

**Metropolitan
Mosquito Control District**

Commission Meeting

December 20, 2023

6:00 PM

Information Packet

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

DECEMBER 20, 2023, 6:00 PM

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 October 25, 2023
4. Financial Statements November 30, 2023
5. Approval of Checks and Claims
General 76867 – 78320

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
7. Executive Director’s Report
8. Public Comment MMCD Payable 2024 Total Levy and 2024 Budget
9. Approval of Payable 2024 Levy*
10. Approval of 2024 Budget*
11. Operations Report (Jon Peterson, Kirk Johnson, Mark Smith)
12. Public Affairs Report (Alex Carlson)
13. Other Items
14. Adjournment

* Action Requested

(Proposed)

Organizational Meeting: Thursday January 4, 2024, 9:15 a.m.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 9:15 a.m.

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 9:15 a.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
OCTOBER 25, 2023
9:15 AM

Chair Fran Miron called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Fran Miron, Chair	Washington County
Commissioner Rena Moran, Vice-Chair	Ramsey County
Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Anoka County
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Anoka County
Commissioner Julie Jeppson	Anoka County
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Carver County
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Marion Greene	Hennepin County
Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong	Ramsey County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County

Staff:

Arleen Schacht, Interim Executive Director/Business Administrator
Jon Peterson, District Operations Manager
Mark Smith, Technical Services Manager
Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Coordinator

Visitors:

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

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

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Gayle Degler 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 August 23, 2023

Approval of Financial Statements September 30, 2023

Approval of Checks and Claims. General 77877-78150

Commissioner Nicole Frethem moved to make a change to the August Commission meeting minutes to reflect she was in attendance.

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland seconded the motion. Chair Fran Miron asked all in favor to say “Aye” and those opposed to say “No.” The resolution was approved unanimously.

Intergovernmental Issues

On October 16th it was reported that the financial situation in Minnesota is forecasting an \$820 million revenue surplus. A surplus will play into the politics of next session as Republicans will message that the surplus is a result of overtaxing.

On the national stage, Minnesota Congressman Tom Emmer had a short-lived run for the House Speaker and Congressman Dean Phillips will be making his final decision as to whether he will run for President or not on Friday.

The Minnesota House Environment committee met this week to hold an informational hearing. The focus of the hearing was to receive updates from state agencies on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the deer population, Emerald Ash Borer grants, and the presence of neonicotinoids in wildlife, among other things. House Environment Chair Hansen has long held an interest in limiting pesticides, neonicotinoids in particular, in the environment. The Department of Natural Resources testified that it has been engaged in the testing of deer spleens to look for the presence of neonicotinoids. The DNR will be conducting future research on whether the chemical is present in small game birds, in order to further track the movement of neonicotinoids.

The Pollution Control Agency focused on PFAS (Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, which are chemicals that resist grease, oil, water, and heat), reflecting their work to implement Amara’s Law, which passed last session and bans nonessential use of PFAS.

Limits on the use of pesticides and chemicals will continue to be a theme in the next legislative session. MMCD will need to continue to educate legislators and decision-makers on the tools that MMCD utilizes to further its public health mission and how risks are mitigated.

Executive Committee Report

Arleen Schacht worked with the Bylaws Committee to develop MMCC Bylaws and presented a draft for Executive Committee approval to move forward and make a recommendation to present to the full Commission at the October 25, 2023, Commission meeting.

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.

Arleen Schacht provided information related to the Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) Trust fund, after a lengthy discussion, the Executive Committee approved to move forward with the review and to include on the October 25, 2023, commission meeting more detailed information about the trust and the results of the review.

Approval of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission Bylaws

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.

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.

During the Bylaws discussion Commissioner Halverson made a motion; with the Executive Director no longer required to be an entomologist, the District shall develop an internal protocol that includes using science-based data and the expertise of other professionals (employees and TAB members) to provide recommendations and direction to the Executive Director when considering changes to the operations.

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

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 Bylaws be approved for its adoption.

Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong seconded the motion. Chair Fran Miron asked all in favor to say “Aye” and those opposed to say “No.” The resolution was approved unanimously.

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 4th Wednesday of each month, with the exception of November, to be held on the 3rd Thursday and December to be held on the 3rd Wednesday.

Section 3 – **Truth and Taxation Meeting.** The meeting scheduled for the 3rd 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] 11 / 17 / 2023

Approval of the Executive Director Employment Contract

Commissioner Gamache made a motion to accept the Executive Director Employment Contract as written. With a recommendation to include in the Executive Directors job description to include in the qualification, an entomologist is “preferred”.

Commissioner Rena Moran seconded the motion. Chair Fran Miron asked all in favor to say “Aye” and those opposed to say “No.” The resolution was approved unanimously.

Approval of the Aerial Application Contract with Scott’s Helicopter

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

Commissioner Anderson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution:

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.

Be it now resolved, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission approves amending the Aerial Application Contract dates April 1, 2018, as amended April 1, 2021, renewing the contract for services rendered from April 1, 2024, through October 31, 2026, for an annual cost of \$2,351,000 (10% increase over the 2021-23 contract).

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland seconded the motion. Chair Fran Miron asked all in favor to say “Aye” and those opposed to say “No.” The resolution was approved unanimously.

Executive Director’s Report

Arleen Schacht reported working with MMCD legal counsel and HR to finalize the employee medical insurance benefits, with open enrollment taking place on Tuesday October 24.

Communicated with and worked on finalizing the Executive Director employment agreement with DDA Human Resources, Commissioners Wolf and Gamache, and Daniel Huff. Worked with the bylaws sub-committee to make last revisions to the MMCC Bylaws to present to the full Commission for approval at the October Commission meeting.

Operations Report

Jon Peterson reported 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 12th, about half of the seven-county metro has moved from the severe drought status to moderate drought status. We will continue to monitor the drought status, 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. In total, staff found approximately 18,000 acres of wetlands breeding this year. That is about 1,500 acres less than last year. In September, we treated 8,000 of these acres by helicopter and 57 of these acres by drone with Vectolex. Most of the remaining acres will be treated next Spring.

The Districts 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. That is 1,300 more acres treated than we did in 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 15th, staff have completed the following:

The last day for the seasonal staff was Friday, October 13th. 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.

Mark Smith reported 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.

Working with a PAMCA/AMCA workgroup to visit MMCD in 2024 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.

To date this year, CDC has reported 1,936 WNV illnesses among U.S. residents. The Minnesota Department of Health has reported fifteen cases, and forty-three positive blood donors of WNV illnesses including seven District residents. 128 mosquito samples of 818 samples tested in the MMCD lab returned positive results for WNV this year. Historically the second highest total and the highest infection rate.

One La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) case has been confirmed in Minnesota this year (20 cases nationally). The infected individual is a resident of Scott County. Over the course of the 2023 season, MMCD employees removed 10,890 tires from the field for recycling and eliminated 2,332 container habitats and filled 96 tree holes.

The Minnesota Department of Health has confirmed two Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) illnesses in Minnesota this year, residents of Anoka and Ramsey Counties. (12 cases nationally)

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) vector, *Culiseta melanura*. There were no cases detected in Minnesota. Nationally there were seven human illnesses and 18 states detected non-human cases (horses or positive mosquito).

Public Affairs Report

Alex Carlson reported:

School Presentations - MMCD staff have been busy with school presentations and have visited 24 schools so far this year.

Winter Events - We are still doing events throughout the winter. If commissioners know of any events, they would like to see MMCD attend, please reach out to Alex Carlson.

City Reports - We are currently putting together our 2023 report of activity for city leaders. We will also be reaching out to cities to inquire about speaking at a city council meeting or environmental commission meeting to discuss MMCD activity.

Adjournment

Commissioner Fran Miron adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT				
FINANCIAL STATEMENT				
November 30, 2023				
COUNTY	2023 LEVY	REC'D TO DATE	DUE	
Anoka	\$ 1,870,095	976,800	\$ 893,295	
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	1,642,947	23,244	
Market Value Credit	0	0	0	
TOTAL	\$ 19,419,470	\$ 10,767,694	\$ 8,651,776	
Tax Delinquent Income	\$ 0	\$ 26,913		
Miscellaneous (Rent/Misc./Non-Levy)	100,000	201,441		
Interest Income	250,000	1,025,715		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 19,769,470	\$ 12,021,763	\$ 7,747,707	
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>				
<u>ASSETS</u>				
Cash and Investments		\$ 25,099,818		
Accounts Receivable		95,749		
Prepaid Expenses		0		
Consumable Material		770,568		
Equipment net of Acc Depreciation		2,026,707		
Land		1,118,867		
Building net of Acc Depreciation		2,506,144		
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>			\$ 31,617,853	
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
Vouchers Payable		\$ 50,957		
Pass thru Revenue		0		
Deferred Revenue		95,749		
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>			\$ 146,706	
<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		12,021,763		
DEDUCT Expenditures		16,947,644		
TOTAL NET WORTH			\$ 31,471,146	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH			\$ 31,617,853	

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT					
CUMULATIVE OPERATIONS STATEMENT					
November 30, 2023					
EXPENDITURES		ACTUAL		BUDGET	+OVER/-UNDER
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>					
Operations	\$	945,101			
Capital Items		0			
Repairs		0			
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$	945,101	\$	1,052,329	\$ (107,228)
<u>CONTROL DIVISION</u>					
Operations	\$	13,937,781			
Capital Items		1,655,723			
Repairs		408,571			
TOTAL CONTROL DIVISION	\$	16,002,075	\$	17,841,276	\$ (1,839,201)
<u>COMMISSION</u>					
Per Diem	\$	0			
Mileage/meeting expense		468			
TOTAL COMMISSION	\$	468	\$	2,662	\$ (2,194)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	16,947,644	\$	18,896,268	\$ (1,948,624)
BUDGET REMAINING			\$	1,037,516	
ORIGINAL BUDGET			\$	19,933,784	
EMERGENCY FUNDS				0	
TOTAL BUDGET			\$	19,933,784	

TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: ARLEEN SCHACHT
RE: INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
DATE: DECEMBER 2023

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

Working with HR and the management team in preparation for the start of the new Executive Director, Daniel Huff, who will work with HR with employee onboarding and benefit and policy review; and with the management team to provide an overview of MMCD administration and operations. Over the course of several weeks/months giving the opportunity to meet with all staff, individually or in small groups.

On December 12, all regular full-time employees participated in our annual Employee Recognition celebration. The event includes fun team building activities and a potluck lunch. We take this opportunity to thank all employees and recognize those employees that have reached years of service milestones in their careers at MMCD.

With the completion of benefits open enrollment, discussions with management related to operational decisions/changes, employee wages, and the impact the changes would have financially, allowed the ability to finalize the 2024 proposed budget for approval. (see page 12)

The 2024 operational plan does include expansion, but not necessarily does it mean actual treatments but rather expanding services which also includes adding acres of surveillance in P2, adding possible pre-hatch treatments at the early and later times of the season when staffing can be an issue, and adding a 3rd drone, which will increase the acres that can be treated by drones in areas of the District.

Keeping in mind, so much of the operational decisions is based on the weather, if 2024 is not a drought year and the District receives average or more rainfall, an 1.5% budget increase may not cover all expenses, and it may be necessary to use reserve funds, not only for operational purposes but also for capital equipment purchases and capital improvements.

2024 Proposed Levy and Budget

	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Approved 2023	Proposed 2024
Beginning Balance	\$17,696,175	\$22,818,534	\$26,246,353	\$30,745,309	\$30,580,905
<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
<i>Other Financing Sources</i>					
Miscellaneous	\$80,788	\$166,410	\$526,554	\$350,000	\$650,000
Total Other Sources	\$80,788	\$166,410	\$526,554	\$350,000	\$650,000
Total Revenue	\$18,606,125	\$18,827,963	\$19,450,344	\$19,769,470	\$20,554,957
<i>Expenditures/Uses</i>					
Commissioners	\$705	\$624	\$783	\$2,802	\$2,800
Control Operations	\$13,182,273	\$14,190,274	\$13,611,930	\$18,295,837	\$18,526,352
Capital Outlay	\$269,275	\$365,746	\$316,798	\$527,520	\$527,520
Administration	\$900,890	\$924,070	\$1,047,032	\$1,107,715	\$1,176,271
TOTAL	\$14,353,143	\$15,480,714	\$14,976,543	\$19,933,874	\$20,232,943
<i>Ending Fund Balance</i>					
Nonspendable/Committed/Assigned	\$7,621,567	\$6,387,860	\$5,128,068	\$5,537,110	\$6,162,855
Unassigned/Working Capital/Tax Delinquencies	\$15,196,967	\$19,939,063	\$25,642,395	\$25,043,795	\$24,740,064
TOTAL	\$22,818,534	\$26,246,353	\$30,745,309	\$30,580,905	\$30,902,919
<i>Amount From Fund Balance Used For Expenditures</i>					
	(\$4,252,982)	(\$3,347,249)	(\$4,498,956)	\$164,404	(\$322,014)

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

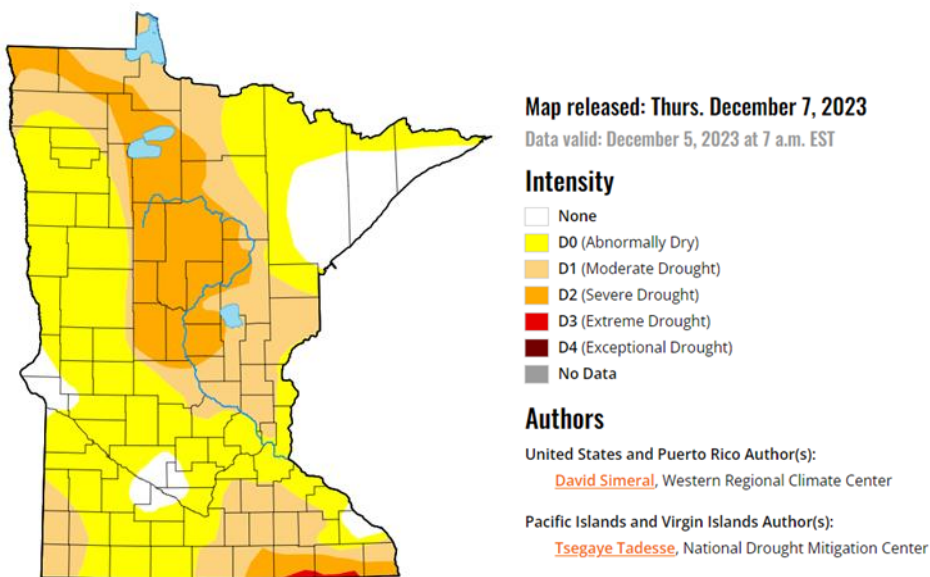
The weather has continued to be very mild in November and early December. Today, they are forecasting 50 degrees. The current US drought monitor, Figure 1 (below), shows most of the metro in abnormally dry to a moderate drought. While this has vastly improved from this summer, we still need a normal snowfall to fill up the wetlands. We will have to see what the El Nino climate patterns brings.

This is the third year in a row that I have described the season as “Dry”. The acres for both larval and adult treatments are lower than our 10-year averages, but totals are similar to our 2021 and 2022 seasons. Graph 1 (below) shows the total larval acres treated 2006 – 2023, with the total for 2023 being 144,872 acres. Graph 2 (below) shows the total adult acres treated 2014-2023, with the total for 2023 being 1,960 acres. Table 1 (below) gives an overall summary of the District’s field activities for 2023. Staff did a fantastic job with all the work they performed to help lower adult mosquito numbers and help prevent mosquito borne diseases for the citizens of the 7-county metro.

Staff attended MMCD’s annual District Operations Services review meeting on December 7th. At this meeting staff reviewed the work that was performed during the 2023 season. Staff celebrated the successes and discussed the challenges. We will continue to work on improving all of our services as we plan for 2024.

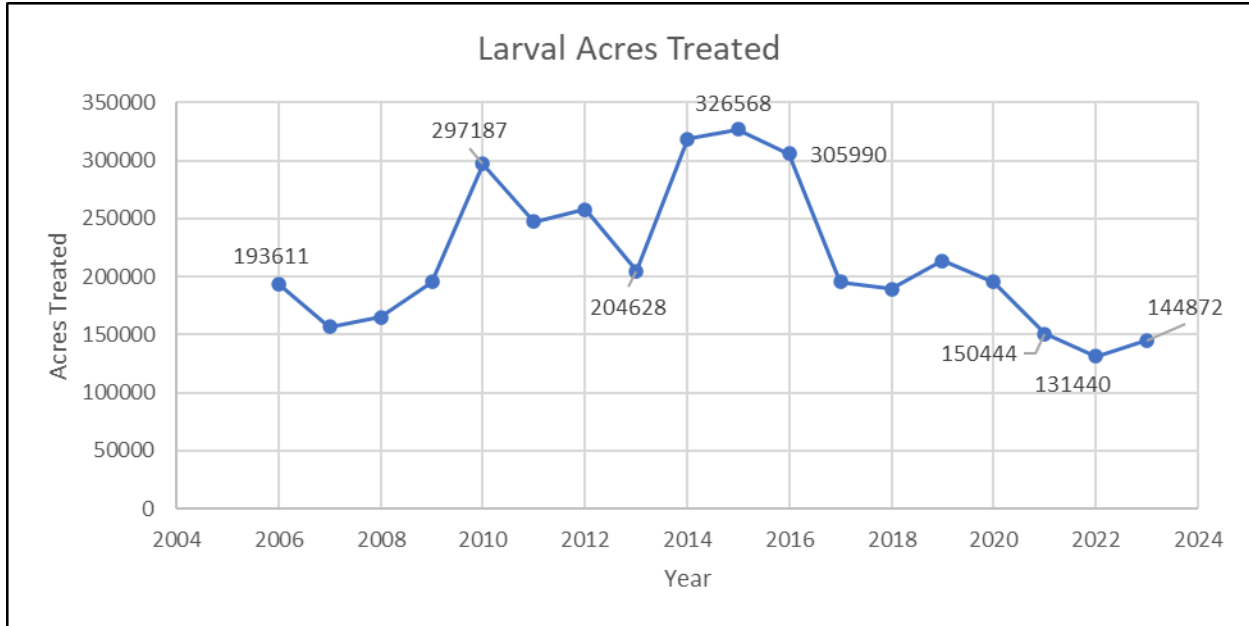
Field staff are continuing to review the 2023 data and update their field maps. They are also attending meetings, doing maintenance on equipment, and preparing for the 2024 field season. The 2024 season will be here before we know it.

Figure 1 – US drought monitor, State of Minnesota



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Graph 1 – Total Larval Acres Treated 2006 – 2023.



Graph 2 – Total Adult Acres 2014 – 2023.

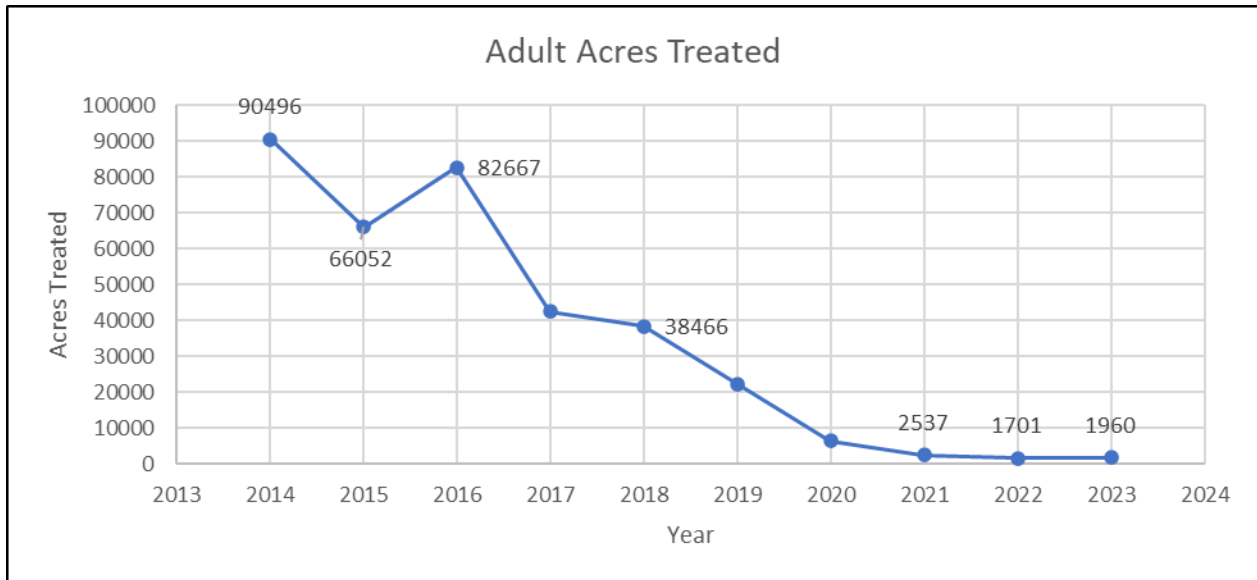


Table 1 – Summary of 2023 Field Activities

Number of Mosquito Broods (Helicopter)	7
Larval Inspections and/or Treatments	133,514
Larval Treatments	144,872 Acres
Adult Inspections	9,138
Adult Treatments	1,960 Acres
Black Fly Inspections	625
Black Fly Treatments	121
Black Fly Treatments (gallons used)	1,333
Tires Removed	11,139
Customer Calls	3,101

3. TECHNICAL SERVICES

The Technical Services team is organizing information and data for our annual reports and presentations. The team will be presenting at various conferences (American Mosquito Control Association, North American Black Fly Association, Michigan Mosquito Control Association, and other meetings).

Technical Services assisted with our annual staff meeting (DOS – District Operations & Services) and conducted nine presentations.

Technical Services will be participating in District workgroups to explore ideas on various aspects of improving operations and expanding services.

The Technical Advisory Board (TAB) meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2024 (12:30pm – 3:30pm)

MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

2023 Review and Preparations for 2024:

The Minnesota Department of Health has confirmed 22 West Nile virus illnesses in the state this year. There was one fatality attributed to WNV in a Minnesota resident. Eleven of the state's cases occurred in residents of the District (Hennepin-7, Anoka-2, Dakota-1, Washington-1). A near record 129 mosquito samples were positive for WNV in the District. Nationally, 2,284 WNV illnesses have been reported to CDC.

There was one La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) case in Minnesota in 2023. It occurred in Scott County in July. Staff from MMCD responded in the area to provide LAC risk reduction services. There were 28 LAC illnesses reported nationally. MMCD field staff worked diligently to reduce LAC risk throughout the District in 2023 by eliminating 2,331 containers, 96 tree holes, and by recycling 11,139 tires.

Two cases of Jamestown Canyon (JC) illness were confirmed in Minnesota this year in residents of Anoka and Dakota counties. Nationally, 17 JC illnesses were confirmed with seven occurring in residents of Wisconsin.

Drought conditions greatly reduced the amount of larval habitat available for the eastern equine encephalitis vector (*Culiseta melanura*) in 2023 and their population plummeted. There were no detections of EEE in Minnesota. There have been seven EEE cases reported to CDC, all from Gulf Coast states.

District staff continue to review information collected in 2023 and to make plans for responding to increases in mosquito-borne disease risk during the 2024 season. Prevention of EEE, LAC, JC and WNV infections will remain among our primary responsibilities.

TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

In December, the Entomology Lab has been identifying adult mosquito samples from our New Jersey traps, identifying adult black flies from black fly specific CO₂ trap samples, processing multiplate samples, and preparing for the District Operations Services (DOS) season wrap-up. Diann, Carey, and Scott gave presentations at the DOS meeting. Diann's presentation summarized MMCD's surveillance results: Environmental Conditions, Species Composition – abundance and seasonal occurrence, and current drought conditions and what that means for the spring. Scott's presentation reviewed the spring *Aedes* species composition and diseases they can transmit (Jamestown Canyon virus). Carey summarized the black fly surveillance and treatment information. All presentations reflected on how the drought affects mosquito and black fly abundance.

Future projects include analyzing surveillance data and writing the Mosquito Surveillance and Black Fly Surveillance chapters of the 2023 Report to the Technical Advisory Board. We will also be completing employee performance evaluations.

TICK-BORNE DISEASE

Tick-borne disease testing projects 2023.

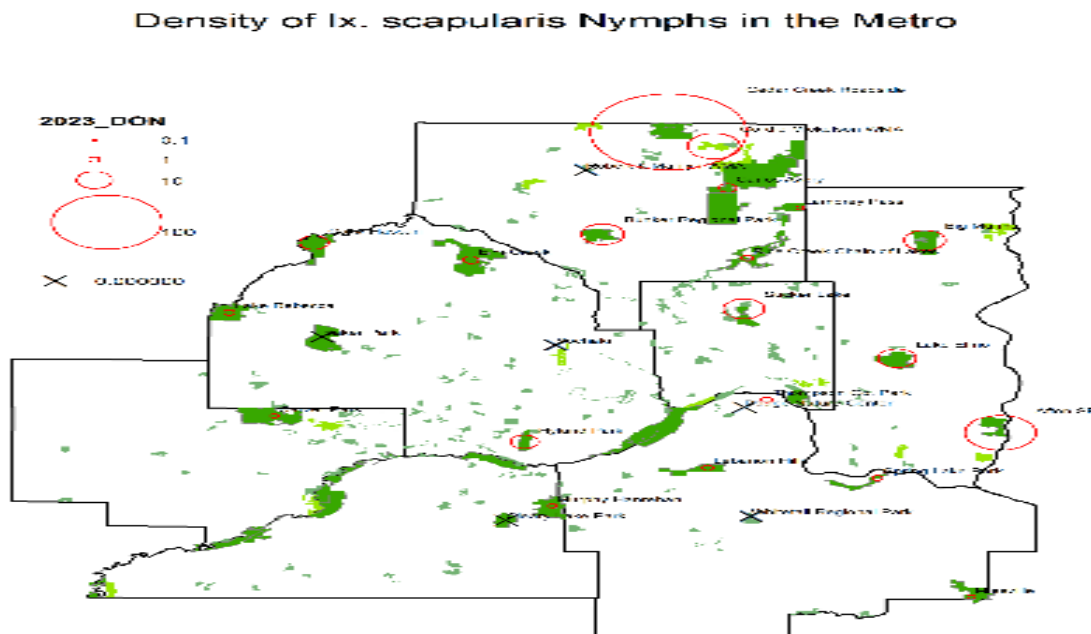
- Tularemia. This rare tick-borne disease (Minnesota yearly rates are 0-3 people; 0-5 animals) is caused by a bacterium. Most transmission occurs via handling or eating an infected animal (primarily hunters handling rabbits) but can also occur via the bite of an infected wood tick, dog tick, lone star tick or biting fly (primarily deer flies) or more rarely, via inhaling contaminated dust or aerosols or drinking contaminated water. All wood ticks collected from our tick surveillance and approximately 400 more collected via a separate project are being provided to the Minnesota Department of Health for testing. Results pending.
- Powassan virus. This rare virus (yearly Minnesota case totals have ranged from 0-11 (median 4)) is transmitted by three species of ticks, all in the genus *Ixodes*, but

only *Ixodes scapularis*, the deer tick, commonly bites people. For the last several months of the tick surveillance season staff collected blood samples and also saved any ticks found while out in the field. Additional attempts to collect ticks were performed by dragging for questing ticks. All collections are being provided for testing to Dr. Matthew Aliota, U of M College of Veterinary Medicine. Results pending.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will test deer ticks for infection with Lyme disease (either *Borrelia burgdorferi* (common) or *Borrelia mayonii* (1-3 cases yearly)), human anaplasmosis, tick-borne relapsing fever, and babesiosis. A total of 480 questing deer tick nymphs and an additional 310 questing deer tick adults were collected via dragging in spring and early summer. Results pending. Additional ticks collected were two lone star ticks and the approximately 400 wood ticks provided to the MDH for tularemia testing.

CDC dragging project for tick-borne disease:

Each larger size circle represents a 10x increase. X is a location dragged but no deer tick nymphs found.



Progress—tick vector field projects:

The 2023 tick surveillance began on April 24. The first round of sampling was completed on June 23 and the second round on August 24. The third, and last, round of sampling was completed on October 26. Laboratory work, data entry, and tick identification is underway.

Public education efforts

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

Distribution and/or re-stocking of brochures, tick cards and posters has ended for 2023.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Summarizing Calls in 2023

Throughout 2023 we received a total of 3,101 calls from residents to request service or report mosquito annoyance, which was up significantly from 1,454 in 2022. The most common calls were to report mosquito annoyance (2,206 calls) or to request a tire pickup (534 calls). The vast majority of the total calls in 2023 came during the one-month period from May 15th through June 15th where we received 2,210 calls. This correlates with the period of highest mosquito annoyance and CO2 trap counts that were above the 10-year average.

Here is where the calls came from in 2023:

- Anoka County - 1,050 calls
- Carver County - 352 calls
- Dakota County - 219 calls
- Hennepin County - 680 calls
- Ramsey County - 223 calls
- Scott County - 178 calls
- Washington County - 293 calls

108 calls were uncategorized because the caller did not provide an address that could be verified. Look for more details about calls and customer relationship building in the TAB report.

Looking Ahead to 2023

As we prepare for another great year in 2024, we are working on a couple of projects related to public affairs:

- Improve Educational Outreach - We currently have a workgroup exploring how to expand our educational offerings in schools and communities that we serve.
- Increased Event Attendance - We are looking at additional events in Minneapolis and St. Paul and some of the cities further away from the metro to supplement our outreach.
- More Video and Online Content - We created multiple new videos in 2023 and have several already in the works for 2024.
- Revamped Category L Workshop - We are working with U of M Extension and the MN Dept. of Agriculture to revamp the Category L training to a more hands-on approach.

We appreciate the support commissioners have provided in 2023 and look forward to another great year in 2024!

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
Commission Meeting

December 20, 2023

Requested by:
Arleen Schacht

Action requested:
Approve Property Tax Levy for Payable 2024

Resolution:

Whereas, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission has reviewed the proposed property tax levy for payable 2024 considering the needs of the program, and

Whereas, the 2024 levy is proposed in the amount of \$19,904,957, a 2.5% increase over the 2023 original levy of \$19,419,470, and

Whereas, the Commission has held a public hearing conforming with truth in taxation requirements,

Be it now resolved, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission adopts the 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 \$19,419,470, and authorizes staff to certify the levy to the Minnesota Department of Revenue and the Counties of the District.

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
Commission Meeting

December 20, 2023

Requested by:
Arleen Schacht

Action requested:
Approve Budget for 2024

Resolution:

Whereas, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission has reviewed the proposed 2024 operations budget of \$20,232,943, a 1.5% increase from the original 2023 budget \$19,933,874, which is sufficient to meet the needs of the program, and

Whereas, the operations budget includes capital equipment and maintenance of \$527,520 for replacement equipment and facility maintenance, and

Whereas, the budget leaves intact the MMCD's unassigned working capital account which needs to cover approximately 55% of expenditures and leaves \$8,059,143 for emergency disease control, employee benefits, control materials, and other assigned funds,

Be it now resolved, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission approves the final 2023 operations budget in the amount of \$19,933,874 and adopts the proposed 2024 expenditures budget in the amount of \$20,232,943 an increase of 1.5% from the 2023 budget.