

**Metropolitan  
Mosquito Control District**

**Executive Committee**

**June 26, 2024**

**9:15 AM**

***Information Packet***

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**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

**DATE:**                   **Wednesday, June 26, 2024**  
**TIME:**                   **9:15 AM**

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**A G E N D A**

1. Approval of Minutes May 22, 2024, Meeting\*
2. Intergovernmental Issues – Kim Scott, Peg Larsen
3. Strategic Planning - Presentation by Adrienne Jordan with Prouty Project
4. Executive Director 6-month review – Pat Melvin, DDA Human Resources\*
5. Bylaws – Commission Officers Rotation\*
6. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board MOU\*
7. OPEB Update
8. 2025 Budget and Levy Discussion
9. Executive Director’s Report
10. Other Issues
11. Adjournment

\* Action Requested

Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Anoka County
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Carver County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner Dave Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

**Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, July 24, 2024, 9:15 a.m.**  
**Following Commission Meeting: Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 9:15 a.m.**  
**Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 9:15 a.m.**

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METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES  
MAY 22, 2024  
9:15 AM

Chair Fran Miron called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Anoka County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner Dave Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Carver County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

**Staff:**

Dan Huff, Executive Director  
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator

**Visitors:**

Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting  
Joe Langel, MMCD Legal Counsel

**Approval of March 27, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Gayle Degler offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**Resolution 1:**

**Resolved,** that the March 27, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Jeff Reinert seconded the motion, the resolution was approved unanimously.

**Legislative Update**

The 2023-2024 Minnesota legislative biennium has come to an end. As you know, a tremendous number of bills (over 10,000) were introduced in both bodies. At the end of the biennium, any bill that is not passed on its own or incorporated into an omnibus bill is considered dead.

In the days leading up to final adjournment, Republicans held hours-long debates on each bill that was brought to the floor. The dramatic end to the session included combining nine bills into the tax bill, to save time on the floor and get the bills passed. The sections added to the tax bill include transportation housing and labor, health scope of practice, higher education, increased penalty for straw firearm purchases and a ban on binary triggers, energy and agriculture, human services appropriations, health and human services appropriations, and paid leave provisions. There was even inter-party drama with Sen. Fateh being absent from the chamber on the final Saturday causing the Senate to not meet for hours while they worked to negotiate the Uber Lyft bill.

Not surprisingly, Republicans have criticized the passage of the loaded up 1,400+ page tax bill in the final minutes of the last night of session. After the House adjourned on Sunday at midnight, an ethics complaint was filed against Speaker Hortman by Minority Leader Demuth and Rep. Torkelson stating, “Speaker Hortman violated the norms of the House, betrayed the public trust, brought the House into dishonor and disrepute.” No action is expected to be taken on the ethics complaint.

In the final 10 minutes of session on Sunday, the House passed a cash-only bonding bill and lobbed it over to the Senate, which had devolved into shouting and chaos while the Senate President moved the loaded tax bill to a vote and attempted to move the cash-bonding bill to a vote. Ultimately, the Senate ran out of time and did not get the cash bonding bill across the finish line. (Traditionally, the second year of the biennium is a bonding year with general obligation or “GO” bonds sold by the state to pay for infrastructure projects. Gov. Walz has not signaled any possibility of a special session to pass a bonding bill.)

Regarding pesticide-related provisions that made it across the finish line, the environment supplemental finance bill included the provision to monitor the water-quality at state fish hatcheries for nitrates and pesticides. The fish hatcheries are in the cities of Crystal Springs, Lanesboro, and Peterson.

Included in the final Agriculture supplemental finance bill (which was combined with the Energy bill), were provisions to require that an advisory panel review any experimental use of pesticide, a ban for anyone under 18 years of age from engaging in structural pest control applications, and a few other provisions relating to commercial applicators. These were all provisions that we discussed with staff when the bills were introduced. None of the provisions negatively apply to MMCD’s work.

On the final day of session, May 21<sup>st</sup>, the legislature may not take action on bills, but they may meet to hear outgoing members’ retirement speeches. This year, in the House, the following members gave retirement speeches, which are posted on the House Info YouTube channel.

Rep. Mark Wiens, Lake Elmo, who will be running for a Washington County commissioner seat.  
Rep. Heather Edleson, Edina, who won a Hennepin County commission seat in a special election.  
Rep. Hodan Hassan, Minneapolis  
Rep. Laurie Pryor, Minnetonka

Rep. Ann Neu Brindley, North Branch  
Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn, Roseville  
Rep. Liz Olson, Duluth  
Rep. John Petersburg, Waseca  
Rep. Debra Kiel, Crookston  
Rep. Frank Hornstein, Minneapolis  
Rep. Dean Urdahl, Litchfield

A complete list of legislative retirements can be found [here](#).

The Senate has two years remaining in its term and no retirements were announced. Sen. Morrison is running for a congressional seat and Sen. Mitchell will be dealing with her pending legal problems. Depending on what happens with the Morrison and Mitchell seats, there may be a Senate seat or two on the ballot this year.

The 2025 Minnesota legislative session will commence on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tire Pick up Discussion**

Tire pick up is a service that is provided by MMCD to help reduce vector disease habitats. MMCD is experiencing an increase in calls from District residents this year. The service continues to grow but continues to create a challenge to manage due to employee time, resources, and the increase in the cost. The Commissioner feels the service is extremely important and should research options on developing partnerships with counties to continue to provide the services to the county constituents.

### **2025 Budget and Levy Discussion**

Dan Huff discussed several factors that could impact the 2025 budget. Estimates showing inflation to be around 3.4%, hiring up to 5 full-time positions to fill the voids in areas that need addressing as a result of previous budget cuts, as well as including the expense for strategic planning, a facility condition assessment and possibly an IT assessment.

The District has not used the full helicopter and control material budgets in several years. Savings will offset some of the additional expenses proposed for 2025. It is suggested that a portion of the fund balance be committed to providing funds for additional control materials, staffing hours and helicopter work if the weather results in a high treatment year. This amount is suggested at 110% of the nine-year average expenses multiplied by three years

We are recommending an increase to the 2025 levy by 3%, which would help get closer to reaching the goal of operating with a balanced budget (levy and budget).

## **Executive Director 6-month performance appraisal**

Director Huff reviewed the memo relating to this agenda item. The Committee had no edits to the MMCD Executive Director Core Duties as presented and asked for staff to report back at the next meeting regarding proposals from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to conduct the 6-month performance appraisal.

## **Commission/Executive Committee Meeting Schedule**

Director Huff inquired about the monthly Commission and/or Executive Committee meetings, on occasion the meeting agenda does not contain items that requires immediate attention, at times it can be difficult to meet the quorum requirements and would it be helpful to have less meetings, to be respectful of all Commissioners time. Huff suggested the Commission and the Executive Committee could each meet four times per year.

Commissioner Workman stated, rather than changing the schedule, is in favor of cancelling the meeting, other Commissioners agreed.

## **Executive Director’s Report**

Director Huff provided his Executive Director update to the Committee. He highlighted the increase in diversity of new staff. Director Huff shared resource capacity issues with the District’s popular tire collection program and discussed options for the future of the program with Committee members. Director Huff was asked to report back with proposals for managing the program this fall.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

## **METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING**

**JUNE 26, 2024**

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Informational:**

Strategic Planning – Prouty Project Presentation

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**Background:**

MMCD is currently operating under a set of seven strategic objectives that were created over ten years ago. In order to align resources and work effort with the mission, vision and values of the District, we will engage in the development of a strategic plan. Strategic planning determines the direction of an organization and focuses efforts to ensure that everyone is working towards the same goals. This plan will guide the operations and work of the District for the next three to five years.

In April, the Senior Leadership Team developed a Request for Quotation (RFQ) of services for strategic vision and planning. Based upon recommendations of SLT members and input from the Management Analysis and Development team at Minnesota Management and Budget, the SLT evaluated seven (7) potential consulting firms. This included interviews with references and conversations with several of the firms. Four (4) firms responded to the RFQ. The SLT hosted three (3) of the firms for interviews. From this process, the Prouty Project emerged as the firm selected to conduct MMCD's Strategic Planning process.

Adrienne Jordan, Senior Consultant for the Prouty Project will provide an overview of the process and receive input from the Executive Committee regarding planned engagement with Commission members.

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 26, 2024

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**Requested by:**

Arleen Schacht

**Action Requested:**

Approval to accept proposal from DDA Human Resource to conduct 6-month Performance Evaluation for Executive Director

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As indicated in the employment contract for the Executive Director, Daniel Huff, the hiring committee agreed a six-month performance appraisal should be conducted.

To maintain integrity into the process, the performance review should be conducted by an outside 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Pat Melvin of David Drown and Associates who conducted the search for the hiring of the Executive Director has submitted a proposal. Pat has been retained by Anoka County to create a performance appraisal process for their new county manager.

Pat Melvin will provide an overview of the process and receive input from the Executive Committee regarding the performance evaluation process.

**Recommendation:**

Approve the proposal from Pat Melvin, DDA Human Resources, to conduct the 6-month performance evaluation for the Executive Director, Dan Huff.



## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

**JUNE 26, 2024**

**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Action requested**

Amend practice or MMCD Bylaws. If amending Bylaws, must provide 30-day notice to full commission.

**Background:**

The Commission has three officers. Per the Bylaws, no two of Officers can be from the same county:

1. Chair
2. Vice-Chair
3. Secretary

In practice, the Executive Officers of the Commissioner, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, have been rotated every two (2) years with each office represented by a different county. Since 2015, the officer rotation has been as follows:

<b>January 1</b>	<b>December 31</b>		<b>Officers</b>	<b>County</b>	
<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>		Chair	Robin West	Anoka
			Vice Chair	Tom Wolf	Scott
			Secretary	Liz Workman	Dakota
<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>		Chair	Tom Wolf	Scott
			Vice Chair	Liz Workman	Dakota
			Secretary	Jeff Johnson	Hennepin
<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>		Chair	Liz Workman	Dakota
			Vice Chair	Jeff Johnson	Hennepin
			Secretary	Gary Kriesel	Washington
<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>		Chair	Angela Conley	Hennepin
			Vice Chair	Lisa Weik	Washington
			Secretary	Mary Jo McGuire	Ramsey
<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>		Chair	Fran Miron	Washington
			Vice Chair	Rena Moran/ Nicole Frethem	Ramsey
			Secretary	Tom Workman	Carver

Chair Miron, from Washington County will finish two years as the Chair on December 31, 2024. Under past practice, the rotation for chair would be as follows:

Service Years	County Representation
2025 and 2026	Ramsey
2027 and 2028	Carver
2029 and 2030	Anoka
2031 and 2032	Scott
2033 and 2034	Dakota
2035 and 2026	Hennepin
2037 and 2038	Washington

However, the Bylaws are currently written to require these officers to rotate every one (1) year.

### Article III

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.

Bylaws may be amended with a 30-day notice and a majority vote.

#### **Recommendation:**

The current practice of rotating Executive Officers does not align with MMCD Bylaws.

#### Option One:

Edit the Bylaws as follows and provide 30-day notice to the full Commission for a vote:

### Article III

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~~ **biennium** and a commissioner from each county holds each office ~~every seven years~~ **for a two-year period starting every 14 years.**

Allowing officers to serve a two-year term allows for the officer to build experience in the role and provides greater continuity for the Commission. The past practice of rotating officer biennially seems to have worked well.

#### Option Two:

Keep the Bylaws as written and change the practice to rotate officers every one (1) year.

Rotating officers every one (1) year allows each county to serve as Chair every seven (7) years as opposed to every 14 years. Two (2) year continuity of officers is dependent on election cycles and County appointments to the MMCD Commission. As a result, the Vice Chair does not always serve as the Chair resulting in a member serving as Chair during their first year of being on the Executive Committee.

**Recommendation:**

Change practice to have annual rotation of officers or approve the edits of the Bylaws and make a recommendation to the full Commission at the July 24, 2024, meeting.

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 26, 2024

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Action Requested:**

Approval of the MOU with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

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**Background:**

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has two designated bird sanctuaries, Roberts Bird Sanctuary in between the Lake Harriet Bandshell and the Lyndale Park Rose Garden and the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary at Theodore Wirth Regional Park.

In response to concerns from the Friends of Roberts Bird Sanctuary, the MPRB requested that MMCD temporarily suspend mosquito abatement work in the sanctuaries. At the request of MPRB, MMCD and MPRB staff have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding outlining how MMCD will conduct mosquito abatement activities in these areas.

Extensive research and years of practice has shown that larval control formulations used by MMCD are specifically targeted to mosquito larvae. There is no evidence of any direct impact on vertebrate species such as birds.

MMCD sampling has found *Culex* larvae breeding in the Roberts Bird Sanctuary. These larvae are known carriers of West Nile virus. Additionally, adult *Culex* mosquitoes trapped adjacent to the sanctuary in 2023 tested positive for West Nile virus. Given the proximity of neighborhoods and the high use by the public around the sanctuary, there is a risk of disease transmission from mosquitoes breeding in the sanctuary.

In the drafted MOU, MMCD agrees to amend its practices by limiting helicopter and adulticide use to extreme circumstances such as a disease outbreak. The drafted MOU does not limit MMCD's statutory authority.

**Recommendation:**

Approve the draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board.

**DRAFT**  
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
Between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the  
Metropolitan Mosquito Control District  
EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2024

**Introduction:**

The Metropolitan Mosquito District (MMCD) operates under [MN Statute 473.701-473.716](#) and seeks to fulfill its mission to promote health and well-being by protecting the public from disease and annoyance caused by mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks, in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1883, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) seeks to fulfill its mission to permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations of our region including people, plants, and wildlife. The MPRB dismantles historic inequities in the provision of park and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, wellbeing, community, and the environment.

Given the mission of the MMCD and the mission of the MPRB are interrelated and interdependent and given that the MMCD and the MPRB are both public agencies serving many of the same taxpayers; the MMCD and MPRB enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to clarify roles and provide guidance as to how the two agencies will collaborate. Specifically, this MOU will outline process and procedures the MMCD will use to guide its control and surveillance activities on lands managed by the MPRB. Nothing in this MOU, however, is intended to limit or impinge upon the authority of the MMCD or the MPRB to carry out their respective missions. In the event that MMCD determines that the guidance set forth below prevents MMCD from fulfilling its statutory mission, MMCD's statutory authority shall control.

**MMCD Operations:**

The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District uses Integrated Pest Management to ensure the most effective control material and correct dosage are used on the target species in an environmentally sensitive manner. In addition to human health, the MMCD also desires to protect pollinators, birds, frogs, aquatic invertebrates, and other animals from harm caused by mosquitoes or materials used to control them. The MMCD is aided in this mission by a Technical Advisory Board, consisting of scientists and representatives from the University of Minnesota; state agencies like the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health, Department of Transportation, and Pollution Control Agency; and federal agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

MMCD has a long history of evaluating impacts of controls, through Environmental Impact Statements and [non-target impact studies](#). All actions are based on surveillance data, precise mapping of the habitat, and results in rational action thresholds. Research, studies, and experience have led to MMCD prioritizing larval control as a proactive way to control

mosquitoes with minimal impacts to non-target species. Larval control materials containing the active ingredients *Bti*, *Methoprene*, *spinosad*, and *Bacillus sphaericus* have been widely tested to effectively control mosquito larvae with no human health concerns and minimal impact on non-target animals. A 10-year study conducted by a [Scientific Peer Review Panel](#) assembled by MMCD showed no impacts to bird populations in sites where larval treatments occurred over a multi-year period. Results of the study helped MMCD adjust dosage levels of larval control materials to reduce harm to Chironomids and other non-target aquatic invertebrates.

Mosquito-borne diseases impact humans and other animals throughout the Twin Cities. Reducing illness caused by vectors is an important part of MMCD’s public health mission. In Minnesota, illnesses transmitted by mosquitoes include those caused by West Nile virus, Jamestown Canyon virus, Eastern Equine encephalitis virus Western equine encephalitis virus, La Crosse encephalitis virus, and dog heartworm. In addition to human health, West Nile virus can negatively impact bird populations by causing illness and death among corvids (blue jays, ravens, crows), raptors, and some other species. Monitoring reports of bird fatalities is an important part of MMCD’s virus surveillance and prevention. Reports of dead birds are summarized in MMCD’s [Annual Reports to the Technical Advisory Board](#).

MMCD’s Integrated Pest Management is based upon decades of field data, studies conducted by MMCD scientists, research published in peer reviewed journals, and input from outside technical and scientific experts. MMCD is confident that decisions to control mosquitoes are based on the best science to provide the greatest benefit to the public with minimal impact on the environment.

The MMCD will be guided by the following while conducting control operations on property managed by the MPRB:

- Use of materials to control adult mosquitoes will be limited. Adult mosquito control materials may be used to mitigate public health risk as assessed by MMCD public health experts in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health. MMCD will provide notice to the MPRB prior to adulticide treatment.
- Thresholds for larval mosquito control on property managed by MPRB will be at the level as described below. These levels are:

Table 1.0

Mosquito	Threshold for Treatment
Spring <i>Aedes</i>	1.0/dip
Summer Floodwater Mosquitoes	2.0/dip
<i>Culex</i> sp.	2.0/dip
<i>Culex</i> sp./Floodwater (combined)	2.0/dip

- Notice of planned aerial applications will be sent to MPRB staff by no later than the morning of the intended treatment.
- The MMCD will conduct ground applications for larval control of mosquitoes in accordance with approved operational and MMCD Integrated Pest Management plans.
- MMCD personnel will monitor larval and adult mosquito populations and communicate results monthly to the MPRB Superintendent and designated staff.
- The MMCD will monitor MPRB properties for disease-bearing species of mosquitoes and communicate results to the MPRB. MMCD will abate breeding sites for La Crosse encephalitis vectors.
- Black fly control will be conducted in rivers and streams in accordance with MMCD Integrated Pest Management plans subject to approval and permit by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- The MMCD will conduct surveillance for disease vectoring ticks and communicate results to the MPRB.
- MMCD vehicles will be used only on designated trails and service roads at times when they will not damage the trail surface. Trucks will remain on service roads or entry roads designated for larger vehicles. The use of MMCD vehicles will be discussed with the MPRB supervisor responsible for the park in question.
- For the designated bird sanctuaries at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and the Thomas Sadler Roberts Bird Sanctuary, whose designation prioritizes management of nesting and migration habitat, the MMCD will make the following adjustments:
  - MMCD will prioritize the use of larval control materials to those with active bacterial or bacterial derivative ingredients.
  - Except when needed to contain threats to public health, MMCD will not use helicopters to treat sites within the bird sanctuaries. Treatments will be conducted on the ground or via UAS/drone.
  - Treatments will only take place when larvae of species controlled by MMCD are present in a site at or above MMCD's control thresholds (see Table 1.0 above).

EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/01/24

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representatives of the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the date first written above.

**MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: Executive Director

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for the Minneapolis Park &  
Recreation Board



## **METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING**

**JUNE 26, 2024**

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Informational:**

Other Post Employee Benefit (OPEB)  
Update – Joe Langel

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OPEB – Other Post Employment Benefit- benefits that state and local governments can give to their employees at retirement, other than their pension.

MMCD established an irrevocable OPEB trust fund in 2008. MMCD is the plan administrator, the trust investments are managed by PERA. As of 12/31/2023, the trust account balance was over \$5,7M, with only fifteen of the current employees eligible for the benefit, the plan is approximately 875% overfunded.

Because the trust is irrevocable, the only changes allowed are to the eligibility plan provisions, which can be done by MMCD as the plan administrator. At the May Executive Committee meeting the Commissioners discussed that it may be possible to change an irrevocable trust if all the trust beneficiaries agree and MMCD may need to work with a trust attorney.

Legal counsel, Joe Langel is researching the options.

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 26, 2024

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Informational:**

Initial 2025 Budget and Levy Discussion and recommendation

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**Background:**

Fund Balance Impact

- Based on the 2023 Financial Report (annual audit) the unassigned portion of the fund balance is \$27.5M.

2025

- Considering hiring several full-time employees re-establishing a Quality Assurance program, provide safety and risk management, and fill positions for identified needs at regional facilities.
- Develop a three to five-year Strategic Plan
- Use outside services to conduct a Facilities Condition Assessment and an IT Assessment.
- Allocate additional funds toward employee development, through education, training and attending local and national conferences.
- Working with other Mosquito Abatement organizations developing an Exchange Program to share best practices and innovative ideas.
- Staff compensation increases as dictated by policy and the District's contract with City Employee Union, Local 363.
- Reduce materials and helicopter budget from previous years. Savings will offset some of the additional expenses proposed for 2025. Reserve a portion of the fund balance to provide funds for additional control materials, staffing hours and helicopter work if the weather results in a high treatment year. This amount is suggested at the 2024 budgeted amount minus 10% of the nine-year average of materials and helicopter expenses multiplied by three years.
- 3.4% inflationary increase.
- Vacation and sick leave payout for planned retirements.

## **2026 Budget Factors**

### **Health Care expense**

- The District will be in the last year of a 2-year agreement with PEIP, (Public Employees Insurance Plan). In August 2025 the District will go out to the market for bids from other healthcare providers.
- Health care cost increases often outpace that of general inflation.
- The District continues to fall behind in the employer contribution portion of the premiums as compared to similar organizations in the Metro. The budget will include a proposed increase to the employer contribution for health care in order to maintain competitive with the market and provide for the needs of employees and their families.

### **Union – Bargaining Unit Agreement**

- 2025 is the last year of the current bargaining unit agreement, with a renewal date of 1/1/2026.
- Discussions and negotiations will begin late summer/early fall 2025

### **Service Expansion areas**

- Expand services as outlined in the District’s Strategic Plan to be approved in 2025.
- Expand drone program District-wide. Drones will increase efficiency of field operations. It is not yet clear how this will impact expenses. This will be explored in 2025 as we plan for the 2026 budget.

### **Capital Budget**

- After the facilities assessment is complete, we will create a ten-year Capital Budget. As a general rule, Capital outlays are ~5% of an organization’s annual budget. For MMCD, this would be ~\$1,000,000. The Commission may wish to use money from the fund balance to pay for some or all of the capital plan.

## **Recommended next steps:**

- We propose the following:
  - A 3% increase in the 2025 levy (does not include other revenue). The approved proposed levy deadline is August 1, 2024. (See table on page 18).
  - Approving a 3% increase in the 2025 levy (preliminary in July) enables us time to gain a better understanding of where the current year expenses may end up.
  - Proposed budget discussions begin in the fall with the final budget approval at the December Commission meeting. (See table on page 18). That timeline provides the opportunity to do our due diligence and gather the information that is needed to provide as accurate a budget as possible.

The table below shows a 3% levy increase necessary to cover the budget increase.

	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Approved 2024	Proposed 2025
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$22,818,534	\$26,246,353	\$30,745,309	\$33,820,779	\$34,142,802
<i>Revenues/Sources</i>					
<i>Property Taxes</i>					
Anoka County	\$1,771,755	\$1,794,143	\$1,858,989	\$2,000,448	\$2,060,461
Carver County	\$667,310	\$670,605	\$701,089	\$770,322	\$793,432
Dakota County	\$2,450,506	\$2,472,427	\$2,536,238	\$2,621,483	\$2,700,127
Hennepin County	\$8,625,821	\$8,746,025	\$8,750,581	\$8,953,249	\$9,221,846
Ramsey County	\$2,673,674	\$2,747,567	\$2,767,971	\$2,750,865	\$2,833,391
Scott County	\$880,508	\$898,626	\$914,350	\$1,003,210	\$1,033,306
Washington County	\$1,591,980	\$1,594,397	\$1,662,323	\$1,805,380	\$1,859,541
Market Value Credit	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Property Taxes</b>	<b>\$18,661,553</b>	<b>\$18,923,790</b>	<b>\$19,191,541</b>	<b>\$19,904,957</b>	<b>\$20,502,106</b>
<i>Other Financing Sources</i>					
Other Financing Sources	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$166,410	\$526,554	\$1,513,260	\$650,000	\$850,000
<b>Total Other Sources</b>	<b>\$166,410</b>	<b>\$526,554</b>	<b>\$1,513,260</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>	<b>\$850,000</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$18,827,963</b>	<b>\$19,450,344</b>	<b>\$20,704,801</b>	<b>\$20,554,957</b>	<b>\$21,352,106</b>
<i>Expenditures/Uses</i>					
Commissioners	\$624	\$783	\$1,808	\$2,800	\$2,800
Control Operations	\$14,190,274	\$13,611,930	\$14,884,159	\$18,550,084	\$18,786,014
Capital Outlay	\$365,746	\$316,798	\$1,701,271	\$523,520	\$1,293,600
Administration	\$924,070	\$1,047,032	\$984,898	\$1,156,530	\$1,266,317
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,480,714</b>	<b>\$14,976,543</b>	<b>\$17,572,136</b>	<b>\$20,232,934</b>	<b>\$21,348,731</b>
<i>Ending Fund Balance</i>					
Nonspendable/Committed/Assigned	\$6,387,860	\$5,128,069	\$6,269,129	\$5,830,000	\$5,950,000
Unassigned/Working Capital/Tax Delinquencies	\$19,939,063	\$25,617,240	\$27,551,650	\$28,312,802	\$28,196,177
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$26,246,353</b>	<b>\$30,745,309</b>	<b>\$33,820,779</b>	<b>\$34,142,802</b>	<b>\$34,146,177</b>
<i>FUND BALANCE</i>					
Revenue over expense (Surplus)	(\$3,347,249)	(\$4,473,801)	(\$3,132,665)	(\$322,023)	(\$3,375)

## **MMCD Calendar for Budget Year 2024**

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Commission and Executive Committee provide direction to develop budget.	May / June 2024
Commission approves preliminary 2024 levy and budget direction	July 24, 2024
Approved proposed levy deadline for the District (Proposed Levy due to MN Dept of Revenue)	August 1, 2024
Review 2024 budget and levy proposals	August 28, 2024
Proposed levy certification due (Proposed levy due to Counties with TNT notice)	September 10, 2024
Executive Committee reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	September 25, 2024
Commission reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	October 23, 2024
Executive Committee reviews budget	November 21, 2024
Parcel Specific Property Tax Notice 2024	November 10 – 24,
Commission adopts Final 2025 Levy & Budget (December Commission meeting)	December 18, 2024
Truth in Taxation Hearing (Commission & Staff)	December 18, 2024
Continuation Hearing, if necessary, (Commission & Staff)	December 18, 2024
Certify Adopted Payable 2025 Levy (Due to MN Dept Revenue and Counties)	December 27, 2024

**TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS**  
**FROM: DANIEL HUFF**  
**RE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**  
**DATE: JUNE 2024**

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

The talk of the town is, of course, the weather. A wet spring continues with full wetlands and lots of MMCD activity. We had another record-breaking year for spring *Aedes* mosquito populations. Numbers were especially bad in P2 areas, northern Anoka and Washington Counties southwestern Scott and Carver Counties and specifically along the river valleys. The USFWS does not allow mosquito treatment in the MN Valley Wildlife Refuge. This area serves as a wonderful mosquito breeding area in the heart of the Metro. Additionally, the DNR restricts mosquito treatment in Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Scenic and Natural Areas (SNA), state trails and parks. Carlos Avery WMA in Anoka County consists of significant mosquito breeding habitat. With population growth in the North Metro, treatment restrictions in the WMA will complicate our efforts to protect residents. We have begun a conversation with the DNR to better understand their concerns.

Black fly populations have been high in Southern Dakota County along the Mississippi River and along the Minnesota River in the Southwest corner of the District. Due to safety concerns and our DNR permit, we are unable to treat rivers above flood stage.

Sampling wetlands for summer mosquito larvae has provided us with a bit of a mystery. Even with the rain and full wetlands, we are not seeing the high numbers of larvae as we would expect, although, we find enough to continue treatments. *Culex* mosquitoes, vectors of West Nile virus, are widespread in the district.

I continue to enjoy getting out into the field and learning about the work of our amazing staff. I assisted the Jordan office with treatment of black flies and the drone team treating mosquitoes from the Plymouth office. I also assisted the lab with tick sampling.

Commissioners Reinhart and Jeppson toured the Andover facility. One of the helicopters was treating nearby and made a quick stop during the Commissioners visit.



Dave Dirkswager hosted Commissioners Reinhart and Jeppson, and Daniel Huff at the Andover office

Senator Hwaj, Washington County Board Chair Karwoski and Chair Miron visited the Oakdale facility. Senator Hwaj is eager to try his hand in the field. A special thanks to Kim Scott for arranging the visit from the Senator.

## **2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES**

The weather this month has been rainy so far. During the first half of June, we have received between 4-8 inches of rain, depending on where you are in the metro area. The forecasts are showing another 3-4 inches of rain over the next week.

This increase in rain also means an increase in the number of mosquitoes. We have already taken more samples and treated almost as many acres by helicopter as we did in all of 2023. In the areas where adult mosquito levels are high, we are reacting by treating parks and for public events.

Recruitment and hiring were very successful for MMCD this year. We hired 196 seasonal employees this season. Full-time staff have worked hard to train these staff to ensure they are knowledgeable and that they are working in a safe and effective manner. Seasonal staff will continue to work in the field through October.

So far this year, staff have done the following field work:

- Laval Inspections and Treatments
  - Inspected 15,426 air sites, treated 115,234 acres by helicopter
  - Inspected and/or treated 35,787 ground sites or structures
  - Treated 8,602 acres by ground
  - Taken over 13,100 samples
- Drone Treatments
  - Treated 556 sites, 775 acres
- Adult Inspections and Treatments
  - Taken 7,799 adult samples
  - Made 50 treatments
  - Treated 414 acres
- Tires, containers, and tree holes (eliminate potential vector habitat)
  - Removed and recycled 4,047 tires
  - Removed or eliminated 356 containers
  - Filled 11 tree holes
- Black Fly Inspections and Treatments
  - Inspected 443 locations for black flies
- Customer calls
  - Received 2,251 customer calls

### **3. TECHNICAL SERVICES**

We have tested 98 mosquito samples containing 1,765 mosquitoes for West Nile virus. There have been no positive results. West Nile vector species are now active, and their numbers are expected to increase. The average collection date for our first WNV positive mosquito sample is July 8<sup>th</sup>, the median date is July 5<sup>th</sup>.

West Nile vector control is ongoing. We have already applied larvicides to more than 55,000 catch basins. We are controlling mosquito larvae in many other stormwater structures, as well, including 1,007 underground structures treated with the assistance of local municipal employees.

La Crosse encephalitis risk is ever-present and will continue to rise through early September as long as we receive periodic rainfall. *Aedes triseriatus* and *Ae. japonicus* are container inhabiting species, so the most effective method for reducing LAC risk is larval habitat reduction.

The early season rains have also improved the larval habitats of the Eastern Equine encephalitis vector, *Culiseta melanura*. Our surveillance has detected the emergence of the first adults of the year and the eggs they deposit will result in a late June or early July population.

The Entomology Lab has identified 8,932 larval samples to date and processed a variety of samples. Most of the larvae were *Culex* species, which we target for control due to their capacity to transmit West Nile virus.

Adult mosquito levels dipped below the 10-year average last week, after being above it for three weeks, and remain near the 10-year average now (about 325 mosquitoes in an overnight CO2 trap). The threshold for an adulticide treatment is 130/night.

The black fly team has completed all treatments for the 2024 season with a total of 66 treatments. With the continuing rainfall events and high-water levels on area rivers, larval black fly sampling is suspended until the flows come down to safe levels.

The mammal trapping routes used for the tick distribution study are entering their 9th week of collections. Other tick surveillance methods, such as tick drags, are being conducted in high use parks and wildlife areas. Numbers of adult deer and wood ticks are decreasing but nymphal stage numbers should be on the rise. In a typical year, the deer tick nymph peak activity period is mid-June.

### **4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

#### Weekly Updates

Since adult mosquito surveillance started, we have been posting weekly updates on the MMCD blog with the latest maps and an update on the current situation regarding mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks. Read them all on our website: <https://mmcd.org/category/weekly-update/>



## National Mosquito Control Awareness Week

June 16-22 is National Mosquito Control Awareness Week and MMCD will be posting some fun highlights on our website and social media channels to celebrate including interviews with staff, mosquito facts, and more!

Follow along: <https://www.facebook.com/metromosquitocd>

## Mosquitoes in the News

With a lot of rain and excessive amount of early spring mosquitoes, the news stopped by to inform viewers about what was happening. Here are some recent stories:

- Star Tribune - With all this rain, mosquitos are back in Twin Cities with a vengeance o <https://www.startribune.com/with-all-this-rain-mosquitos-are-back-in-twin-cities-with-a-vengeance/600371299/>
- CBS Minnesota/WCCO - Where are the mosquito "hot spots" in the Twin Cities this year? o <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/twin-cities-minnesota-mosquito-hot-spots/>
- KSTP - Rainy May brings surge of mosquitoes in several areas across Minnesota o <https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/rainy-may-brings-surge-of-mosquitoes-in-several-areas-across-minnesota/>
- KARE 11 - Here's how to most effectively repel mosquitoes, avoid bites this summer o <https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/prevent-mosquitoes-this-summer-with-these-tips/89-0870fe90-e967-4188-a8e3-152e77df9a07>

## School and Community Events

We have been busy at schools and other events as we start the summer season. Here are some of the recent events we attended:

- May 24 – Presentations at Anoka Middle School for the Arts
- May 30 – Presentations at Orono High School
- June 1 – Lake Phalen WaterFest
- June 1 – Brooklyn Park Days Parade
- June 2 – Grand Old Day
- June 7 – Father Hennepin Days Parade in St. Louis Park
- June 9 – Take a Kid Fishing in Rosemount
- June 12 – Ramsey Safety Camp
- June 15 – St. Louis Parktacular Parade

Here are some of the upcoming events we'll be attending in the next month:

- June 21 – Bloomington Safety Boot Camp
- June 22 – Dan Patch Days Parade in Savage

- June 25 – Anoka Police Department Safety Fair
- June 26 – STAR Collective with the Science Museum
- June 28 – Kaposia Days Parade
- July 9 – Presentation at Jordan Library
- July 11 – Maple Grove Days Parade
- July 12 – Presentation at Elko/New Market Library
- July 16 – Presentation at Shakopee Library