

**Metropolitan
Mosquito Control District**

Executive Committee

June 25, 2025

9:15 AM

Information Packet

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
M E E T I N G A N N O U N C E M E N T**

COMMITTEE: Executive Committee Meeting

IN PERSON: Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
2099 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55104

DATE: Wednesday, June 25, 2025

TIME: 9:15AM

A G E N D A

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda*
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes for May 28th, 2025 Meeting*
5. 2025 Minnesota Joint Disparity Study
6. Legislative Update (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
7. 2026 Budget and Levy Recommendation*
8. Executive Director's Report
9. Other Issues and Announcements
10. Adjournment

* Action Requested

Commissioner Rena Moran	Ramsey County
Commissioner John Fahey	Carver County
Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Anoka County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Dave Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, July 23, 2025, 9:15 a.m.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 9:15 a.m.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Requested by:
Daniel Huff

Action Requested:
Approve Executive Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2025

May 28th, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Roll Call:

Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Anoka County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Rena Moran	Ramsey County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Dave Beer	Scott County
Commissioner John Fahey	Carver County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

Staff:

Daniel Huff, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator
Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Manager
Monte Ebbesen, Public Affairs Assistant
Tim Stich, Facilities Manager

Visitors:

Sam Ketchum, MMCD Legal Counsel
Kim Scott, MMCD Lobbyist
Peg Larson, MMCD Lobbyist

Due to Commissioner Rena Moran’s absence, Commissioner John Fahey stepped in as Acting Chair. Commissioner Fran Miron joined the meeting remotely.

Acting Chair Fahey called the meeting to order at 9:16am. Acting Chair Fahey invited MMCD lobbyists Kim Scott and Peg Larson to speak.

After Commissioner Kevin Anderson’s arrival, and the subsequent formation of a quorum, Acting Chair Fahey welcomed everyone and conducted the roll call. After, Commissioner Reinert moved to approve the consent agenda; Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

MMCD legal counsel Sam Ketchum briefly explained the revisions to the Code of Conduct, specifically pertaining to the Executive Director’s duty of disclosure requirement, which was not historically understood or utilized. Mr. Ketchum amended and added to the policy for clarity, ultimately emulating MN state rules applicable to similar circumstances.

Acting Chair Fahey opened the room for discussion. Commissioner Anderson approved of the revisions, stating that it was similar to the Commissioner’s Code of Conduct. Commissioner Anderson moved to approved the revisions, which was seconded by Commissioner Reinert. Acting Chair Fahey thanked Mr. Ketchum for his additional due diligence.

Acting Chair Fahey invited Business Administrator Arleen Schacht to present on the recent audit of the District. Ms. Schacht said that it was a successful and clean audit, which would be presented at the July Commission meeting. She stated that MMCD audits are typically routine, requiring a lot of work but not presenting major difficulties. For the financial period audited, the District came short \$112,000 in spending, and \$1.4 million – a result of interest income – would be added to emergency funds. Additionally, \$11.9 million would be allocated towards capital plans and improvement, and \$10 million were still allocated for unassigned working capital.

Acting Chair Fahey opened the room for questions. No questions were posed. Acting Chair Fahey reiterated that the audit would be approved at the July Commission meeting.

Acting Chair Fahey invited Public Affairs Manager Alex Carlson to speak on the District's plan to test tire drop-offs events in Scott, Carver, and Dakota counties. Mr. Carlson emphasized the need to improve the District's efficiency of tire recycling. At the time of presenting, the process was going well for field staff and Public Affairs was optimistic this was a viable alternative to pick-ups. Mr. Carlson stated that if the events were to go well in 2025, Public Affairs intended to expand going into the 2026 season.

Commissioner Reinert inquired if there was a notable cost to these drop-off events and noted that the District had never done this before. He suggested that this could be a cost-saving alternative. Commissioner Reinert also inquired if the District was making this an option for businesses.

Mr. Carlson responded that we plan to verify residency of all drop-off participants, and we are doing our best to ensure no businesses partake and that no tires originate from outside the District. Public Affairs would aim to solve these problems in the future.

Commissioner Reinert reiterated that this would save time and money in the overall process of tire collection.

Mr. Carlson also briefly updated the Commissioners present on the status of MMCD's strategic planning. Acting Chair Fahey invited Facilities Manager Tim Stich to speak on the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Stich explained that all District facilities were assessed by a third party that produced a report on each facility. Mr. Stich took these reports and created the Capital Improvement Plan, the strategy of which is to reduce rate of increase of needed repairs and improvement. Notably, the current plan does not include the Plymouth facility, which increases in repair costs by \$1 million every year. Mr. Stich mentioned that a decision needs to be made if the District wishes to maintain the Plymouth facility, or if it is better to look at another building. Mr. Stich also mentioned that MMCD is looking to expand and modernize the Main Office Laboratory space.

Acting Chair Fahey opened up the room for discussion. Commissioner Reinert asked Mr. Stich to clarify the calculated \$25 million for improvements. Mr. Stich answered that that number was more or less correct but would depend on economic factors. However, it would be wise to work on improvements sooner rather than later because the cost goes up as time goes on.

Commissioner Reinert commented that Mr. Stich approach was very responsible and inquired how MMCD approach these issues in the past. Mr. Stich answered that the previous approach was reactionary; the value of a proactive approach is the ability to weigh bids and options.

Commissioner Reinert wondered what the District had been doing for the past five years and was interested in seeing previous reports. Commissioner Anderson noted that a replace value is a starting point

for calculating costs and asked if the numbers accounted for inflation. Mr. Stich responded that the numbers did account for inflation, but there would inevitably be unforeseen costs.

Some discussion occurred regarding the feasibility of expanding the St. Paul facility's lab, the minor expansion that took place at the time of the meeting, and the merits and difficulties of having one centralized laboratory for the entire District.

Discussion occurred regarding the St. Paul facilities value and the overall interest and cost-effectiveness of finding or building new facilities.

All non-pertinent MMCD staff were recused from the discussion of the compensation study conducted by Gallagher Financial Services. Details of the compensation are non-public data.

Acting Chair Fahey invited Executive Director Dan Huff to begin the discussion of the 2026 MMCD budget. Mr. Huff noted that the median property owner pays less than they did in previous years because of population growth in the Metropolitan area. MMCD has increased services because of higher levy and from innovations and efficiencies, as well \$33 million in reserves. Mr. Huff noted that the District is behind on vehicle replacement, and they will be additional expenses to catch up. Mr. Huff moved on to discuss the organization's goal to its contribution to healthcare coverage. A part of these efforts would be to increase staff participation in healthcare plans. Mr. Huff is anticipating increases in control material costs and helicopter contract costs. MMCD must keep in mind that current vendor may sell business or retire.

Some strategies for moving forward mentioned by Mr. Huff were: using OPEB fund or interest to defer costs of insurance; take some of \$6.4 million in treatment reserves to help with next year; increase levy to 8.4% (90 cents/household).

Some discussion occurred regarding the size of vector control districts and the cost per household, as well as possible expansion into other counties beyond the Metropolitan area. Mr. Huff emphasized that MMCD is focusing on providing border-to-border coverage in our existing service area.

Acting Chair Fahey then asked Mr. Ketchum to explain the question of signing disbursement given a time gap in the filling of the Business Administrator position. Mr. Ketchum explained that contracts and disbursements need to be signed regardless of the status of the Business Administrator position. Mr. Ketchum suggested delegating such responsibilities to the Executive Director in the interim.

Commissioner Reinert made a motion to delegate such authority to the Executive Director until the Business Administrator position was filled. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion went through without dissent.

Executive Director Daniel Huff then presented his report to the Executive members. Mr. Huff mentioned MMCD's day at the Capitol building and its success, the hiring of a new Assistant Entomologist, the completion of treatment of 31,000 acres with more to go, and St. Paul facility's new 3D printer. Mr. Huff also mentioned that the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget audited MMCD's purchasing from minority business; they concluded we could improve our purchasing. A report and media release to come out; the former to be presented at an Executive meeting.

Some clarifying discussion occurred regarding future levy discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11am.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:

Kim Scott & Peg Larsen

Informational:

Legislative Update – May 28th

Even though the regular legislative session concluded on May 19th with a whimper, there are still some major sticking points and outstanding budget bills. One continued sticking point is leadership’s agreement to discontinue funding for healthcare for undocumented adults. This caused quite a stir outside the Governor’s office when the agreement was reached, which included legislators and activists pounding on the Governor’s door during the press conference. Leadership has reported progress on the following major budget bills, but agreements have not yet been made public: Education, Health, Human Services, Environment, Commerce, Jobs, and Transportation. Since the Legislature is no longer in session, conference committees have turned into “working groups” who are charged with coming to an agreement before a special session will be called.

Some bills did get passed by the regular session deadline, including, Veterans, Agriculture, Housing, Judiciary and Public Safety, State Government, Legacy, Pensions, and Human Services policy—all of which have been signed into law by Gov. Walz

One provision that MMCD advocated for was a change to the open meeting law that would make remote attendance easier by not requiring members to disclose their remote location or have that location be accessible to the public. Requirements that a member only participate from a nonpublic location three times a year, and only if the member is serving in the military or has personal or family medical reasons for not being in a public place have been removed. The provision was included in the State Government bill that went into effect on May 24, 2025.

Another provision that MMCD advocated for was funding for the Department of Health’s Infectious Disease Prevention, Early Detection, and Outbreak Response program. An appropriation of \$1.3 million is included in both the House and Senate version of the Health and Human Services Finance bill, which has been negotiating in its working group and has not yet reached a final agreement.

The transparency of process of the end of session negotiations and working groups have been a point of contention with most negotiations happening behind closed doors. A reporter who attempted to attend a working group meeting of the Human Services and Finance division was summarily kicked out. The Environment budget was crafted entirely behind closed doors by the committee chairs and agency heads who were brought in one at a time. There have been rumors of a list of policy provisions that were agreed to by leadership along with the global budget targets, but that list has not been made public in its entirety.

Deadlines set by leadership for working groups to complete their work have come and gone. The next rumored deadline is 7 p.m. on Wednesday for working groups. The possibility of a special session this week is waning, with leadership forecasting that we are looking at an early June special session, which would mean that the June 1st deadline to send out layoff notices to state workers will also be blown. The final deadline is June 30th as we will go into a government shutdown on July 1st if the state budget bills are not passed.

Rumors also abound about whether there will be a bonding bill, but little has happened in public on that front either. There has been talk of a \$700 million bonding bill and the desire to get back on a regular bonding bill cycle (the second year of the biennium). The demand and urgency for infrastructure funding is high because there has not been a bonding bill since the 2023 legislative session.

Of the 6,893 bills introduced this session, only 39 have been signed into law. Some of the bills that were signed into law were omnibus bills that contain many provisions, but the ratio is still highly out of whack. Between the state forecasted deficit in the next biennium and the cuts from the federal government, there is also talk of another special session occurring around September.

A bright spot of the session was MMCD's successful "Day on the Hill" on May 6th where we had several Representatives stop by including, Finke, Cha, Meyers, Acomb, Hansen, Rehm, Hollins, Hill, Gottfried, Liebling, Freiberg, Nelson, Hussein, Vang, Perez-Vega, and Gillman. The Senate was on the floor during the entirety of the event, but we did have participation from Senate staff. We also had numerous Dept. of Agriculture and Health staff visit, including Dept. of Agriculture Commissioner Petersen. Comm. Anderson was also there to represent MMCD.

The first day of the 2026 legislative session will be February 17, 2026.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:

Keen Independent Research

Informational:

2025 Joint Disparity Study

Background:

Minnesota Statute §473.142 authorizes MMCD, along with other public agencies, to award up to a six percent preference in bids for specified goods and services to small targeted group businesses and veteran-owned small businesses as part of the District's procurement process.

The Minnesota Department of Administration periodically evaluates agency utilization of these businesses. The 2025 Minnesota Joint Disparity Study was led by Keen Independent Research.

For the 2025 study, eight state and local government agencies collaborated to assess whether a level playing field exists for minority- and women-owned businesses in the regional marketplace. The study examined procurement practices in construction, professional services, goods, and other services across both public and private sectors. It also evaluated business conditions for veteran-owned and disability-owned firms.

Participating entities included:

- Minnesota Department of Administration
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- University of Minnesota
- Metropolitan Airports Commission
- Metropolitan Council
- Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
- Hennepin County
- Ramsey County
- City of Bloomington
- City of Brooklyn Park
- City of Minneapolis
- City of Rochester
- City of Saint Paul
- Hennepin Healthcare System
- Saint Paul Public Schools

The Minnesota Department of Administration coordinated the study, with Keen Independent Research serving as the lead consultant.

Representatives from Keen Independent Research will present the findings of the 2025 report. The full report is available at:

<https://mn.gov/admin/disparity-study/resources/reports2017/>

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:
Daniel Huff

Action Item:
2026 Budget and Levy

Background:

MMCD is in a sound financial position. Increased efficiency and innovation combined with smart fiscal management has allowed MMCD to treat more acres and catch basins and serve more residents, while charging \$2 less per median property than it did ten years. MMCD's levy to median property taxpayers is less than all 14 watershed districts in the Seven-County Metro and all surveyed mosquito control districts around the country.

Based upon the 2024 Financial Report (annual audit), the total fund balance is \$35,244,247. The unassigned portion of the fund balance is \$10,097,979 (fig 1).

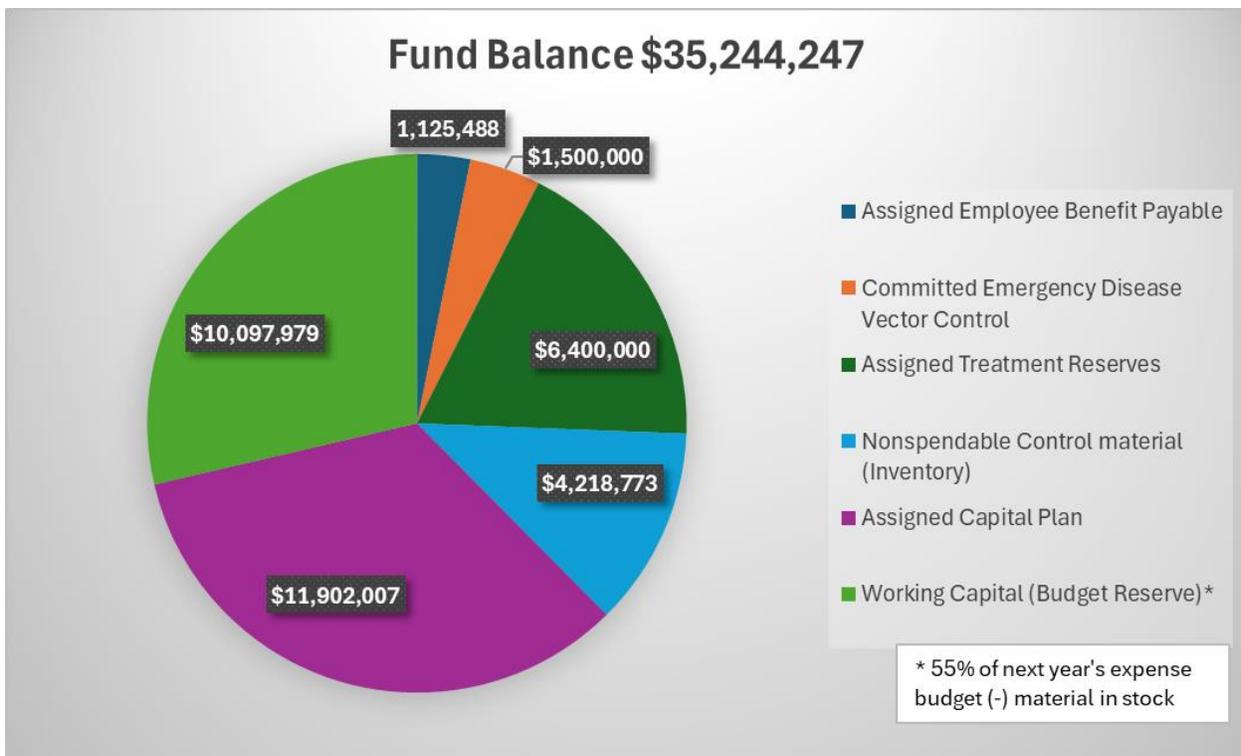


Figure 1. MMCD Fund Balance with allocation.

There are areas of underinvestment within the District. These include fleet, facilities, and human capital.

Fleet

- MMCD replaces vehicles on a 15-year cycle.

- In 2025, cheaper and more fuel-efficient **Ford Mavericks** will replace older technician trucks.
- Future replacements (2026–2030) are expected to cost between **\$629,000 and \$808,000** annually, depending on vehicle type.

Facilities

- MMCD owns **six facilities**. A recent assessment found:
 - The **Plymouth facility** would cost more to maintain than its worth—MMCD recommends selling and relocating.
 - The **St. Paul Entomology Lab** (30 years old) needs full renovation.
 - The **Oakdale office** is rented at **\$270,000/year** and not owned by MMCD.
 - The **Maple Grove facility** is in need of storage and traffic circulation improvements.
- Annual costs for the remaining five facilities:
 - **\$498,000** in maintenance.
 - **\$1.117 million** in capital improvements.
- MMCD recommends using capital reserves from the fund balance for relocating the Plymouth facility, improvements to the Maple Grove facility and remodel of the Entomology Lab with maintenance and general capital improvement costs funded through the annual budget

Health Insurance

- MMCD's current contribution is below typical public sector contributions.
 - MMCD pays **68% of single coverage** and **57% of family coverage**.
 - Recommendation: Increase to **90% single / 80% family** coverage.
 - Estimated added cost for 2026: **\$438,000**, assuming all employees enroll.

Employee Compensation

- A compensation study shows MMCD salaries are **16% below** the market average.
- Recommendation: **Gradually increase salaries** over five years to match the 50th percentile of comparable public sector jobs.

5-Year Budget Plan

A five-year budget plan has been created to meet these investment needs while spreading costs out over multiple years.

Inflation, including potential increases in the costs of helicopter services and treatment material, has been estimated.

Increasing services to residents as outlined in the newly adopted Strategic Plan are **not** reflected within the five-year budget projections. Labor negotiations, impacts of tariffs, and other unanticipated events may also impact future budgets.

Revenue, primarily investment returns from the fund balance, accounts for \$1,500,000 annually in the five-year budget plan. As funds are expended for capital projects or other expenses, investment returns will decrease. Market fluctuations will also impact investment returns.

The five-year budget plan is not an official budget but rather an estimate to assist in financial planning.

The following items are included in the plan:

1. Increased funding for vehicle replacement based upon a 15-year replacement cycle.
2. Increased funding for capital projects and facility maintenance
3. Increased funding to bring salaries to those recommended by the compensation study within five years.
4. Increased employer share of health insurance costs, 90% for individual, 80% for family.
5. 3% Inflation.
6. Estimated materials and helicopter costs.

The following items are **not** included in the plan or represent areas of uncertainty:

1. Service expansion outlined in strategic plan.
2. Labor negotiations.
3. Inflation, tariffs, and other economic changes.
4. Unanticipated changes to health care costs.
5. Future changes to investment income.

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
EXPENSES						
RFT Salaries	5,370,667	5,659,392	6,131,470	6,600,422	6,999,892	7,359,260
FICA Tax RFT	410,856	432,944	469,057	504,932	535,492	562,983
PERA RFT	402,800	424,454	459,860	495,032	524,992	551,945
Seasonal wages	2,750,000	2,818,750	2,889,219	2,961,449	3,035,485	3,111,373
FICA Tax Seasonal	210,375	215,634	221,025	226,551	232,215	238,020
PERA Seasonal	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,001	6,002	6,003
Medical/Dental Ins/HSA	356,100	793,779	817,592	842,120	867,384	893,405
Life/Disability Insurance	37,073	37,073	37,815	38,571	39,342	40,129
Unemployment	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000
Uniforms	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Total Compensation	9,823,871	10,668,027	11,312,039	11,955,078	12,520,804	13,043,118
Rent buildings	276,000	281,520	287,150	292,893	298,751	304,726
Utilities	151,200	155,736	160,408	165,220	170,177	175,282
Other Utilities	19,439	20,022	20,623	21,242	21,879	22,535
Janitorial Services	91,000	93,730	96,542	99,438	102,421	105,494
Janitorial Supplies	9,500	9,785	10,079	10,381	10,692	11,013
Grounds Services	12,434	12,807	13,191	13,587	13,995	14,414
Telephone	7,000	7,210	7,426	7,649	7,879	8,115
Cell Phones	132,000	138,020	142,161	146,425	150,818	155,343

Agenda Item 7
2026 Budget and Levy Recommendation

Cell Phone Hardware Replace/Repair	2,000	0	0	0	0	0
Computer Access	100,000	103,000	106,090	109,273	112,551	115,927
Meeting/Misc Expense	3,200	3,296	3,395	3,497	3,602	3,710
Rent and Building Costs	803,773	825,126	847,065	869,605	895,694	922,564
Printing & stationery	3,735	3,847	3,962	4,081	4,203	4,329
Postage & mailing	3,600	3,708	3,819	3,934	4,052	4,173
Office Supplies	36,950	38,059	39,200	40,376	41,588	42,835
Copy Machine	12,700	13,081	13,473	13,878	14,294	14,723
Subscriptions, memberships,bids	39,900	41,097	42,330	43,600	44,908	46,256
Computer Supplies	12,000	12,360	12,731	13,113	13,506	13,911
Computer Hardware	85,000	87,550	90,177	92,882	95,668	98,538
Computer Software	85,900	88,477	91,131	93,865	96,681	99,582
Headquarters Expense	53,300	54,899	56,546	58,243	59,990	61,790
Field Equipment/Supplies	34,507	35,542	36,609	37,707	38,838	40,003
Field Boots/Waders	42,818	44,102	45,426	46,788	48,192	49,638
Field Safety Supplies	10,548	10,864	11,190	11,526	11,872	12,228
Lab & Research Supplies	33,868	34,884	35,930	37,008	38,118	39,262
Disease Testing/Ramp Kits	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Supplies and Expense	479,826	493,471	507,525	522,000	536,910	552,268
Employment Costs	30,000	30,900	31,827	32,782	33,765	34,778
Employee Training/Recognition	30,000	30,900	31,827	32,782	33,765	34,778
Outside Services	458,800	347,750	354,705	361,799	369,035	376,416
Legal Fees/Audit	60,000	61,800	63,654	65,564	67,531	69,556
Equipment Rental	0	0	0	0	0	0
Study grants & Continuing Ed.	147,500	151,925	156,483	161,177	166,013	170,993
Public Information	18,400	18,952	19,521	20,106	20,709	21,331
Testing/Occupational Health	11,000	11,330	11,670	12,020	12,381	12,752
General Expense	755,700	653,557	669,686	686,230	703,199	720,604
Mileage & expenses	5,170	5,325	5,485	5,649	5,819	5,993
Travel out of District	100,000	103,000	106,090	109,273	112,551	115,927
Vehicle/Equipment Fuel	206,800	213,004	219,394	225,976	232,755	239,738
Travel and Mileage	311,970	321,329	330,969	340,898	351,125	361,659
Property/Liabilities Insurance	113,000	120,500	123,000	128,000	130,500	133,000
Truck & Auto Insurance	60,000	61,500	62,000	63,240	64,505	65,795
Workmen's Comp Insurance	135,000	138,000	141,000	142,000	143,000	144,000
Surety Bond	2,000	2,100	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150
Insurance	310,000	322,100	328,150	335,390	340,155	344,945
Office Equip. repairs	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,501	2,502	2,503
Equipment Repair and Maintenance	24,000	24,716	25,453	26,213	26,995	27,801
Auto Repair and Maintenance	131,866	135,818	139,889	144,081	148,400	152,848
Computer Repair	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800
Operations Radio Expense	300	0	0	0	0	0
Building repairs	300,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Repair and Maintenance	461,466	665,834	670,642	675,595	680,697	685,952
Tire Recycling	85,000	87,546	90,168	92,869	95,652	98,517
Helicopter	2,219,400	2,219,400	2,419,400	2,419,400	2,419,400	2,619,400

Agenda Item 7
2026 Budget and Levy Recommendation

Control Material	4,758,700	4,994,705	5,091,465	5,204,485	5,271,790	5,271,790
Control Operations	7,063,100	7,301,651	7,601,033	7,716,754	7,786,842	7,989,707
Office Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Capital	68,600	68,600	68,600	68,600	68,600	68,600
Auto Capital	353,800	650,298	629,160	648,040	807,984	702,200
Radio Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0
Building Improvement Capital	850,000	1,117,000	1,117,000	1,117,000	1,117,000	1,117,000
Intangible Capital	70,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total Capital	1,342,400	1,855,898	1,834,760	1,853,640	2,013,584	1,907,800
	21,352,106	23,106,993	24,101,869	24,955,191	25,829,009	26,528,617
Budget increase		8.22%	4.31%	3.54%	3.50%	2.71%
Other Income	850,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Levy	20,502,106	21,590,768	22,601,216	23,455,542	24,329,261	25,028,727
Total Revenue	21,352,106	23,090,768	24,101,216	24,955,542	25,829,261	26,528,727
Total Levy increase		1,088,662	1,010,448	854,326	873,719	699,466
% Levy Increase		5.310%	4.680%	3.780%	3.725%	2.875%
Approximate increase to median property owner	-	0.58	0.54	0.44	0.42	0.33

Next Steps:

June 25, 2025: The Executive Committee takes action on the proposed maximum levy for 2026 as a recommendation to the full Commission to approve at its July 23 meeting.

July 23, 2025: The Commission sets the maximum levy for 2026

November 20, 2025: The Executive Committee takes action on the proposed 2026 budget and final levy as a recommendation to the full Commission to approve at its December 17 meeting.

December 17, 2025: The full Commission approves the final budget and levy for 2026.

Recommendation:

We recommend a maximum 2026 levy of **\$21,590,768**. This represents an increase of \$1,088,662 over the 2025 levy or a 5.31 increase. The estimated increase to properties of the median value for the District is \$0.58.

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE MAXIMUM LEVY FOR TAX YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) remains in a sound financial position, having leveraged increased efficiency, innovation, and prudent fiscal management to expand services while reducing the median property levy by \$2 over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, MMCD's levy impact on the median property remains below all 14 watershed districts in the seven-county metro area and all surveyed mosquito control districts nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the MMCD's total fund balance as of the 2024 Financial Report is \$35,244,247, with \$10,097,979 in unassigned funds available; and

WHEREAS, strategic investments are needed to address underinvestment in fleet replacement, facility upgrades, and human capital—areas critical to the District's long-term service capacity and operational effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the District has developed a five-year budget plan to responsibly fund these investments through moderate, phased levy increases while accounting for inflation and expected increases in operational costs, such as helicopter services, control materials, and health insurance contributions; and

WHEREAS, the five-year plan includes a 15-year vehicle replacement cycle, major facility capital projects, incremental implementation of recommendations from a compensation study, and a more competitive employer share of health insurance premiums (90% single / 80% family); and

WHEREAS, for tax year 2026, the plan calls for a levy of \$21,590,768, an increase of \$1,088,662 or 5.31% over the 2025 levy, with an estimated increase of only \$0.58 to the owner of a median-valued property within the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District hereby recommends to the full Commission the adoption of a maximum levy for tax year 2026 in the amount of **\$21,590,768**.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:
Daniel Huff

Informational:
Executive Director's Report

Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and father figures of the Commission.

It's Summertime! Rainy days and increasing temperatures are creating favorable conditions for mosquito breeding. So far this year, we have seen remarkably low numbers of adult mosquitoes. Our facilities are fully staffed and are responding quickly to treat larvae hatching from recent rains.

At the beginning of June, a team of District staff went on a road trip to the outskirts of Chicago. We toured the laboratory facilities for two of our major suppliers of treatment materials, met with staff from two different mosquito control districts and toured the Center of Excellence for Vector Borne Disease at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The trip was very educational, giving the team lots of new ideas and new connections.

We had a great send-off for Business Administrator Arleen Schacht, who retired after ten years working for the District. Arleen leaves MMCD in a much better position than she found it. We are sad to see Arleen go but wish her the very best in retirement.

The Oakdale facility hosted Washington County Commissioners Bethany Cox and Karla Bigham. The team at the Jordan facility hosted Commissioner Lisa Anderson.



We had very successful tire collection days in Rosemount and Jordan. Many thanks to Alex Carlson and team members from both facilities who developed this new model for tire collection.

Field Operations Update

Field staff have been busy reacting to the rain from the middle of June. During the period of June 12th – June 15th, much of the District received between 2-3 inches of rain. Our staff are out inspecting wetlands and treating them by ground, drone, and helicopter. Photos 1-3 show some of our current operations.



Photo 1, Material truck loaded with BTI pallets for helicopter work. Photo 2, Field staff in Rosemount with the helicopter. Photo 3, MMCD drone taking off to go treat a wetland.

Most of the helicopter treatments that occurred over the last month were done for the cattail mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are found in the wetlands in the fall, over winter by attaching and breathing through the cattail roots and are treated in the following spring. From May 22nd – May 29th, we treated 26,885 acres for the cattail mosquitoes. Overall, we have treated 89,278 acres by helicopter in 2025. In comparison, we treated 107,000 acres in 2024 during the same time period. Figure 1 shows the total acres treated by helicopter for the last 10 years. Our crews will be busy again this week reacting to the rain.

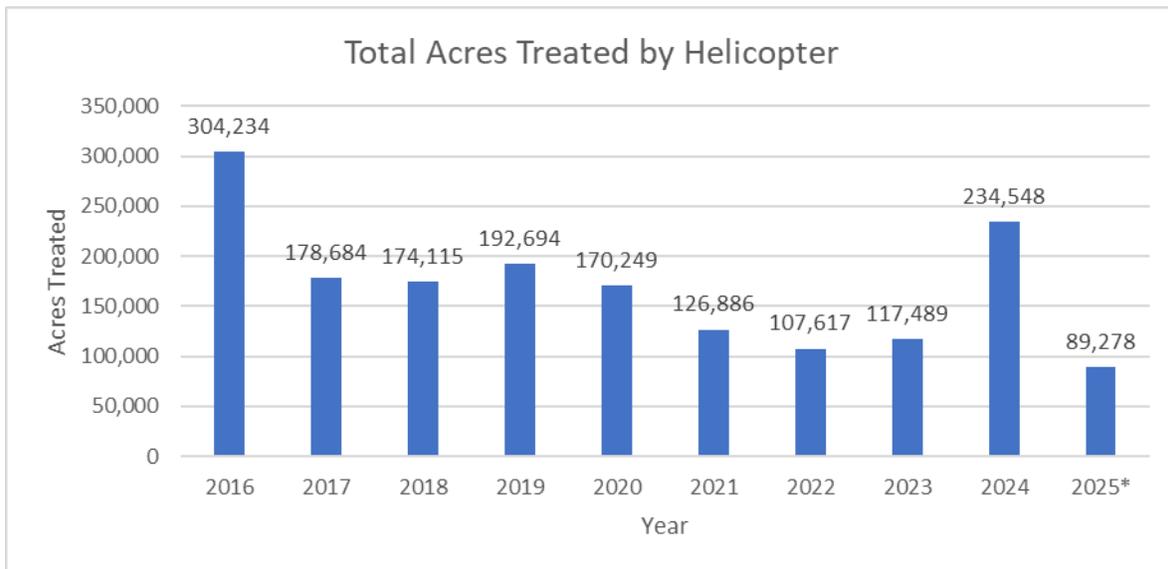


Figure 1. Total acres treated by helicopter per year (*2025 total is year to date).

MMCD staff and drones have done excellent work this year as well. To date, we have already treated 3,467 acres. We will surpass what we treated in 2024 by the end June. Figure 2 shows the total acres treated by drone for the last 5 years. We have already started planning to add more drones for 2026.

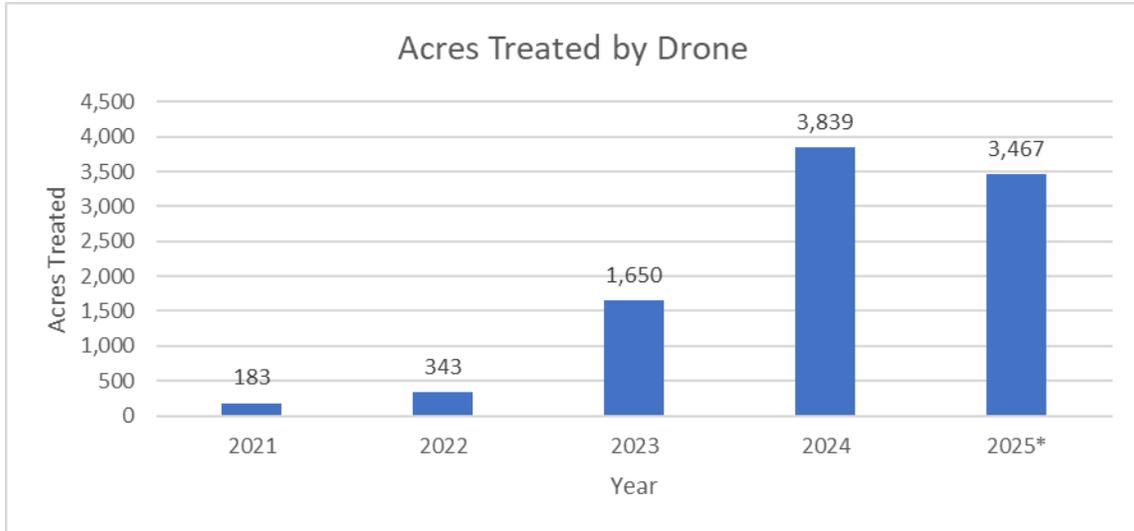


Figure 2. Total acres treated by drone per year (*2025 total is year to date)

The helicopter work and drone work are supported by our staff who are treating the smaller wetlands by hand or using a backpack sprayer. These smaller wetland treatments are very important, as many of these small wetlands are within neighborhoods. Figure 3 shows the total acres treated by ground for the last 5 years. We have treated 8,248 acres by ground so far this season.

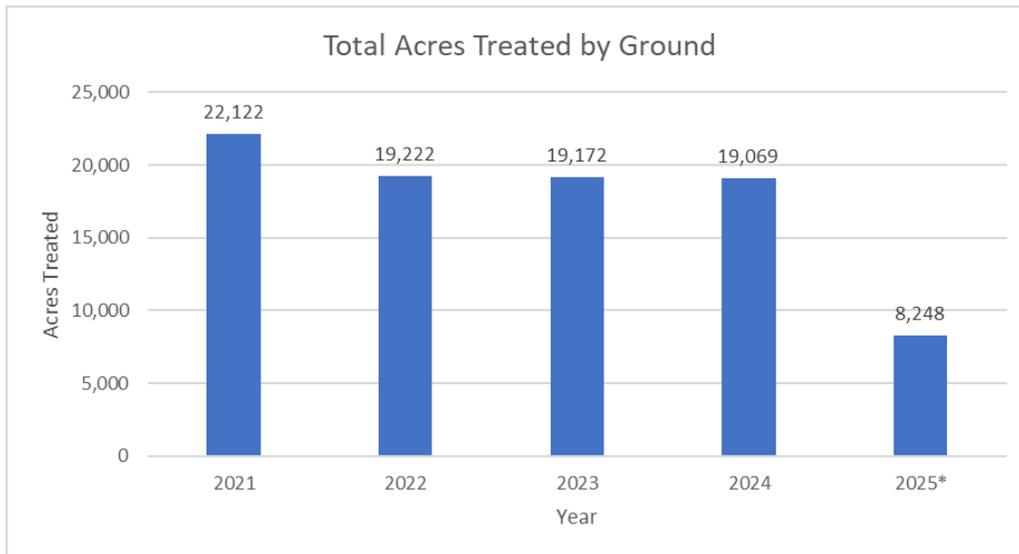


Figure 3. Total acres treated by ground per year (*2025 total is year to date)

Staff have also started to treat the catch basins throughout the metro. These treatments are important, as the mosquito larvae that are found in these wet catch basins have the potential to carry and spread WNV. This season, we have treated approximately 85,000 catch basins. These catch basins are treated by walking, riding a bicycle, and from a vehicle. By the end of the season, we will have treated approximately 300,000 catch basins. Our staff have worked with another Mosquito Control Operations in Florida, used a dipper design they have used, and created a different size dipper to sample these so we do not need to remove the catch basin lids to sample. MMCD staff uses a 3D printer to make the dippers. This innovation by our staff increases safety and decreases the amount of time it takes to sample the catch

basin. Photo 4 shows the old way that staff had to sample, photo 5 shows the new way with the new dipper, and photo 6 shows a staff member riding the bicycle for catch basin treatments.

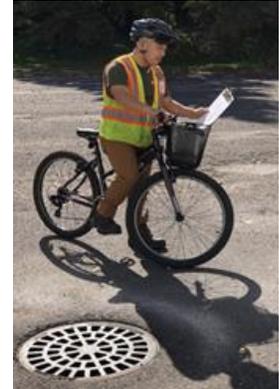


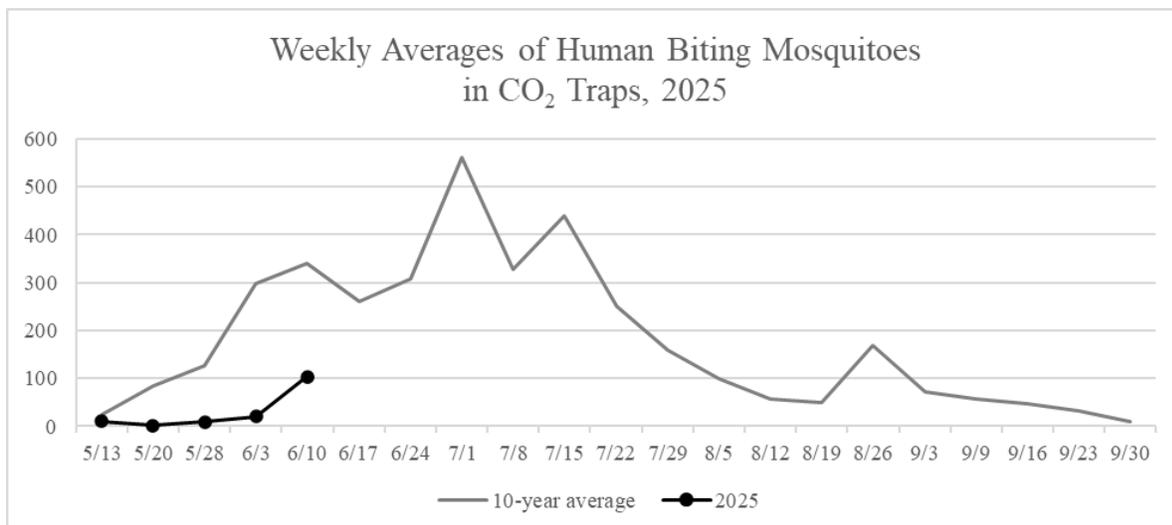
Photo 4 Staff sampling a catch basin. Photo 5, staff sampling a catch basin using the new dipper. Photo 6, staff on a bicycle treating catch basins.

New subcommittees of the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) were established to review three important program areas – Public Health, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans, and Control Materials. These subcommittees will report to the full TAB board in February 2026.

Our vector program has begun testing mosquito samples for West Nile Virus (WNV). MMCD detected the first positive WNV sample during the week of May 19. Most likely, this positive detection was from an adult mosquito that overwintered last year.

Entomology Laboratory Update

Starting June 23, the entomology laboratory will be fully staffed (four full-time employees and six seasonal employees) just in time for the peak abundance of the cattail mosquito which occurs around the Fourth of July every year. Our adult surveillance shows an increase in mosquitoes across the seven-county metropolitan area, but the abundance is only ~1/3 of the 10-year average. By mid-June of 2025, 8,457 samples of mosquito larvae have been collected, and the lab has identified 3,933 samples so far; we typically collect about 20,000 larval samples every year.



Public Affairs Update

National Mosquito Control Awareness Week

June 15-21 was National Mosquito Control Awareness Week throughout the U.S. and MMCD celebrated by highlighting some of the different aspects of the work we do every summer. We highlighted staff who work in the entomology lab, on the catch basin crew, and out in the field. Check out the [MMCD website](#) and social media for the latest!

Summer Events

Our summer season is off to a great start with several big events already happening in the District. These public events are a great opportunity to inform the public about the MMCD program, encourage people to practice good mosquito reduction strategies, and keep us in mind when looking for summer jobs.

Here are some of the past and upcoming events:

- June 1st – Grand Old Day – St. Paul
- June 7th – Sunfish Lake Park Family Nature Day – Lake Elmo
- June 7th – Good Neighbor Days Parade – Hugo
- June 8th – Take a Kid Fishing – West St. Paul
- June 12-14th – Hennepin County Fair - Corcoran
- June 14th – Little Canada Touch-a-Truck Event
- June 14th – Juneteenth Celebration – Roseville
- June 14th – Father Hennepin Festival Parade – Champlin
- June 15th – St. Louis Parktacular Parade
- June 24th – Anoka Police Dept. Safety Fair



Table at Grand Old Day (left) and St. Louis Parktacular Parade (right)

Tire Drop-off Events

In June we hosted successful tire drop off events with our Jordan and Rosemount facilities. We collected over 1,600 tires from Scott and Carver County and 1,257 tires from Dakota County. The events were well-run by MMCD staff and much appreciated by the residents who participated.

Below are some photos from each event:



Rosemount facility tire pile.



Jordan facility tire pile.