, and employees harmless from any and all claims or causes of action arising from the performance of this contract by Scott's or its agents and employees. This clause shall not be construed to bar any legal remedies that Scott's may have pursuant to this contract. Scott's shall provide, on demand, applicable certificates of insurance for workers compensation and/or general liability naming the District as an additional insured.

3.11 Termination of Contract. The District shall have the right to terminate this contract on ten (10) days written notice if Scott's has breached any of the covenants, agreements or stipulations in this contract. Provided, however, should Scott's object to the termination of the contract due to an alleged breach of any of the covenants, agreements or stipulations of the contract, the District and Scott's shall enter into negotiation in an effort to resolve the disagreement. In either event, on the termination of this contract, all finished and unfinished reports, data, materials, information, and other work products prepared by Scott's pursuant to this contract shall become the property of the District and Scott's will be paid for the acceptable products provided/services performed up to the date of the contract termination. Notwithstanding the above, neither party shall be relieved of liability to the other for damages sustained by virtue of any breach of the contract.

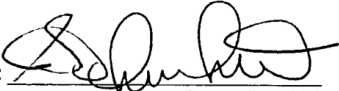
3.12 Prompt Payment of Subcontractors. Scott's agrees to pay any subcontractor within ten (10) days of its receipt of payment from the District for undisputed services provided by the subcontractor.

3.13 Interpretation. Scott's and District agree that the terms and conditions of this contract shall be governed by and interpreted under Minnesota law. In the event that any provision(s) of this contract are held to be contrary to law by a court of proper jurisdiction from whose final judgment, decree, or order no appeal has been taken within the time provided, each provision(s) shall be deemed void. All other provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this contract to be executed by the undersigned duly authorized representative on the day and year first above written.

Scott's Helicopter Service, Inc.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO  
CONTROL DISTRICT

By:   
Scott Churchill

By:   
MMCD Commission Chairperson

Title: President

By:   
MMCD Business Administrator

Dated: 5/23/18

Date Approved by Commission: 6/13/18

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## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

SEPTEMBER OCTOBER 25, 2023

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**Requested by:**

Arleen Schacht

**Informational:**

Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB)  
Discussion

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OPEB – Other Post Employment Benefit- benefits that state and local governments give to their employees at retirement, other than their pension. MMCD is the plan administrator of the OPEB plan, (irrevocable trust), and PERA is the trust administrator.

Prior to 2007, MMCD had a number of employees that were grandfathered in as Rule of 90 (started prior to 1989) it appears the District may have had some type of post employee benefit for those employees, In October 2007, the Commission resolved that all employees hired prior to January 1, 2008, would be eligible to participate in the post-employment benefit, the Commission wanted to ensure that the plan did not exclude any employees currently employed at the time.

In November 2008 the District entered into an agreement with OPEB and PERA, and in December of 2008 made a deposit of \$1,085,229 into the trust fund. As of September 30, 2023, the fund balance is \$5,216,078, there is no evidence found that MMCD made any contributions to the fund, all increases are based on investment activity. Because the fund is an irrevocable trust, the only use of these funds is for post-employment benefits.

Currently only 19 of 53 (36%) of the employees were hired prior to January 1, 2008. There are 3 tiers of eligibility to receive 100% of the employer contribution upon retirement to age 65.

Rule of 90

Age 58 with 20 years of service

Third tier of eligibility to receive 50% of the employer contribution upon retirement to age 65.

Rule of 75

A request was made to the Executive Committee at the September 27, 2023, meeting to review the plan provisions, and permission to have an actuarial evaluation conducted, adding another tier of eligibility to include all current employees. With permission from the Executive Committee VIA Actuarial Solutions conducted an evaluation using the current eligible employee and using a new ‘hypothetical’ tier of eligibility, hired after January 1, 2008, and receive 100% employer contribution

Age 60 with 5 years of service (This tier was added for evaluation purposes only)

The actuarial evaluation showed that the fund is 875% overfunded, the current liability is \$493K for all eligible employees upon retirement to age 65. Adding the new 'hypothetical' tier the liability would increase to \$545K or 10.34% of the fund. GASB 74/75 requires a full actuarial evaluation be completed every 2 years, so any plan changes could be reviewed at that time.

The request to review the plan was due to the significant value of the fund, the benefit is underutilized and very few employees are eligible, by making plan provision changes, more employees would be eligible for the benefit upon retirement.

**TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS**  
**FROM: ARLEEN SCHACHT**  
**RE: INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**  
**DATE: OCTOBER 2023**

**1. DIRECTOR’S INITIATIVES**

**Health Care**

2023 was the second year of a two-year agreement with PEIP, the District’s current medical insurance provider. In August we went out for bids in the open market. Unfortunately, due to our size and claims history the District is not necessarily the most sought-after group by insurance companies, so very pleased to see 2 bids, in addition to a renewal quote from PEIP. All the rates were very similar, but after comparing plan details, including deductible, out-of-pocket expense and Rx, Sourcewell, (Health Partners), offers a much better overall benefit.

As mentioned previously, the District is falling behind in the employer contribution compared to similar size entities and other local governments.

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% (\$543) for individual plans and 57% (\$1,019) for family plans, significantly less than the market, with the current budget of \$373K. Currently 33 of the 53 full time employees participate in the Districts health plan, primarily due to finding more affordable coverage under a spouse or another plan.

To remain competitive in the job market and for employee retention the District needs to take steps to narrow the gap by increasing the employer contribution over the next few years.

For 2024, increase the District’s monthly contribution for individual plans to 76% (\$643) and for family plans to 63% (\$1,193). Increasing the employer contribution, the District may see an increase in the number of employees that enroll, with many possible scenarios, could impact the budget from 24% to 128%. For example, if the employee enrollment for 2024 is the same as 2023 the impact on the budget would be about 24%, however, if all employees enrolled for 2024 the impact on the budget would be about 128%, not likely but a possibility.

**Other initiatives**

Arleen Schacht reached out to Mark Smith and Jon Peterson to inquire if PFAS is in the pesticides the MMCD uses in their control program. According to Mark Smith, Technical Services Manager, in 2021 one of the Districts vendors, found that their product contained



PFAS due to the plastic jugs they were using. The production contamination was found in some East Coast mosquito product testing and the vendor issued an immediate recall and replaced all their containers on all their products with non-PFAS packaging. The District had all their products replaced at no charge. Currently our vendors confirm no type of container they use can contaminate any of the products the District uses.

To date, in 2023 the District has purchased 27 trucks, totaling \$1,019,296, bringing the number of trucks with no air conditioning down to 9. The UAW workers strike has impacted the plant that makes Colorado's, so the District likely will not find any of that model truck for the remainder of the year. Some facilities have requested full size trucks, based on availability we will determine whether to purchase them in 2023 or wait until 2024, and utilize that capital budget.

The office remodel at the Jordan and Rosemount facilities are underway, and the new parking lots at Jordan and St. Paul have been completed.

## 2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

The weather has continued to be mainly dry the last month. However, the rain we did receive in mid-September and middle of October has improved the drought status in parts of the metro. As of October 12<sup>th</sup>, about half of the seven-county metro has moved from the severe to moderate drought status. We will continue to monitor the drought, as it can have an impact on water levels in wetlands and how many mosquitoes we may see in the spring and into the summer of 2024.

Field staff have completed inspecting the cattail sites. They had excellent weather to do this work in a timely manner. We were able to check almost all the wetlands that have been identified as potential habitats for the cattail mosquito, throughout the District's area. Similar to last season, many of the wetlands were very muddy or dry again. Preliminary numbers suggest we found approximately 18,000 acres breeding this year, about 1,500 acres less than last year. In September, we treated 8,000 acres by helicopter and 57 of those acres by drone with Vectolex, most of the remaining acres will be treated next spring. The District's drone program has completed treatments for the year. Overall, the program was very successful in 2023. With the drones' staff made 1,237 treatments totaling 1,650 acres, 1,300 more acres treated than 2022. We are in the process of purchasing a third drone for 2024 which will allow MMCD to expand our drone treatments to a third facility. Field staff have completed field inspections and treatments. As of October 15<sup>th</sup>, staff have completed the following:

- Laval Inspections and Treatments
  - Inspected 11,576 air sites
  - Treated 117,489 acres by helicopter
  - Inspected and/or treated 104,000 ground sites and structures
  - Treated over 19,000 acres by ground
  - Taken over 11,700 samples

- Adult Inspections and Treatments
  - Taken over 9,600 adult samples
  - Made 377 treatments
  - Treated 1,902 acres
- Black Fly Inspections and Treatments
  - Inspected 626 locations for black flies
  - Made 121 treatments
- Customer calls
  - Received 3,095 customer calls

The last day for the seasonal staff was Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. They worked in an efficient, effective, and safe manner again this season. The number of personal and vehicle incidents were comparable to last year, remaining low, showing staffs dedication to working safely in the field. Feedback during exit interviews showed staff enjoyed working for MMCD and enjoyed the work they do.

Field Operations Supervisors are now focusing on updating field maps, equipment repair, and team meetings. They will continue doing the mapping in the field until the cold, snow, and ice stop them.

### 3. TECHNICAL SERVICES

Mark E. Smith attended the Pan African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA) meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from September 15-22. The American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) contingent put on a successful symposium on Larval Source Management. The presentations were well attended and represented by multiple agencies from around the US. The AMCA team answered many questions and met with the PAMCA leadership & Gates Foundation. The AMCA is focused on providing educational opportunities and training to the African organizations.

In 2024 PAMCA/AMCA workgroup to visit MMCD to learn about MMCD's regional control program. This group would be touring multiple US programs to gain experience in larviciding methodology and IPM principles.

Working with the AMCA group to develop an employee exchange program to further develop the exchange of ideas and methods between US agencies. This program would have staff visit and work with other agencies to understand their operations of the individual organizations. Many innovations are developed in mosquito control programs to address the various species and unique habitats found around the country.

Continuing new tick field sampling methods on adult ticks 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.

## MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

### West Nile Virus

- 1,776 U.S. WNV cases reported to CDC
- Fourteen Minnesota cases reported to CDC
- Six District cases (Anoka – 2, Hennepin – 2, Dakota – 1, Washington – 1)
- Forty-three WNV positive blood donors in Minnesota (19 District residents)
- 129 WNV positive mosquito samples of 818 tested in District

### La Crosse Encephalitis

- Eighteen U.S. LAC cases
- One Minnesota LAC case (Scott Co.)
- Inspections for larval habitat have resulted in the elimination of 10,860 tires, 2,332 containers, and 96 tree holes

### Eastern Equine Encephalitis

- Seven cases reported to CDC from four states (AL, FL, GA, LA)
- EEE detected in 17 states
- Collections of *Cs. melanura* were so low in the District that no samples were pooled for EEE testing

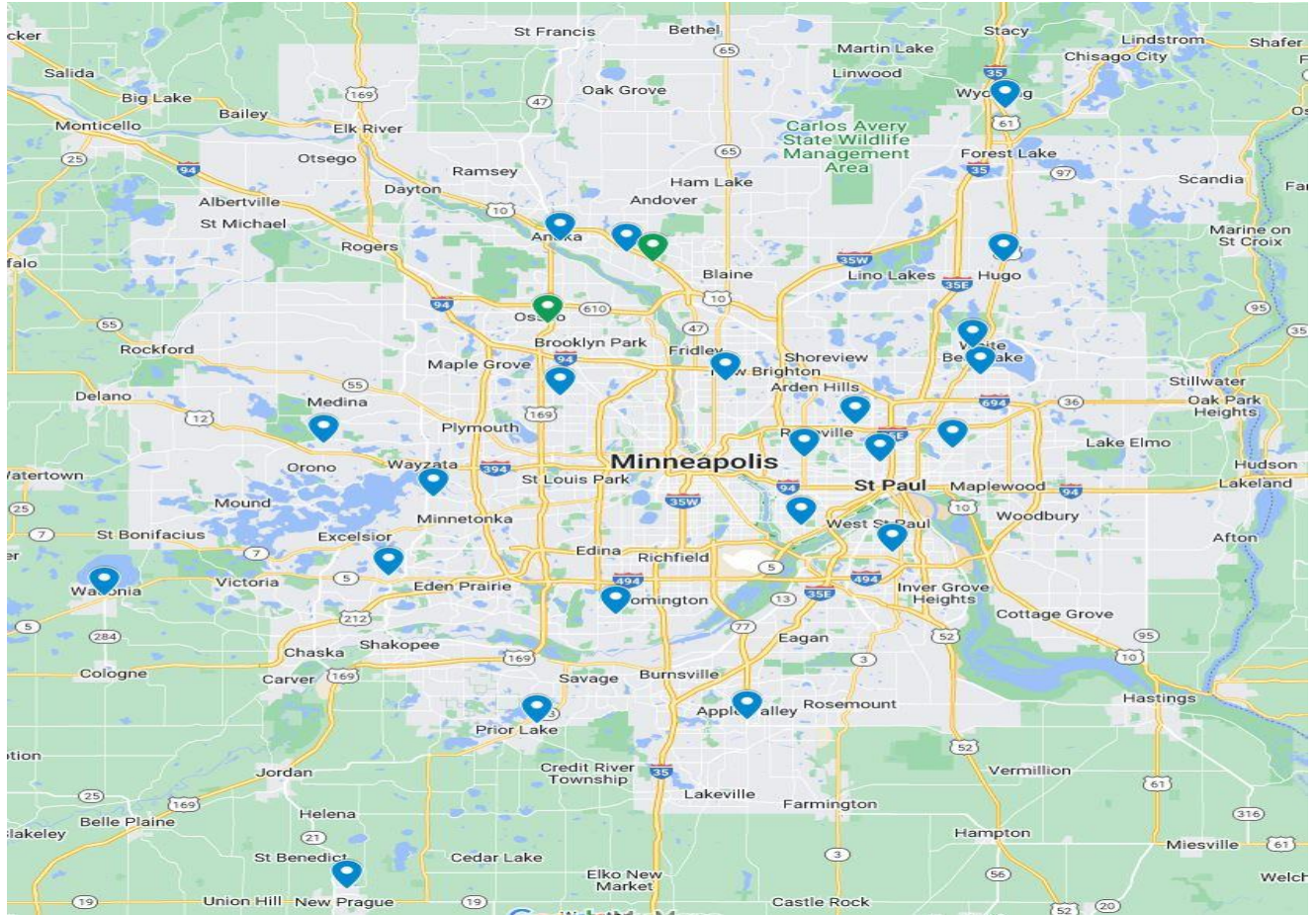
### Jamestown Canyon Virus

- Twelve JCV illnesses reported to CDC
- Two JCV cases reported in Minnesota (Anoka, Dakota)

## 4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### School Presentations

We have kicked off Fall with lots of school presentations throughout the District. We have already done full days of presentations about mosquito biology for middle schoolers, participated in field day events to teach kids about mosquito habitat, set up displays at science or STEM nights, and much more! Below is a map of all the places that we have been this year so far:



### MMCD Photo and Video Library

One of the projects of this past summer has been to significantly increase the number of photos and videos of MMCD operations that can subsequently be used for presentations, social media, website development, and much more! This project is now complete thanks to summer public affairs assistant Martin who has compiled and organized almost 1,000 photos and videos from the past year. Contact Alex Carlson if you'd like to see or use any photos.