

**Metropolitan  
Mosquito Control District**

**Commission Meeting**

July 24, 2024

9:15 A.M.

*Information Packet*

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

July 24, 2024, 9:15 A.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome and Introduction

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

3. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for April 24, 2024
4. Financial Statements June 30, 2024
5. Approval of Checks: 77729-79194

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Recognition Presentation
7. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
8. Auditor’s Report on MMCD Financial Statements Ending December 31, 2023 – (Redpath and Company)
9. Executive Committee Report for June 26, 2024, Informational
10. MMCD 2025 Preliminary Levy\* and 2025 Budget discussion
11. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board MOU\*
12. RCS Consulting (Lobbyist) rate increase\*
13. Executive Director’s Report  
Operations Reports: Field Operations, Technical Services and Public Affairs Reports  
(Jon Peterson, Mark Smith, Kirk Johnson, Alex Carlson)
14. Lab – Staff presentation, Diann Crane and Scott Larson
15. Other Items
16. Adjournment

\* Action Requested

**Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 9:15 a.m.**

**Next Executive Meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 9:15 a.m.**

COMMISSIONER	COUNTY	COMMISSIONER	COUNTY
___ Mandy Meisner	Anoka	___ Angela Conley	Hennepin
___ Jeff Reinert	Anoka	___ Heather Edelson	Hennepin
___ Julie Jeppson	Anoka	___ Mai Chong Xiong	Ramsey
___ Gayle Degler	Carver	___ Nicole Frethem	Ramsey
___ John Fahey	Carver	___ Rena Moran	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 COMMISSION MEETING

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Action Requested:**

Approve Commission Meeting Minutes –  
April 24, 2024

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MINUTES  
April 24, 2024  
9:15 A.M.

Chair Fran Miron called meeting to order at 9:27 am

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Anoka County
Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Anoka County
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Carver County
Commissioner Mary Hammann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong	Ramsey County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

**Staff:**

Daniel Huff, Executive Director  
Kirk Johnson, Vector Ecologist  
Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Coordinator  
Jon Peterson, District Operations Manager  
Mark Smith, Technical Services Manager  
Piper Romfo, Administrative Support

**Black Fly Presentation:**

Carey Lamere, Black Fly Specialist/Technical Services  
Andrea Lectka, Field Operations Supervisor  
Trevor Novotny, Field Operations Supervisor

**Visitors:**

Joe Langel, MMCD Legal Counsel  
Kim Scott, RCS Consulting  
Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting  
Don Eaton, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Elizabeth Schiffman, Minnesota Department of Health  
Chair Fran Miron welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

## **Approval of February 28, 2024, Commission Meeting Minutes**

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 February 28, 2024

Approval of Checks and Claims 78535-78737

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

## **Technical Advisory Board (TAB) Report**

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

The TAB met with MMCD staff on February 14, 2024, to conduct a 2023 operational review and plans for 2024. The TAB appreciates MMCD's professionalism, and MMCD's ongoing efforts to balance public safety with environmental stewardship. MMCD's data-driven strategies ensure that Minnesotans living in, or traveling through, the District are the beneficiaries of professional staff that provide services necessary to protect the public from disease and annoyance caused by mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks, in an environmentally sensitive manner. After an excellent interchange of questions and information between the TAB and MMCD staff, the TAB approved the following resolutions.

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

### **Resolution 2:**

**Whereas**, the Chair of the District's Technical Advisory Board (TAB) has reported that the TAB reviewed District operations in 2023 and plans for 2024; and

**Whereas**, the TAB and MMCD staff discussed in detail 2023 operations and plans for 2024; and

**Whereas**, the TAB supports the program presented in the 2023 Review and 2024 Plan and acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of the MMCD staff in its presentation; and

**Whereas**, the TAB supports the innovations and technological advancements used in the delivery of services for residents of the District; and

**Whereas**, the TAB supports MMCD’s continued emphasis on surveillance of disease vector species and acknowledges the influence of climate change and the need for monitoring and addressing new and emerging vector-borne diseases.

**Resolved**, that the Commission accepts the report of the TAB Chair and approves the 2023 Operational Review and Plans for 2024.

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

### **Intergovernmental Issues**

The 23-24 session is coming to an end. As you know, a tremendous amount of bills have been introduced in both bodies. Very few will make it to the end. At the end of this session, which is the end of the biennium, any bill that is not passed on its own or incorporated into an omnibus bill is considered dead.

The Agriculture supplemental finance bills in the House and Senate will need to work out their differences in conference committee. Included in the House bill is a change to the process to cancel a pesticide registration, a requirement 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. None of these provisions are included in the Senate bill. The Agriculture conference committee is expected to be combined with Commerce and Energy, but we don’t yet know who will hold the gavel.

The Environment supplemental finance bills in the House and Senate are also very different. However, the Senate bill will have to go through the Rules committee as a late bill and will not be heard until tomorrow as they ran out of time after a long floor session last Thursday. In the House version, there is a provision to monitor the water-quality at state fish hatcheries for nitrates and pesticides. The fish hatcheries are located in the cities of Crystal Springs, Lanesboro, and Peterson.

There is no mention of pesticides in the Health bills.

The conference committees will start in earnest immediately. Leaders have been discussing a path to pass a bonding bill over dinner and the prospects are looking hopeful.

Additional legislative retirements include Representative Anne Neu Brindley, Republican from 28B.

Now that the 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline is passed, we will work on scheduling informational meetings with target legislators and Executive Director Huff, to educate members about MMCD’s mission and important work in their districts.

## **Executive Committee Report for March 27, 2024**

The Executive Committee received a legislative update from Kim Scott who has been tracking legislative bills regarding pesticide application.

Executive Director, Daniel Huff, reported back on the staff direction received at the January 24 Executive Committee meeting regarding compensation for the Business Administrator. After discussion the committee unanimously forwarded with recommendation a resolution to increase the compensation of the Business Administrator by 15% for 12 months and to formally recognize by proclamation Arleen Schacht's extraordinary contributions to MMCD while she served as Interim Executive Director.

### **Business Administrator Supplemental Compensation**

**Whereas** the former Executive Director retired in January 2023; and

**Whereas**, MMCD Business Administrator Arleen Schacht undertook the role of Interim Executive Director until a new Executive Director began in January 2024; and

**Whereas**, in order to provide continuity to the operations of the organization, it is vital for Ms. Schacht to assist the new Executive Director while he acclimates to his new role; and

**Whereas**, such additional obligations over and above her normal duties as Business Administrator warrant temporary, additional compensation.

**Resolved**, by the MMCD Commission that Ms. Schacht regular compensation is supplemented as follows:

1. An increase to the normal pay rate of 15% for a period of 12 months.
2. All normal payroll taxes will apply.
3. All other terms of Ms. Schacht's existing employment relationship with MMCD remain unchanged.

Commission Hamann-Roland made a motion to approve the Business Administrator Supplemental Compensation.

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

### **Proclamation of Commendation**

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Director position for the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District became vacant due to retirement in January of 2023.

**WHEREAS**, the duties of the Executive Director include overseeing the management of full-time and seasonal staff, sustaining communications and a positive relationship with county commissioners, developing and overseeing budgets, making recommendations to the commission regarding the levy, monitoring District operations, and a host of other responsibilities.

**WHEREAS**, in the absence of a permanent Executive Director, Business Administrator Arleen Schacht fulfilled the duties of the role in addition to her regular assignments.

**WHEREAS**, the MMCD Commission and staff believe that Arleen Schacht did an exceptional job as interim Executive Director, maintaining all the necessary functions of the District with minimal interruption to service and high satisfaction ratings from Commissioners, staff, and other parties.

**THEREFORE**, I, Fran Miron, Chair of the MMCD Commission, do proclaim that Arleen Schacht performed above and beyond the obligations of her position to the great benefit of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, which the Commission deeply appreciates

Commission Anderson made a motion to approve the Proclamation of Commendation.

Commissioner Degler seconded the motion, and the recommendation was approved unanimously.

### **Executive Director's Report**

At the April 24, 2024 commission meeting, Technical Advisory Board (TAB) members Don Eaton, Department of Natural Resources, and Elizabeth Schiffman, Department of Health, presented the 2024 TAB report. The report was adopted by the full Commission.

The Commission discussed resolutions recommended by the Executive Committee to increase the salary of the Business Administrator and to issue a formal proclamation of commendation for the extraordinary work of Arleen Schacht during her service as the Interim Executive Director. Both resolutions were adopted.

Black Fly Specialist Carey LaMere and Field Operations Supervisors Andrea Lectka and Trevor Novotny provided an overview of the District's Black Fly program and discussed staff led implementation of a bulk treatment program that reduced staff time, improved safety, and reduced waste. Commissioners had the opportunity to observe black flies under the microscope and to see the District's large boat and a truck both with bulk treatment for black flies.

## **Operations Report**

### **Field Operations**

Field operations are in full force, full-time staff are performing weekly orientations and training for our seasonal staff. We are stressing the importance of working safely in all of our training and work they do.

We have over 60 seasonal staff out in the field doing a variety of fieldwork, such as dipping air sites for larvae, working with the helicopter treating air sites, dipping and treating smaller ground sites, inspecting and treating and treating for black fly and picking up tires.

Helicopter work continues, we calibrated the helicopter and on April 15<sup>th</sup>, we treated 7,680 acres with a pre-hatch control material that is good for 30 days. We are in the middle of treating our spring brood, by helicopter. We had 6 helicopters treating wetlands, so far, we have treated over 13,500 acres with about 20,000 acres to treat.

The drones will be calibrated this week or next for treatments, we are expecting drone treatments to start around May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Technical Services**

Team members provided an overview of technical services operations for five new District staff members to introduce them to St Paul facility operations. 14 seasonal employees have been hired.

Staff is assisting with development of a national employee exchange program. This program is being designed to share ideas, acquire new skills, and provide growth opportunities to benefit all respective organizations.

Among the first mosquito services provided efforts to reduce the risk of Jamestown Canyon illness and La Crosse encephalitis. We are currently working with municipal partners to control West Nile virus (WNV) vectors in underground stormwater management structures that our own staff are unable to reach.

Provided a lab tour to the Ramsey County Young Adult Career Academy, sharing our backgrounds and jobs at MMCD, demonstrated surveillance equipment and how we differentiate mosquito species.

Identifying mosquito samples began on April 9.

### **Public Affairs**

Alex Carlson reported that MMCD will begin sending a monthly “News Bite” to commissioners that can be easily copied and pasted into newsletters or social media posts. The first was sent the morning of the commission meeting and going forward they will be sent during the week of the



full commission or executive committee meetings. If anyone should be added to the recipient list of the News Bites, please contact Alex.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Miron adjourned the meeting at 10:43am.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT				
FINANCIAL STATEMENT				
June 30, 2024				
COUNTY	2024 LEVY	REC'D TO DATE	DUE	
Anoka	\$ 1,883,007	513,688	\$	1,369,320
Carver	700,674	0		700,674
Dakota	2,591,623	0		2,591,623
Hennepin	9,194,089	0		9,194,089
Ramsey	2,918,064	0		2,918,064
Scott	943,494	0		943,494
Washington	1,674,005			1,674,005
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 19,904,957</b>	<b>\$ 513,688</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>19,391,269</b>
Tax Delinquent Income	\$ 0	\$ 2,331		
Miscellaneous (Rent/Misc./Non-Levy)	100,000	53,332		
Interest Income	550,000	415,678		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 20,554,957</b>	<b>\$ 985,029</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>19,569,928</b>
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>				
<u>ASSETS</u>				
Cash and Investments		\$ 23,333,420		
Accounts Receivable		237,315		
Prepaid Expenses		0		
Consumable Material		1,884,445		
Equipment net of Acc Depreciation		2,929,775		
Land		1,118,867		
Building net of Acc Depreciation		2,632,128		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>32,135,950</b>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
Vouchers Payable		\$ 513,051		
Pass thru Revenue				
Deferred Revenue		237,315		
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>750,366</b>
<u>NET WORTH</u>				
Fund Balance:				
Nonspendable		\$ 3,627,247		
Prepaid		0		
Committed		1,500,000		
Assigned		1,141,882		
Unassigned for Working Capital		27,551,650		
<b>Total Fund Equity</b>		<b>\$ 33,820,779</b>		
Assets-Equipment		6,680,770		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 40,501,549</b>		
ADD Income		985,029		
DEDUCT Expenditures		10,100,995		
<b>TOTAL NET WORTH</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>31,385,583</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>32,135,950</b>

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT				
CUMULATIVE OPERATIONS STATEMENT				
June 30, 2024				
EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	
			+OVER/- UNDER	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>				
Operations	\$ 550,586			
Capital Items	0			
Repairs	0			
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$ 550,586</b>	<b>\$ 646,949</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(96,363)</b>
<u>CONTROL DIVISION</u>				
Operations	\$ 9,126,321			
Capital Items	310,885			
Repairs	112,005			
<b>TOTAL CONTROL DIVISION</b>	<b>\$ 9,549,211</b>	<b>\$ 10,479,630</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(930,419)</b>
<u>COMMISSION</u>				
Per Diem	\$ 0			
Mileage	1,198			
<b>TOTAL COMMISSION</b>	<b>\$ 1,198</b>	<b>\$ 1,540</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(342)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 10,100,995</b>	<b>\$ 11,128,119</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(1,027,124)</b>
<b>BUDGET REMAINING</b>		<b>\$ 10,131,948</b>		
<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 20,232,943</b>		
<b>EMERGENCY FUNDS</b>		<b>0</b>		
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>		<b>\$ 20,232,943</b>		

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING**

**JULY 24, 2024**

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Informational:**

Proclamation of Commendation

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**Background:**

At its April 24, 2024, meeting, the Commission approved a Proclamation of Commendation for Arleen Schacht.

## **METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING**

**JULY 24, 2024**

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Informational:**

Auditor's Report on MMCD Financial  
Statements Ending December 31, 2023

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**Background:**

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 473.703 subd. 10, we hereby submit the Annual Financial Report of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District for the year ended December 31, 2023. This report includes the financial statements for the District and the disclosures necessary to accurately present the financial condition and results of operations for the year then ended. The report has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for government units.

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

The MMCD's financial statements have been audited by Redpath and Company. The goal of the independent audit was to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements of the MMCD for the year ended December 31, 2023, are free of material misstatement. Redpath and Company issued an unmodified opinion on the MMCD's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023. The Independent Auditor's Report from Redpath and Company is the first component of the financial section of this report.

A representative of Redpath and Company will provide a detailed report of their audit results at the meeting of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission on July 24, 2024.



## COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

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

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Metropolitan Mosquito Control District for the year ended December 31, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated January 23, 2024. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

### Significant Audit Matters

#### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Metropolitan Mosquito Control District are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by Metropolitan Mosquito Control District during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

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

The most sensitive estimates affecting Metropolitan Mosquito Control District's financial statements are the:

- Present value of the lease liability
- The estimates used to calculate the new pension liability, net OPEB asset, the pension and OPEB related deferred outflows and inflows of resources, and pension and OPEB expense

These estimates are based on Metropolitan Mosquito Control District's estimated incremental borrowing rate and actuarial studies. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

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

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

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

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

#### *Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements*

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no uncorrected misstatements that have an effect on our opinion on the financial statements. The uncorrected misstatements or the matters underlying them could potentially cause future period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though, in our judgement, such uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements under audit. There were no corrected misstatements identified during the audit.

#### *Disagreements with Management*

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

#### *Management Representations*

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated June 7, 2024.

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

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to Metropolitan Mosquito Control

District's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

#### *Other Audit Findings or Issues*

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

#### Other Matters

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

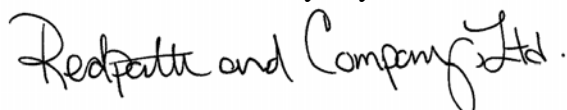
We were not engaged to report on the introductory section, which accompanies the financial statements but is not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance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

#### Other Reports

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

#### Restriction on Use

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



REDPATH AND COMPANY, LTD.  
St. Paul, Minnesota

June 7, 2024



## **METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING**

**JULY 24, 2024**

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Informational:**

Executive Committee Meeting June 26, 2024.

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### **Prouty – Strategic Planning**

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 provided an overview of the process and received input from the Executive Committee regarding planned engagement with Commission members.

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

The employment contract for the Executive Director, Dan Huff, includes that 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.

The Executive Committee asked many questions about the process, how the performance would be measured, had goals been established upon hire, and after a lengthy discussion the Executive Committee agreed that a full performance was not necessary but a condensed version to help set a foundation for the annual performance review.

Commissioner Reinert motioned to approve the proposal with modifications and a new fee structure, giving the Commission Chair Fran Miron to review all modifications and the authority to approve.

In the following days, after further discussion between Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator and Commission Chair Miron, it was determined that MMCD will not utilize DDA Human Resources services for the 6-month performance evaluation. The process will be managed in-house, and District's Human Resource department put together a survey to send it to all MMCD Commissioners and key employees for input. The results will be compiled and provided upon completion.

**Bylaws – Amendment, 30-day notice**

The MMCC Bylaws were developed and approved in 2023, however, there was a discrepancy in the officer rotation in the Bylaws as compared to the MMCD practice and language used for the annual Organizational meeting. The Bylaws indicated a 1-year rotation for officers, and the organizational language used indicated a 2-year rotation for officers.

Commission Liz Workman stated support of a 2-year rotation because one year is not enough time for a Commissioner to fully understand all the components of being a Commission member, as well as an Executive Committee member.

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

This information will serve as the official 30-Notice of amendment of the MMCC Bylaws.

## **METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING**

**JULY 24, 2024**

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Action Requested:**

Approve MMCD 2025 Preliminary Levy

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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 110% 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

- The Facility Condition Assessment will be the foundation to assist MMCD in creating 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.

## **Levy**

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

Other revenues sources can vary considerably, so have not been used toward achieving a balanced budget, however, taking other revenue sources into consideration, with a 3% levy increase revenue will exceed expense by \$1,975 (see table on page 18).

## **We recommend the following:**

- A 3% increase in the 2025 levy (does not include other revenue). The approved proposed levy is due to the State of Minnesota Department of Revenue on August 1, 2024. (see table on page 19).

- Proposed budget discussions begin in the fall with the final budget approval at the December Commission meeting. (See table on page 19). That timeline provides the opportunity to do our due diligence and gather the information that is needed to provide as accurate a budget as possible.
- Taking into consideration using reserves in the event the District experiences a wet year and expense far exceeds revenue.
- The levy cannot be increased after August 1, but the Commission can approve to decrease the levy at the December Commission meeting if changes to the proposed budget warrant a decrease.

### **Resolution**

**Whereas**, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District is required to certify a preliminary levy for payable 2025 to the Minnesota Department of Revenue by August 1, 2024; and

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

**Resolved**, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission certifies the preliminary payable 2025 levy in the amount of \$20,502,106 to the Minnesota Department of Revenue, a 3% increase over the 2024 levy of \$19,904,957.

This will support our ability to continue to plan for operational changes and expansion, and organizational growth.

Approving a 3% increase in the 2025 levy (proposed in July) enables us to observe how the weather and other budget factors will impact the financial situation of the District.

Table below shows a 3% levy 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	\$15,079,815	\$18,550,084	\$18,786,014
Capital Outlay	\$365,746	\$316,798	\$1,701,271	\$523,520	\$1,285,000
Administration	\$924,070	\$1,047,032	\$983,090	\$1,156,530	\$1,276,317
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,480,714</b>	<b>\$14,976,543</b>	<b>\$17,765,984</b>	<b>\$20,232,934</b>	<b>\$21,350,131</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	\$28,194,777
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$26,246,353</b>	<b>\$30,745,309</b>	<b>\$33,820,779</b>	<b>\$34,142,802</b>	<b>\$34,144,777</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>					
Revenue over expense (Surplus)	(\$3,347,249)	(\$4,473,801)	(\$2,938,817)	(\$322,023)	(\$1,975)

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## MMCD Calendar for Budget Year 2025

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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

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 24, 2024

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Action Requested:**

Approve the MOU with Minneapolis Parks 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.

The Executive Committee unanimously recommends approval of this MOU.

**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: XXXX

**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: XXXX

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**

**JULY 24, 2024**

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Action Requested:**

Approve the RCS Consulting (Lobbyist) fee.

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Peg Larson presented to the Executive Committee a request for the fee paid to RCS Consulting for lobbyist services performed by herself and Kim Scott.

RCS Consulting has not raised their rates in 15 years, however the workload has increased for a variety of reasons, one being the number of bills that are introduced has doubled, from 5,000 to nearly 10,000 in the last biennium.

Comparable lobbyist contracts in today's market are averaging \$45,000, but RCS Consulting is requesting an increase to \$30,000 (currently \$20,000). For two lobbyists, it is a very good value, considering their knowledge of MMCD, and their relationships with key legislators.

Commissioner Liz Workman moved to make a recommendation to the full Commission at the July 24, 2024, meeting to approve the request for RCS Consulting to increase the annual rate to \$30,000.

Commissioner Reinert seconded the motion, and the recommendation was approved unanimously.

**To: Commission Members**  
**From: Daniel Huff**  
**Re: Executive Director Report**  
**Date: July 2024**

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

Rain, helicopters and black flies. This June hit the record books for being one of the five wettest in a hundred years. All that water has kept us busy. The number of acres treated by helicopter has already exceeded the annual total from the past three years. The good news is years of drought have suppressed the number of mosquitoes. Although we saw a high number of mosquitoes this spring, the summer mosquitoes are well below average. Our goal is to slow the recovery of their population. Last month we detected our first West Nile Virus positive mosquito of the season.

All this water has led to many of our rivers being above flood stage, preventing us from doing our black fly treatments. Black fly levels along the Minnesota and Vermillion Rivers continue to be high. The black fly trap near Belle Plain collected 14,000 black flies in one night!

You will notice a change in our Operations Report. My goal is for these reports to give you a snapshot of our work in context with previous years. I hope you will find these changes helpful. I welcome your feedback.

We are excited to begin our work with the Prouty Group who will lead our strategic planning process this fall and winter. Adreienne Jordan, Senior Consultant with Prouty, presented to the Executive Committee last month. Adreienne will meet with the full Commission at our October meeting to gather your input followed by an additional session with the Executive Committee in November. The Executive Committee expressed their desire for one or two Commissioners to be a part of the Strategic Planning Committee which will meet for two and half days from September through January to draft the plan. The completed plan will be brought to the Commission for final approval during your April, 2025 meeting. I am excited about this process.

It is my pleasure to welcome Hennepin County Commissioner Heather Edelson to MMCD Commission. Commissioner Edelson will be replacing Commissioner Marion Greene.

Commissioners Jeppson and Reinhart toured the Andover facility. One the helicopters was treating nearby and made a quick stop during the Commissioners visit. Chair Miron, Washington County Board Chair Karwoski and State Senator Hwaj toured the Oakdale facility. Commissioners Anderson and Edelson toured the Plymouth facility. Commissioners Moran and Xiong and State Representative Lillie toured the Oakdale Facility.



At the Andover Facility. From left to right: Commissioner Reinhart, Commissioner Jeppsen, Daniel Huff and Regional Manager Dave Dirkswager



At the Oakdale Facility. From left to right: Kim Scott, Chair Kawoski, Chair Miron, Kathy Beadle, Gabby Grogan, Senator Hwaj, Daniel Huff, Josh Madetzke, Tyler Davis and Kara Josephson.



At the Plymouth Facility. From left to right: Ketki Varsha, Clara Severson, Dan Dodge, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Edelson, Daniel Huff and Cole Reopke



At the Oakdale Facility. From left to right: Commissioner Moran, Josh Madetzke, Mayumi Morgan and Commissioner Xiong don backpacks

## 2. MOSQUITO CONTROL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

### July 2024 Operations Update -

This continued rain has meant additional helicopter work. Figure 1. shows the total acres treated by helicopter for the last 10 years. So far this year, we have already treated over 145,000 acres, which is more than we treated in 2021, 2022, or 2023.

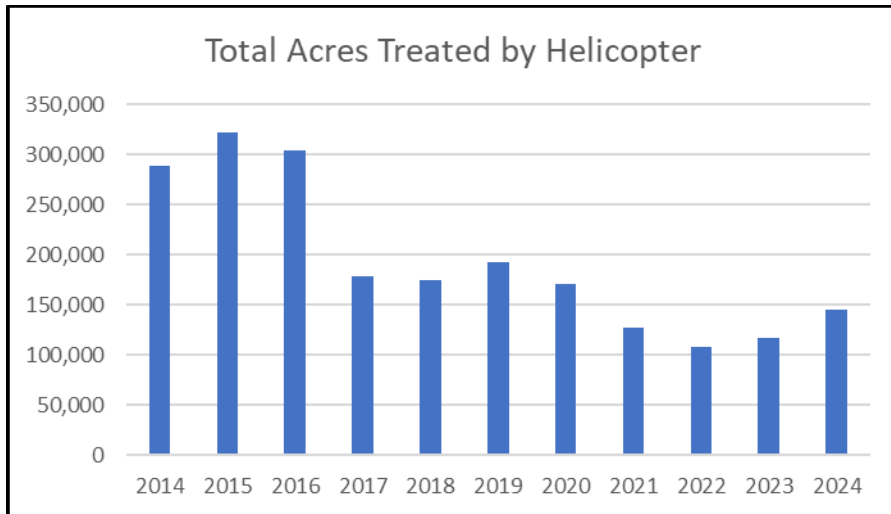


Figure 1. Total acres treated by helicopter per year (2024 total is year to date).

Before the field crews treat sites via helicopter, drone and on the ground, larvae samples are collected. A busy field season equates to a busy lab. The number of samples identified by the lab has increased more than the actual acres treated because we had a higher proportion of sites that did not have species of concern when sampled and did not meet threshold requirements. Sampling helped us target our control efforts and materials to where they would do the most good.

Typically, an inch of rain can induce a hatch of floodwater mosquitoes; our most numerous mosquito is *Aedes vexans*. This year, however, most rain events have not resulted in large numbers of floodwater mosquitoes.

As shown in Figure 1 above, helicopter treated acres increased significantly in 2024 in response to rain. We take larval samples at sites before treating with Bti to make sure there are species of concern (target species) present that meet IPM thresholds for treatment. Figure 2 shows the total number of larval samples taken to support helicopter work.

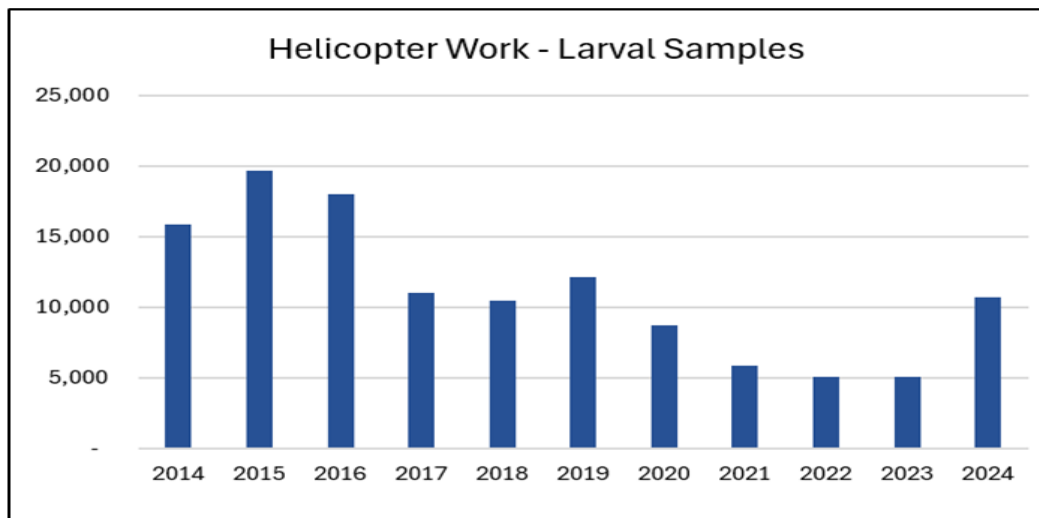


Figure 2. Total larval samples evaluated for helicopter sites.



We have continued to increase the acres treated by drone. Figure 3 shows the total acres treated by drone for the last 5 years. We have treated 1,600 acres so far in 2024. We will eclipse our 2023 total of 1,650 before the end of July.

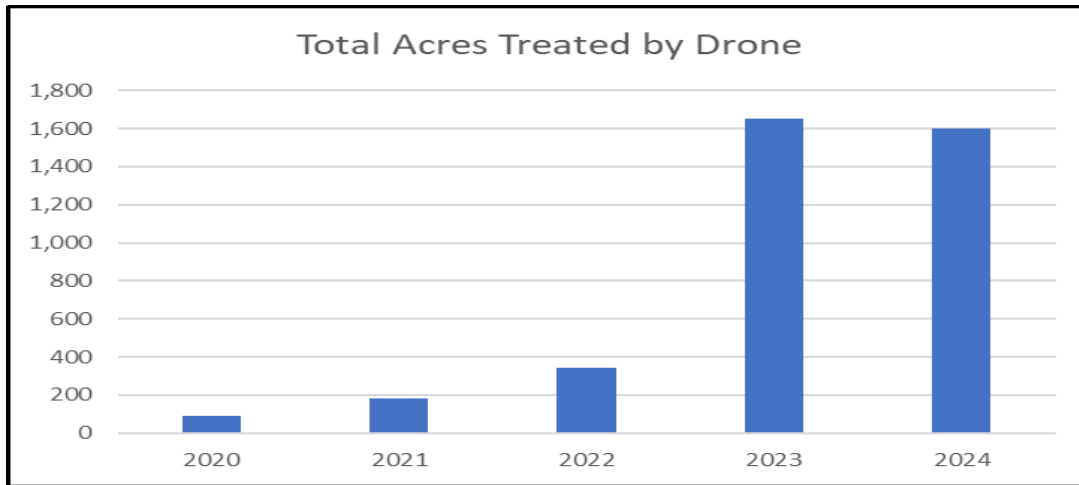


Figure 3. Total acres treated by drone per year (2024 total is year to date).

All the helicopter work and drone work must also be supported by the groundwork our technicians complete. Figure 5 shows the total acres treated by ground for the last 5 years. We have treated over 13,000 acres by ground so far this season.

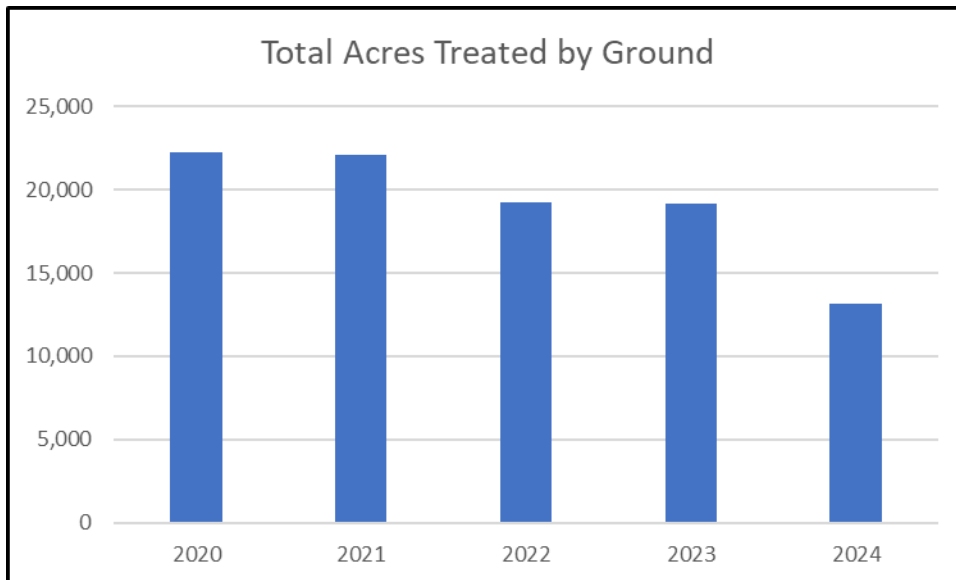


Figure 4. Total acres treated by ground per year (2024 total is year to date).

Field staff will continue to respond to the rain as the season continues. They will also focus their attention on disease prevention work for the rest of July and August.

We conduct adult surveillance to track mosquito abundance throughout the year. Figure 5 depicts the seasonal distribution of the human biting species from mid-May through July 9. Also shown is the 10-year average. Early in the season, populations were higher than the 10-year average, but for the last four weeks populations have been below the average.

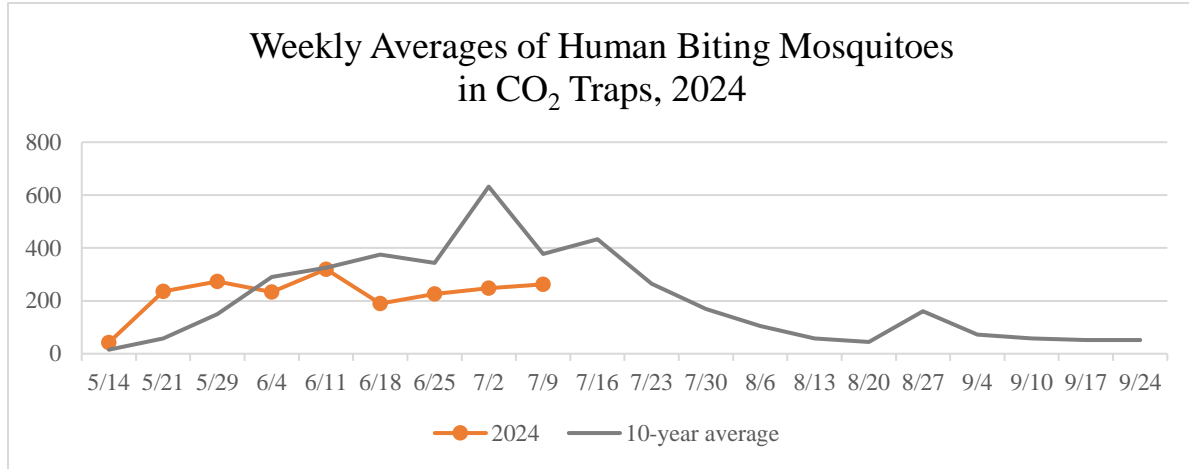


Figure 5. Weekly averages of human biting mosquitoes captured in CO<sub>2</sub> traps from May 14-July 9, 2024. Human biting species include *Aedes* species and *Coquillettidia perturbans* (cattail mosquitoes).

The below average numbers are due, in part, to the lack of *Cq. perturbans* which normally are very abundant in early July. The previous three years of drought have led to their very low numbers (Figure 6) compared to 2020, which was a more normal year.

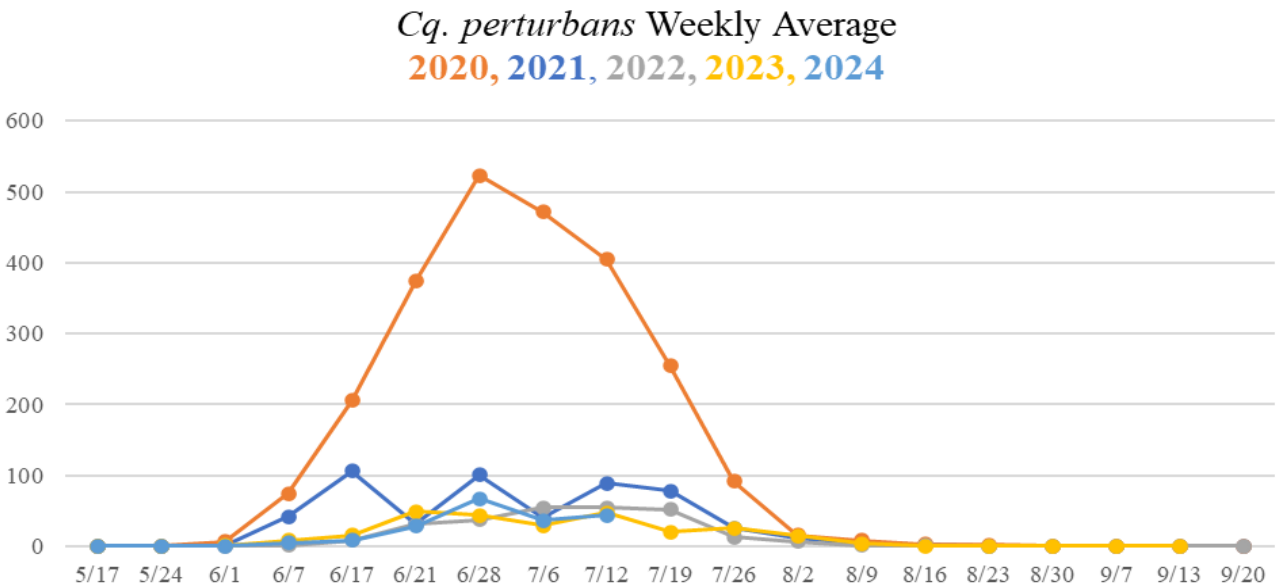


Figure 6. Weekly averages of *Coquillettidia perturbans* in CO<sub>2</sub> traps in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

We also map the results to show mosquito populations and black fly populations across a geographic area. We can then focus adult control on areas with high mosquito populations and also evaluate larval control measures for both mosquitoes and black flies. Due to rivers being above flood stage, we have been unable to conduct black fly treatment resulting in high black fly numbers along the Minnesota and Vermillion Rivers.

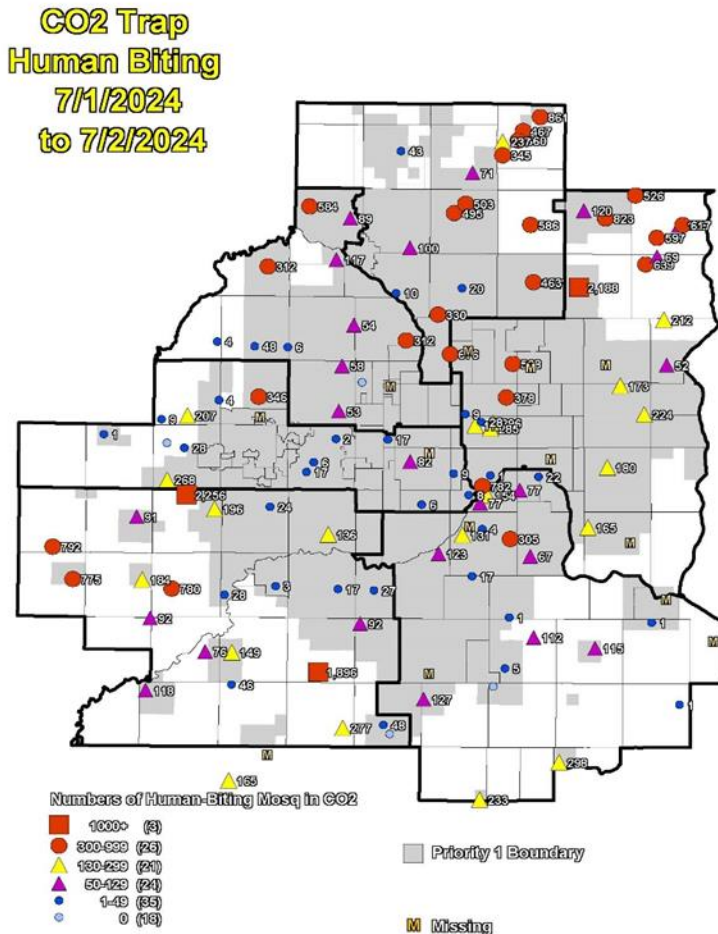


Figure 7. Map of human biting mosquitoes captured in overnight carbon dioxide-baited traps, July 2, 2024. Yellow triangles, red circles, and red boxes indicate levels above the treatment threshold of 130 mosquitoes per trap night.

**CO2 Trap  
Black Fly  
7/1/2024  
to 7/2/2024**

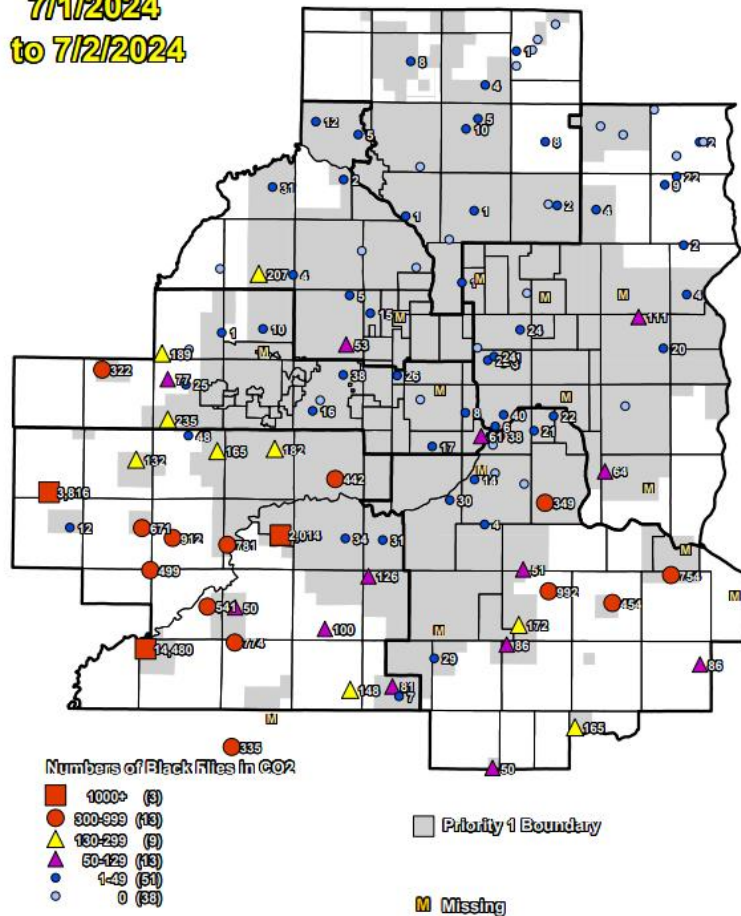


Figure 8. Map of black flies captured in overnight carbon dioxide-baited traps, July 2, 2024.

#### 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/>

##### Category A+L Recertification Workshop

On Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> we hosted around 80 MMCD staff and 15 guest commercial pesticide applicators for a Field Day Recertification Workshop. This is mandatory training for all pesticide applicators, and we partnered with the U of M Extension to offer a great variety of presenters and interactive topics.

##### Mosquitoes in the News

The news coverage of mosquitoes and ticks in Minnesota has continued through June and into July. Here are some recent stories:

- KARE 11 - Mosquito repellents put to the test — which ones work and which ones don't
  - <https://www.kare11.com/article/money/consumer/mosquito-repellents-which-ones-work-and-which-ones-dont/89-0f237f18-f0dc-4254-908f-a55700438128>
- KSTP - Mosquito season spiking with flooding, West Nile virus detected earlier than normal
  - <https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/mosquito-season-spiking-with-flooding-west-nile-virus-detected-earlier-than-normal/>
- MPR News - Summer of rain paving the way for a mosquito boom, but not until next summer
  - <https://www.mprnews.org/episode/2024/07/11/summer-of-rain-paving-the-way-for-a-mosquito-boom-but-not-until-next-summer>

### **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:

- 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 14 – Whiz Bang Days Parade
- July 16 – Presentation at Shakopee Library

And here are some that are upcoming:

- July 23-28 – Anoka County Fair
- July 24-28 – Scott County Fair
- July 25 – Presentation at Belle Plaine Library
- July 31 – August 4 – Washington County Fair
- August 5-11 – Dakota County Fair
- August 7 – STAR Collective at the Science Museum
- August 7-11 Carver County Fair
- August 8 – Presentation at Wildwood Library
- August 9-18 – Game Fair
- August 11 – Pollinator Festival at Bruce Vento