

# **Metropolitan Mosquito Control District**

## **Commission Meeting**

**August 28, 2024**

**9:15 A.M.**

*Information Packet*

# METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

## COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

August 28, 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 July 24, 2024
4. Financial Statements July 31, 2024
5. Approval of Checks and Claims  
General 77877-79315

### REGULAR AGENDA

6. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
7. Bylaws – Commission Officers Rotation – amended\*
8. Strategic Planning Committee membership\*
9. Executive Director’s Report
10. Operations and Public Affairs Reports (Jon Peterson, Alex Carlson)
11. Vector Borne Disease – Staff presentation, Kirk Johnson
12. Other Items
13. Adjournment

\* Action Requested

**Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, October 23, 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 –  
July 24, 2024

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

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

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Anoka County
Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Anoka County
Commissioner Julie Jeppson	Anoka County
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Carver County
Commissioner John Fahey	Carver County
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Heather Edelson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong	Ramsey County
Commissioner Rena Moran	Ramsey County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

**Staff:**

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

**Visitors:**

Andy Hering, CPA, Redpath & Company,

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

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

**Resolution 1:**

The following administrative items were approved in one motion.

Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for July 24, 2024

Financial Statements June 30, 2024

Approval of Checks and Claims. General 777729-79194

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

**Recognition Presentation**

Commission Chair Miron presented Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator, a Proclamation of Commendation by the Commission.

**Intergovernmental Affairs Report (no report)**

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Approval:**

Approve MMCD 2023 Audited Financial Statement

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Andy Hering, CPA, Redpath & Company, reviewed the results of the audit of MMCD financial statements ending December 31, 2023. He described four aspects of the audit report.

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

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

Mr. Hering reported no findings on internal control over financial reporting and reported no legal compliance findings. Andy reported that the District has a net OPEB asset of \$3,374,575. The District's pension liability is \$4,713,473 and lease liability is \$739,052.

Mr. Hering stated that as of December 31, 2023, The District's unassigned fund balance was \$27,551,650 which is \$19,299,664 above the minimum defined in the District's Fund Balance Policy (\$8,251,986). This minimum defines the amount of money needed to support cash flow between January and July when the first tax payments are received.

Mr. Hering reported that no difficulties were encountered while performing the audit and that there were no disagreements with District management and thanked the MMCD staff for their assistance.

**Resolution 1:**

Commissioner Reinert made a motion to approve the 2023 audited financial statements as presented.

Commissioner Meisner seconded the motion, and the motion was approved anonymously.

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Approval:**

Approval MMCD 2025 Preliminary Levy

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Daniel Huff discussed factors that will have an impact on the 2025 expense budget, which includes weather, employee medical insurance, helicopter services and expansion of services and wages. All of these areas have a potential impact on the 2025 budget and will be reviewed and finalized prior to the December Commission Meeting, when the 2025 final levy and expense budgets are approved.

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

**Resolution 2**

**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 there is another proposed levy deadline September 15, 2024, and

**Whereas**, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission Executive Committee has reviewed property tax levy options to maintain District operational plans,

**Be it now resolved**, the Executive Committee of 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.

Commissioner Workman made a motion to certify the proposed levy increase.

Commissioner Hamann-Roland seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

2025 Proposed Levy

	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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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Approval:**

Approval of the MOU with Minneapolis  
Parks and Recreation Board

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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.

In the 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.

**Resolution 3:**

Commissioner Reinert made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board.

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



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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Approval:**

Approval of the RCS Consulting (Lobbyist)  
fee

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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.

RCS Consulting is requesting an increase to \$30,000 (currently \$20,000).

**Resolution 4:**

Commissioner Hamann-Roland made a motion to increase the rate for RCS Consulting from \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually.

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

## **Executive Director’s Report**

Daniel Huff, Executive Director provided an update on the upcoming strategic planning process including engagement of Commission members.

## **Operations Report**

John Peterson, District Operations Manager provided an update on the field operations that included acres treated, helicopter services and tires picked up by seasonal and full-time employees.

Mark Smith, Technical Services Manager provided an update on the technical services lab activities and responsibilities of sample identification and surveillance data.

Kirk Johnson, Vector Ecologist provided an update on Vector Borne Diseases found in mosquitos, including but not limited to West Nile Virus and LaCrosse Encephalitis.

Diann Crane and Scott Larson did a presentation about the Technical Service Lab, some history on MMCD, the tasks performed at the lab and some of the equipment and tools used.

## **Public Affairs Report**

Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Manager gave an update on the many events that MMCD has participated in, as well as events that are coming up District wide, that seasonal and full-time employees will be participating.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Commissioner Miron adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT						
FINANCIAL STATEMENT						
July 31, 2024						
COUNTY		2024 LEVY		REC'D TO DATE		DUE
Anoka	\$	1,883,007		1,043,467	\$	839,540
Carver		700,674		400,569		300,106
Dakota		2,591,623		1,371,638		1,219,985
Hennepin		9,194,089		4,509,493		4,684,596
Ramsey		2,918,064		1,372,564		1,545,500
Scott		943,494		513,688		429,806
Washington		1,674,005		943,546		730,459
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>19,904,957</b>		<b>\$ 10,154,965</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,749,992</b>
Tax Delinquent Income	\$	0		\$ 41,921		
Miscellaneous (Rent/Misc./Non-Levy)		100,000		70,582		
Interest Income		550,000		825,958		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>20,554,957</b>		<b>\$ 11,093,426</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,461,530</b>
<b><u>BALANCE SHEET</u></b>						
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>						
Cash and Investments				\$ 31,725,060		
Accounts Receivable				237,315		
Prepaid Expenses				0		
Consumable Material				1,574,779		
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>40,217,924</b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>						
Vouchers Payable				\$ 758,895		
Pass thru Revenue				0		
Deferred Revenue				237,315		
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>					<b>\$</b>	<b>996,210</b>
<b><u>NET WORTH</u></b>						
Fund Balance:						
Nonspendable				\$ 3,627,247		
Prepaid				0		
Committed				1,500,000		
Assigned				1,141,882		
Unassigned for Working Capital				27,551,650		
Total Fund Equity				\$ 33,820,779		
Assets-Equipment				6,680,770		
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 40,501,549</b>		
ADD Income				11,093,426		
DEDUCT Expenditures				12,373,262		
<b>TOTAL NET WORTH</b>					<b>\$</b>	<b>39,221,713</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH</b>					<b>\$</b>	<b>40,217,924</b>

CUMULATIVE OPERATIONS STATEMENT				
		July 31, 2024		
EXPENDITURES		ACTUAL	BUDGET	+OVER/-UNDER
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>				
Operations	\$	663,875		
Capital Items		0		
Repairs		0		
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>663,875</b>	<b>\$ 764,576</b>	<b>\$ (100,701)</b>
<u>CONTROL DIVISION</u>				
Operations	\$	11,257,885		
Capital Items		310,885		
Repairs		139,419		
<b>TOTAL CONTROL DIVISION</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,708,189</b>	<b>\$ 12,385,017</b>	<b>\$ (676,828)</b>
<u>COMMISSION</u>				
Per Diem	\$	0		
Mileage		1,198		
<b>TOTAL COMMISSION</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>\$ 1,820</b>	<b>\$ (622)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,373,262</b>	<b>\$ 13,151,413</b>	<b>\$ (778,151)</b>
<b>BUDGET REMAINING</b>			<b>\$ 7,081,530</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

AUGUST 28, 2024

**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Action Requested:**

Approval of MMCD Commission amended Bylaws

**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/ Gayle Degler	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 2036	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.

#### Option One:

Edit the Bylaws as follows:

### 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 biennium and a commissioner from each county holds each office 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:**

Amended Bylaws to align the current practices with the MMCC Bylaws, with a two-year rotation of Executive Officers (option 1).

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**Requested by:**

Daniel Huff

**Action Requested:**

Commission Member Representatives on  
Strategic Planning Committee

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**Background:**

As the District works through the process of developing a new strategic plan, a core group of 20 staff will meet regularly. This group, the Strategic Planning Committee, will review input from various stakeholders and draft the goals, strategies and tactics that will make up the new strategic plan. The group will meet five (5) times for sessions facilitated by Prouty Project.

Two (2) Commissioners are invited to join the Strategic Planning Committee. Participants should plan on attending all sessions. The days and time of these sessions are as follows:

**STRATEGIC PLANNING DATE BY SESSION:**

**September 20, 2024, 9 am – 1 pm**

Current Reality Session – ½ day –

Prouty Project offices – 6385 Old Shady Oak Road, Suite 260, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

**October 24, 2024, 9 am – 1 pm**

Refine Mission, Values, Vision Statements – ½ day –

Prouty Project offices – 6385 Old Shady Oak Road, Suite 260, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

**November 7, 2024, 8 am – 4 pm**

Desired Future Session - full day –

*MMCD North District Office - 1260 Bunker Lake Blvd. NW, Andover, MN 55304*

**January 8, 2025, 8 am – 4 pm**

Building the Strategic Plan Session – full day –

Prouty Project offices – 6385 Old Shady Oak Road, Suite 260, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

**March 27, 2025, 9 am – 1 pm**

Plan Revision - ½ day –

Prouty Project offices – 6385 Old Shady Oak Road, Suite 260, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

**May 13, 2025, 8 am – 4 pm**

Implementation Plan – full day –

Prouty Project offices – 6385 Old Shady Oak Road, Suite 260, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

As the Strategic Planning Committee develops the plan, it will continue to receive input from the Commission, staff and all stakeholders in the following sessions:

**COMMISSION INPUT SESSIONS**

**October 23, 2024, MMCD Commission meeting, 9:15 am**

Full Commission

MMCD Board Room, 2099 University Ave. W, St Paul, MN 55104



**November 21, 2024, Executive Committee meeting, 9:15 am**

Executive Committee

MMCD Board Room, 2099 University Ave. W, St Paul, MN 55104

**April 23, 2025, MMCD Commission meeting, 9:15 am**

Final Plan Approval

MMCD Board Room, 2099 University Ave. W, St Paul, MN 55104

**STAFF INPUT SESSION**

**September 26, 2024, 9 am – 1 pm**

Permanent Staff Engagement Session – ½ day -

Prouty Project offices – 6385 Old Shady Oak Road, Suite 260, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

**ALL STAKEHOLDER INPUT**

**February 13, 2025, After Commission meeting**

Open house Feedback - ½ day –

MMCD Board Room, 2099 University Ave. W, St Paul, MN 55104

**Recommendation:**

Commission selects two (2) members to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee

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

**1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES**

*In a statement straight out of a 'Parks and Recreation' episode, Executive Director of Mosquito Control Daniel Huff (yes, this is his real title) said the following: ...*

[Golf Digest, July 30, 2024](#)

I had a good laugh when I read that in Golf Digest last month. Fortunately, the golf ball that hit our helicopter, and spawned this story, did only minor damage and did not result in any injuries. This episode serves as a good reminder of the many different interactions we have with the public. Our staff and contracted pilots are active in every corner of the District. I am proud of the professionalism and respect I see from every MMCD employee.

Add to the list of things that are just better here in Minnesota, Wisconsin Public Radio showed their mosquito control envy in [this story highlighting the work of MMCD.](#)

The lab and field offices continue to be busy dipping, identifying and treating. The lab has been burning the overtime oil working through a record number of samples this past month.

*Culex* mosquitoes, carriers of West Nile virus continue to be at high levels throughout the district. Sadly, a Minnesotan died of West Nile disease earlier this month. Counts of another disease vector, *Anopheles* mosquitoes have been high this year. Assistant Entomologist, Dr. Scott Larson predicts this might be a record year for *Anopheles*. As the vector for malaria, *Anopheles* mosquitoes are the world's most dangerous animals. Fortunately, Malaria is no longer endemic to Minnesota. For the time being, we don't have that on our list of worries.

West Nile Virus positive mosquitoes have been detected in traps adjacent to the Robert's Bird Sanctuary near Lake Harriet in Minneapolis. We have begun larval treatments in bird sanctuary. These treatments will follow guidelines outlined in our MOU with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board.

MMCD will staff a booth at the State Fair again this year. Be sure to grab a tub of Sweet Martha's and swing by for a visit.

At our last meeting, a question was asked regarding how much we are spending on treatment compared to previous years. The following table (Figure 1) shows just how our year-to-date treatment expenditures compare over the past 10 years. Even with a few more months left in the season, you can see we have already exceeded the expenditure of the past four years. Time will tell how much rain we will get over the next month and thus how much we have to treat.

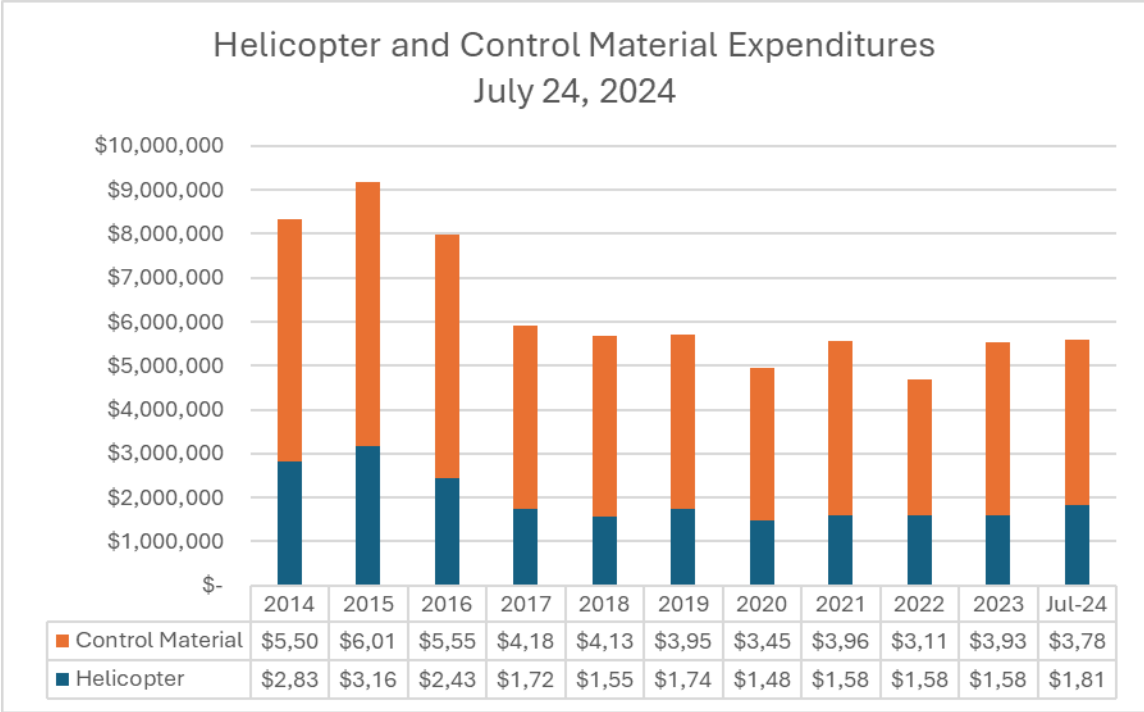


Figure 1

Our strategic planning consultants at Prouty Project are about halfway through the data gathering phase. Permanent and seasonal staff, and Commission members have had the opportunity to complete the online survey. An in-person session was held with 15 seasonal staff and interviews have started with the Executive Committee. Prouty Project is setting up sessions for the Technical Advisory Board and will interview Kim Scott and Peg Larson. At the October meeting of the full Commission, Adrienne Jordan will lead a session to gather additional information from all of you.

Jon Peterson and the Rosemount team hosted Commissioners Halverson, Hamman-Roland and Workman for an overview of MMCD’s operations in Dakota County.



## 2. MOSQUITO CONTROL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

### Field Operations

The weather has continued to be wet into August. So far this month, we have had to respond to three different rain events with helicopter treatments. Figure 1 shows total larval acres (helicopter, ground, and drone) treated each year, 2014 – 2024 (year to date). In 2024, we have already treated over 228,000 acres. This is the most acres we have treated since 2016.

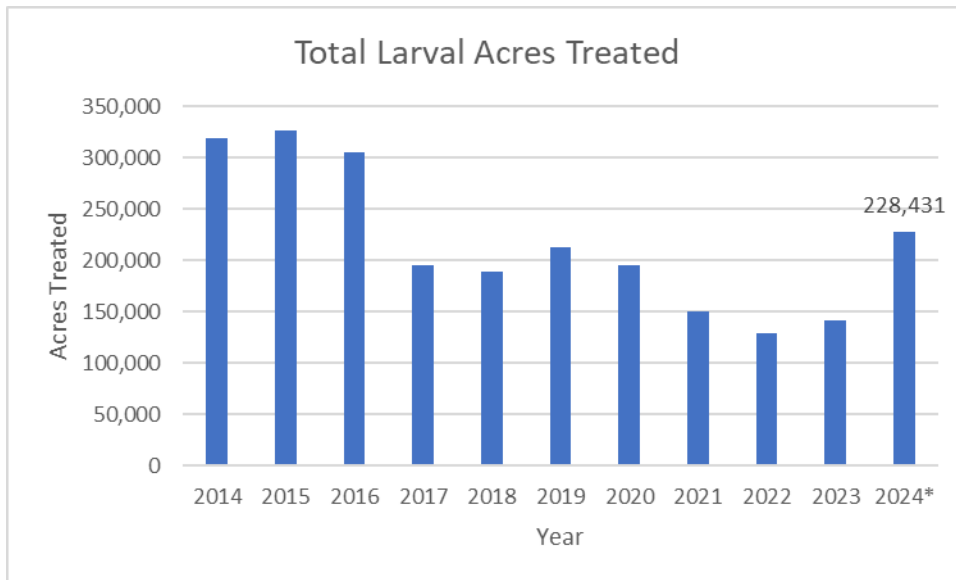


Figure 1. Total acres treated per year (helicopter, ground, and drone\*\* treatments).

\* 2024 - year to date

\*\* Drone treatments did not begin until 2020

When reviewing the total larval acres treated so far in 2024, 91 percent (207,000 acres) have been treated by helicopters, with the largest percentage of treatments being completed with Bti. When comparing the ground treatments (gas powered backpack and hand) to drone treatments, we have treated 15,000 more acres by ground than drone. We will continue to expand our drone program next season.

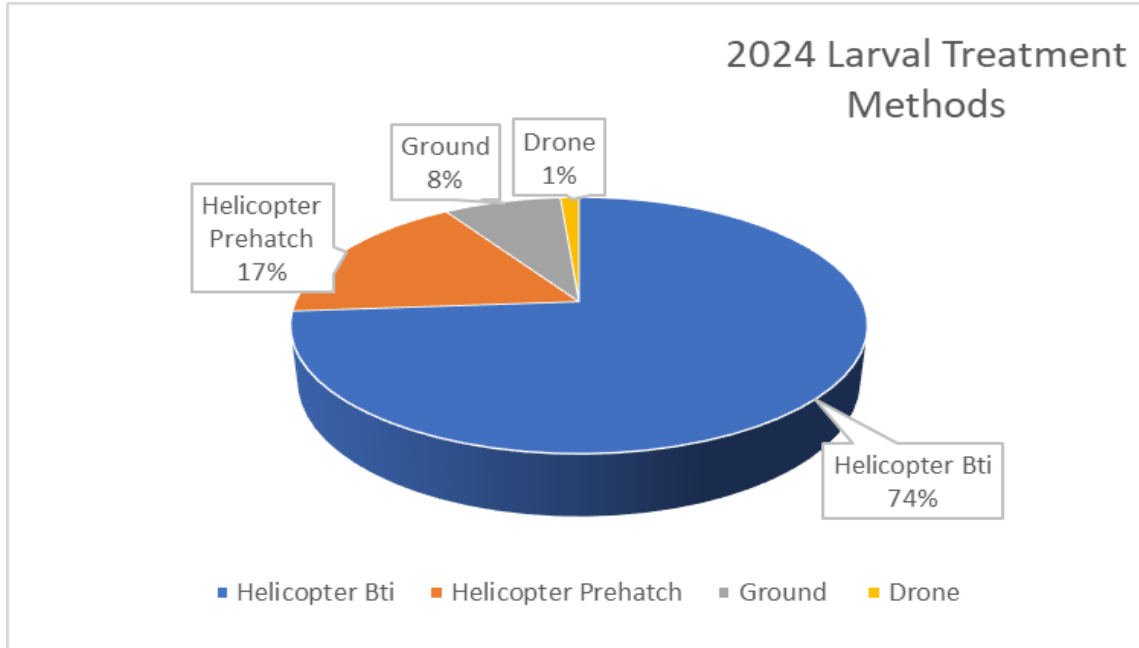


Figure 2. 2024 percent larval treatment methods. (year to date)

As we approach the end of August, over 65% of our seasonal staff resign to go back to college. The remainder of our seasonal staff will switch gears from inspecting and treating for our summer annoyance and vector mosquitoes, to inspecting for the mosquitoes called *Coquillettidia perturbans*. These mosquitoes, commonly referred to as “the cattail mosquito,” over winter attached to the roots of cattails. To allow staff to focus on and complete this work, we treated over 15,000 acres by helicopter with prehatch material on 8/16 – 8/20. These wetlands (Figure 3) were chosen and treated due to their site history of being productive producers of mosquitoes. The prehatch material that was applied will be controlling mosquitoes in these wetlands for at least 30 days.

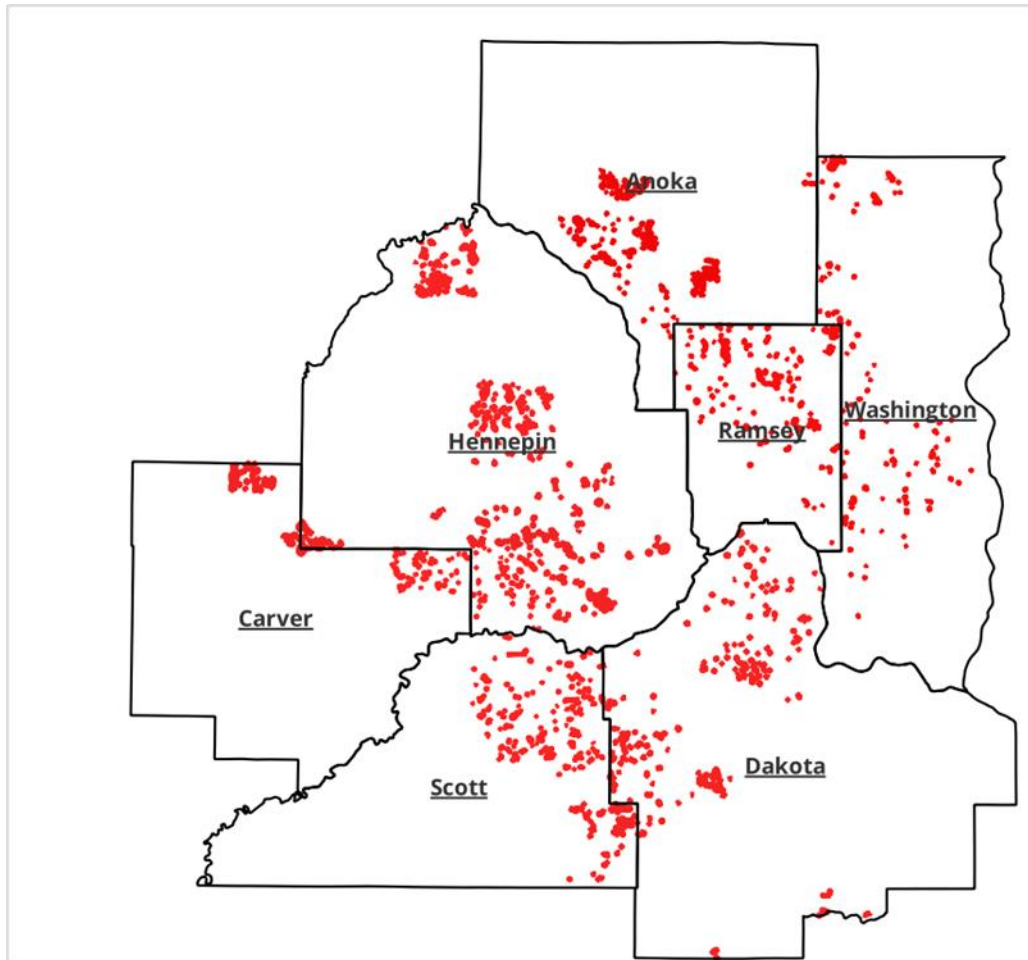


Figure 3. Prehatch air treatments 8/16 – 8/20.

## Technical Services

### Vector-Borne Disease in Minnesota

Preventing diseases transmitted by mosquitoes and ticks is foundational to the District's mission. In Minnesota, there is a history of illnesses caused by five mosquito-borne viruses, one tick-borne virus, one tick-borne parasite, and five tick-borne bacteria.

#### Mosquito-Borne Viruses:

- Eastern Equine Virus
- Jamestown Canyon Virus
- La Crosse Virus
- West Nile Virus
- Western Equine Virus

#### Tick-Borne Diseases:

- Powassan (a viral illness)

- Babesiosis (a disease caused by a parasite)
- Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (bacterial diseases spread by ticks)
- Alpha-gal syndrome (an allergy caused by the bite of the Lone Star tick)

We reduce the risk of these diseases by monitoring and controlling the species that transmit them. We keep track of mosquito and tick vectors to know where and when they are active. This also helps us inform residents about risks to their health.

**La Crosse Encephalitis (LAC)** La Crosse Virus can cause a serious illness called La Crosse Encephalitis. This illness mainly affects children under 16. Some infected children will develop inflammation of the spinal cord and/or brain which can lead to life-long complications and in rare cases even death. The virus is spread by a mosquito called *Aedes triseriatus*, and possibly by other mosquitoes like *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes japonicus*. This year, the *Aedes triseriatus* population has been high due to the wet conditions (Figure 1). To reduce La Crosse encephalitis risk, we eliminate the larval habitat of *Aedes triseriatus*: water-holding tires, containers, and tree holes.

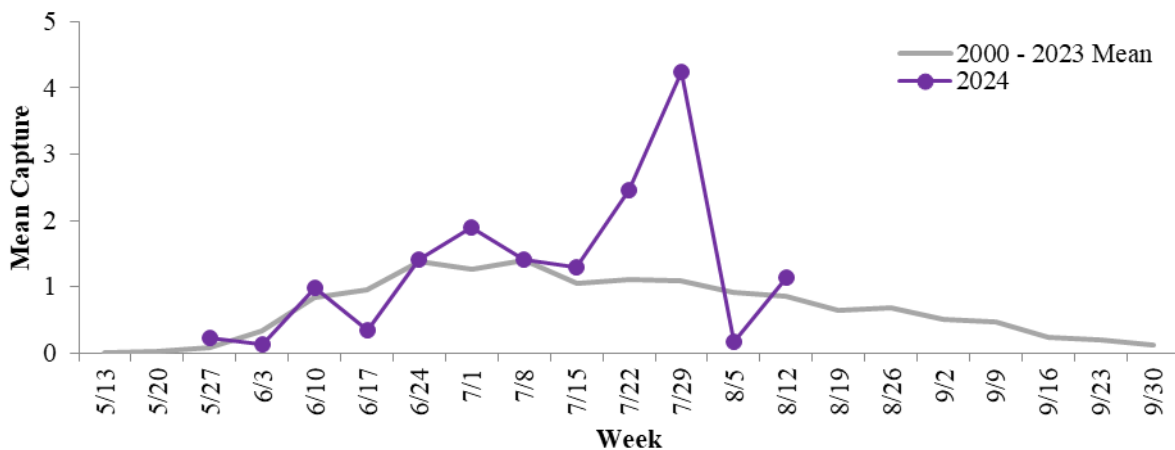


Figure 1 *Aedes triseriatus* in aspirator samples by week in 2024 compared to average collections from corresponding weeks over the past 24 seasons.

**West Nile Virus (WNV)** West Nile Virus has become the most common mosquito-borne illness in North America. It can affect people of all ages, but older people are at higher risk of severe illness, such as encephalitis or meningitis. Since it arrived here in 2002, the virus has caused 31 deaths in Minnesota, including six in the District. Mosquitoes like *Culex pipiens* and *Cx. restuans* maintain the WNV cycle, and *Cx. tarsalis* is the vector in most human illnesses. The *Culex tarsalis* population has been high this year (Figure 2). We test mosquitoes for WNV and this year, the infection rate is lower than during the past three years.

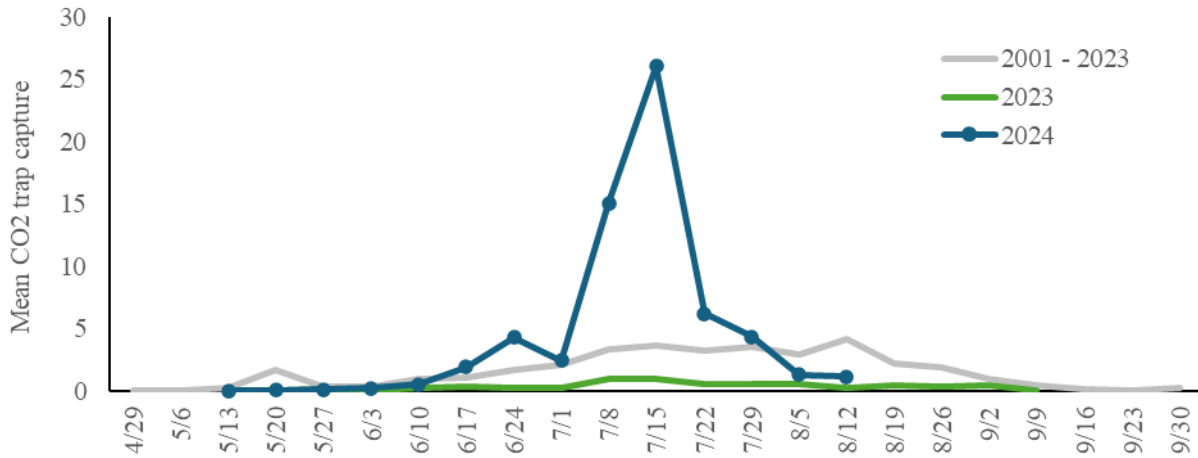


Figure 2 *Culex tarsalis* in CO<sub>2</sub> baited light traps for 2023 and 2024 compared to average collections from corresponding weeks from the past 23 seasons.

We reduce WNV risk by controlling mosquito larvae in breeding sites such as catch basins, stormwater management structures and wetlands. We also control adult mosquitoes when WNV vector populations rise.

**Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV)** Jamestown Canyon Virus is native to North America. Although rare, in the past there have been 71 cases in Minnesota since 2013. It’s mostly transmitted by *Aedes* mosquitoes, which bite both deer, the hosts of the virus, and people. We focus on controlling these mosquitoes in the spring and summer.

**Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)** Eastern Equine Encephalitis first occurred in Minnesota in 2001. It is one of the deadliest mosquito-borne viruses in North America, killing nearly one-third of people who develop a severe illness. The main mosquito spreading this virus is *Culiseta melanura*, which breeds in bogs. We monitor these mosquitoes and control adult mosquitoes shortly after they emerge from the water.

**Tick-Borne Diseases** Black-legged ticks, also known as deer ticks, can spread diseases like Lyme Disease, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis, babesiosis, and Powassan Virus. Currently, we don’t have a tick control program because it’s not practical or affordable. Instead, we focus on monitoring ticks and educating the public to help prevent these diseases.



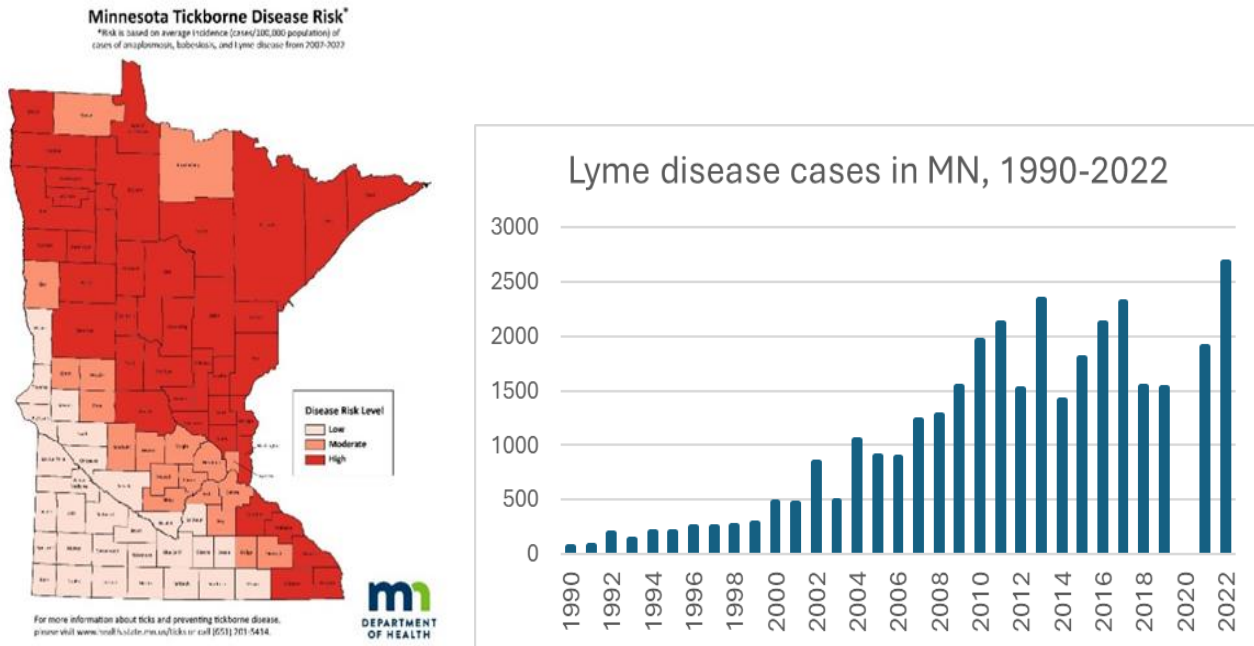


Figure 4 Minnesota map indicating tick-borne disease risk by county and graph of reported Lyme disease cases from 1990 to 2022.

### 3. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**New Public Affairs Assistant** - To meet the needs of the District we have created a new full-time position that combines the previous full-time public affairs assistant with the front desk receptionist. We are pleased to welcome Monte Ebbesen as the new Public Affairs Assistant/Receptionist. You may have interacted with Monte at the front desk this summer or through e-mail to help coordinate facility visits with Dan and Commissioners. Monte will also be assisting with assembling the packet and other commission-related duties that may arise.

**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/>

**MMCD at the State Fair** - We had a great year at county fairs, city festivals, and parades and have spoken to lots of people about the good work MMCD does. We are wrapping up summer with the Minnesota State Fair now through Labor Day. Stop by and see our booth in the Dairy Building!

**MMCD Olympics** - Staff were in the Olympic spirit this summer, so we created a video showing how Mosquito Control would make a great Olympic relay event. Check it out!

<https://youtu.be/94aVukzSuQo>