

**Metropolitan
Mosquito Control District**

**Commission Meeting
August 27, 2025
9:15 AM**

Information Packet

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

AUGUST 27, 2025, 9:15 AM

MEETING LINK:

[HTTPS://TEAMS.MICROSOFT.COM/MEET/298865610823?P=7UF2CBWBOIDVQCHZ4C](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/298865610823?P=7UF2CBWBOIDVQCHZ4C)

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda*

CONSENT AGENDA *The following items (4-5) are administrative in detail and will be approved in one motion unless a commissioner wishes to withdraw an item for discussion.

4. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for July 23, 2025
5. General Checks and Claims 80571-80726

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Presentation: West Nile Virus – Dr. Jordan Mandli
7. Presentation: Compensation Study – Maria Mancilla-Diaz
8. Presentation: Fleet Management – Jon Peterson
9. Presentation: Facilities Assessment – Tim Stich
10. Presentation: Health Insurance – Jennifer Macchia
11. Executive Director’s Report
12. Other Items
13. Adjournment

* Action Requested

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

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 9:15 a.m.

COMMISSIONER	COUNTY	COMMISSIONER	COUNTY
<input type="checkbox"/> Mandy Meisner	Anoka	<input type="checkbox"/> Angela Conley	Hennepin
<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Reinert	Anoka	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather Edelson	Hennepin
<input type="checkbox"/> John Heinrich	Anoka	<input type="checkbox"/> Rena Moran	Ramsey
<input type="checkbox"/> John Fahey	Carver	<input type="checkbox"/> Garrison McMurtrey	Ramsey
<input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Anderson	Carver	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Miller	Ramsey
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Wolf	Scott
<input type="checkbox"/> Laurie Halverson	Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/> David Beer	Scott
<input type="checkbox"/> Liz Workman	Dakota	<input type="checkbox"/> Bethany Cox	Washington
<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Anderson	Hennepin	<input type="checkbox"/> Fran Miron	Washington

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

JULY 23, 2025 – 9:15 AM

Roll Call:

Commissioner Rena Moran, Chair	Ramsey County
Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Anoka County
Commissioner John Heinrich	Anoka County
Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Anoka County
Commissioner Lisa Anderson	Carver County
Commissioner John Fahey	Carver County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Heather Edelson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Garrison McMurtrey	Ramsey County
Commissioner Kelly Miller	Ramsey County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Bethany Cox	Washington County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

Staff:

Daniel Huff, Business Director
Maria Mancilla-Diaz, Business Administrator
Jon Peterson, Assistant Director
Jennifer Macchia, Business Office Manager
Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Manager
Tim Stich, District Facilities Manager
Jon Litchy, Safety Coordinator
Dave Dirkswager, Regional Operations Supervisor
Angela Williams, Field Operations Supervisor
Vanessa Schultz, Field Operations Supervisor
Monte Ebbesen, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Peg Larsen, MMCD Lobbyist
Kim Scott, MMCD Lobbyist
Sam Ketchum, MMCD Legal Counsel
Andy Hering, Redpath Consulting Group

Chair Rena Moran called the meeting to order at 9:18am.

Chair Moran proposed a change to the agenda: the movement of Item 11, Discussion of MMCD 2026 Maximum Levy, to follow Item 7, a presentation by Redpath Consulting on the audit of MMCD 2024 finances. The proposed change would allow some Commissioners, who needed to depart the meeting

early, to be present for the discussion. Commissioner Hamann-Roland moved to approve; Commissioner Wolf seconded. The proposed change the agenda passed unanimously.

Chair Moran thanked all those present for attending and welcomed Commission Garrison McMurtrey to his first meeting with the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission. Chair Moran also welcomed MMCD's new Business Administrator, Maria Mancilla-Diaz. Ms. Mancilla-Diaz, at Chair Moran's invitation, spoke on her work experience and personal life. Chair Moran thanked Ms. Mancilla-Diaz for her experience and presence.

Chair Moran continued to the next agenda item, the approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Kevin Anderson moved to approve; Commissioner Wolf seconded. The consent agenda was approved without dissent.

Chair Moran invited MMCD Lobbyists Kim Scott and Peg Larsen to speak. Ms. Scott and Ms. Larsen gave several updates on the personnel changes within the Minnesota State Congress, including the upcoming special elections to fill current and anticipated vacancies by Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman, Senator Nicole Mitchell, and Senator Bruce Anderson. Ms. Scott reported that Senator John Hoffman was currently in medical rehabilitation. She also reported that it was unlikely Governor Tim Walz would call a special session, and Governor Walz would announce his future political plans after the Minnesota State Fair. Commissioner Meisner commented that Senator Hoffman had returned home and doing well despite requiring further medical care. Commissioner Conley mentioned that Senator Omar Fateh was currently running for Mayor of Minneapolis, indicating that another seat may open up in the Senate. Commissioner Conley inquired when the State would call for a special election in the case Senator Fateh was elected as Mayor. Ms. Larsen stated that all seats of the Minnesota Congress would be filled by the February 2026 session. Chair Moran thanked Ms. Scott and Ms. Larsen for their words.

Chair Moran then invited Ms. Mancilla-Diaz to present on the audit. Ms. Mancilla-Diaz said that she met with MMCD staff involved in the audit the previous week, and she thanked Business Office Manager, Jennifer Macchia, and Ms. Macchia's team for their scrupulousness. Ms. Mancilla-Diaz stated there were no issues during the audit and invited Redpath Consulting representative Andy Hering to speak. Mr. Hering briefly introduced himself. Mr. Hering reiterated that there were no issues during the audit process. He also noted that there was an increase in the MMCD Fund Balance and that there were no issues with MMCD compliance with Minnesota State statutes. Chair Moran thanked Mr. Hering for the insight and opened the room to questions.

Commissioner Reinert asked if Mr. Hering knew the estimated value of MMCD's building. Mr. Hering said no. Executive Director Daniel Huff answered that Building Facilities Manager, Tim Stich, collaborated with a third-party company to assess MMCD's capital assets. As a result, Mr. Stich was looking into finding commercial real estate agents to provide further assessment and figures.

Commissioner Reinert responded that by county standards, it is not necessary to know the valuation of the buildings, but it would be helpful for the Commissioners to know and could provide a useful perspective. Commissioner Lisa Anderson asked Mr. Hering what the most typical issue is under the umbrella of "internal control deficiency". Mr. Hering responded that it was usually lack of required approval and basic errors. Chair Moran thanked Mr. Hering.

Chair Moran then invited Mr. Huff to begin discussion of the 2026 MMCD maximum levy. Mr. Huff gave some background, noting that the Executive Committee spent two meetings discussing the proposed levy. He noted that the District has become more efficient with money, and MMCD levy increases have consistently been below the rate of inflation. As a result, the price a median property pays MMCD has dropped \$2 over the past ten years. Mr. Huff thanked previous Business Administrator Arleen Schacht for

her hard work managing the finances of the District. Mr. Huff then addressed the realities of the District that make financial planning more complex. He mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic put the District behind in updating the fleet. He also noted that MMCD's Plymouth facility has reached the end of its usable life cycle, both in that its maintenance outweighs its value as well as being a generally unsafe building to conduct business in. Mr. Huff mentioned other MMCD facilities requiring updates or improvements that would be calculated in the levy.

Mr. Huff also detailed the findings of the compensation study conducted, comparing local government agencies to MMCD. He noted that the study found MMCD's employee insurance is higher than all other participating agencies, and employee compensation was 16% below market average. Mr. Huff explained that increasing the levy would allow MMCD to slowly increase employee wages over several years to match the market average and to keep MMCD competitive in hiring. Mr. Huff also mentioned other facets of the proposed budget such as anticipated price increase in MMCD's helicopter contracting and the estimated 500,000 per year required to maintain facilities. Thus, Mr. Huff concluded and asked Commissioners to approve a 5.8% max levy increase, equaling 58 cent greater cost to homeowners with homes of median property value.

Commissioner Miller asked if the \$500,000 annual maintenance included expected costs tied to the Plymouth facility. Mr. Huff answered that the 500,000 did not and minimal investments would be put into maintaining the current facility. Some discussion between Commissioner Heinrich, Commissioner Lisa Anderson, and Mr. Huff occurred regarding the statistical nuances of the compensation study and MMCD's goals. Commissioner Kevin Anderson inquired about the District's lag in keeping up with vehicle replacements. Mr. Huff clarified that the proposed budgets for the next several years would allow the District to catch up on fleet maintenance. Commissioner Lisa Anderson then stated that employee compensation is not necessarily an incentive, but can be a disincentive, and wondered how long MMCD was lagging other organizations. She asked if Mr. Huff thought the District could catch up. Mr. Huff answered that he didn't know for sure, as public sector salaries have risen over the years and there was no way to know given volatility of the economic climate. Commissioner Anderson thanked Mr. Huff for his attention to the budget spreadsheet. Commissioner Reinert expressed that he believed the private sector should be included in the compensation study as it would provide perspective. He also wondered if there really was an issue with retention at MMCD and urged administrators to look into other factors besides compensation. Mr. Huff answered that retention is not currently a problem but there were significant challenges with hiring a Business Administrator due to non-competitive salary and benefits.

Commissioner Fahey recommended the Commission to approve the proposed levy. Commissioner Miron seconded. Commissioner McMurtrey suggested to MMCD staff that, while looking into recruitment and retention, to also rethink benefits such as opportunities for professional development and student loan assistance. Mr. Huff responded that the District has increased opportunities for professional development but he wishes to focus on improving the basic needs of the organization. Commissioner Miron expressed his satisfaction that MMCD administrators were looking at capital assets in relation to budget. He also reiterated that the final vote for the levy was not until the December Commission meeting. Commissioner Miron also added that he wanted to discuss compensation more before then and that would assist in his decision come December. Commissioner Moran shared that she approved of the scrupulousness of the budget and appreciated the Commissioners' discussion and insights.

RESOLUTION

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 surveyed mosquito control districts nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the MMCD’s total fund balance as of the 2024 Financial Report is \$35,244,247, with \$12,677,993 in capital funds and \$6,400,000 in assigned treatment reserves; 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.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District hereby adopts a maximum levy for tax year 2026 in the amount of \$21,590,768.

Commissioner Fahey made a motion to approve the proposed levy increase. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion. The motion passed with 14 yeas and 1 nay.

Yea

- Commissioner Meisner
- Commissioner Reinert
- Commissioner Heinrich
- Commissioner Fahey
- Commissioner Lisa Anderson
- Commissioner Kevin Anderson
- Commissioner Conley
- Commissioner Edelson
- Commissioner Moran
- Commissioner McMurtrey
- Commissioner Miller
- Commissioner Beer
- Commissioner Cox
- Commissioner Miron

Nay

- Commissioner Wolf

Chair Moran invited MMCD Regional Operations Manager Dave Dirkswager and Field Operations Manager Angela Williams to present on MMCD larval treatment methods. Mr. Dirkswager and Ms. Williams summarized the three main larval treatment methods: ground, drone, and helicopter. They also provided a brief overview of larval control materials and mechanisms. Several Commissioners asked clarifying questions regarding duration of materials effectiveness, notification of the public to treatments, drone lifespan, and organic certification of materials.

MMCD Legal Counsel Sam Ketchum then presented the revisions to the Code of Conduct regarding the Executive Director’s duty of disclosure. He noted that the Executive Committee recommended approval of the revisions.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District Code of Conduct (the “Code of Conduct”) addresses conflicts of interest rules for all District employees; and

WHEREAS, the Code of Conduct includes a specific duty of disclosure requirement that the Executive Director file an annual statement of material economic interest in order to avoid conflicts of interest (the “Policy”); and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2025, the Executive Committee reviewed the Policy and directed the District Attorney to clarify its terminology, align it with similar state rules and definitions, and provide a filing process; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2025, the Executive Committee reviewed and approved the attached revisions to the Policy; and

BE IT NOW RESOLVED, the Commission approves the amendment to the Policy and the attached form.

Commissioner Kevin Anderson moved to approve the revisions; Commissioner Lisa Anderson seconded. The motion passed without dissent.

Mr. Huff then opened the room for discussion about MMCD’s policies related to the fund balance. Mr. Huff reviewed what each portion of the fund balance was dedicated to, including \$1.5 million committed to emergency disease prevention. Commissioner Reinert noted that the fund balance held \$33 million at the beginning of his tenure on the Commission, and it continues to grow. He wondered what the right amount was for MMCD. Commissioner Reinert suggested that at a later date the District ought to work to become more intentional and detailed about the management of the fund balance. Commissioner Lisa Anderson agreed and noted that a working capital is usually portioned at 30%, whereas MMCD’s was 40%. She urged Business Administrator Maria Mancilla-Diaz to investigate.

Mr. Huff then presented his Executive Director’s report. He briefly gave a nod to District Entomologist Scott Larson for his work over the season. Mr. Huff mentioned that the first confirmed case of West Nile Virus was reported by the MN Department of Health. Mr. Huff notified Commissioners he would not be at the August Commission meeting for personal reasons.

Chair Moran concluded by thanking Commissioners for the productive meeting and invited Commissioners to view the MMCD helicopter and drone in the Metro Counties Government Center parking lot. Commissioner Wolf moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Anderson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11am.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:

Jordan Mandli, PhD

Informational:

MMCD Update: West Nile Virus

I. Executive Summary

West Nile virus (WNV) infection rates in mosquitoes remain historically high but have declined slightly from previous week's record levels. Risk to humans is still elevated compared to past years. MMCD has intensified surveillance, control measures, and collaboration with partners to address the situation. Dr. Jordan Mandli will provide a full overview and present the District's response.

II. Current Situation & Background

MMCD's weekly surveillance for West Nile virus is detecting significant infection rates among mosquitoes in the District. This is the highest rate of infected mosquitoes detected since our surveillance program launched in 2001, although the Minimum Infection Rate (MIR) has slightly decreased from a recent peak.

- **About the Virus:** West Nile infection is a disease caused by the West Nile virus and is spread by mosquitoes. Most people who are infected will have no symptoms, but a small percentage may develop severe illness. Severe illness includes meningitis and encephalitis and can lead to paralysis, brain damage and death. People over age 50 and those with compromised immune systems are at higher risk. There is no specific treatment for the virus.
- **Vector Mosquitoes:** *Culex* mosquitoes, particularly *Culex tarsalis*, are the primary vectors for WNV transmission from birds to humans. While overall mosquito numbers have dropped, populations of infected *Culex* mosquitoes are still detected.
- **Case Count:** The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has reported six human cases of West Nile infection in District residents this year. One case, a Dakota County resident, is currently hospitalized and a Scott County resident has passed away.
- **Infection Hotspots:** Continued WNV activity has been observed along the Minnesota River Valley. New detections continue to occur and warrant close monitoring.

III. MMCD's Incident Response

MMCD's incident response team is meeting regularly to manage the situation. We have implemented the following actions:

- **Increased Surveillance:**
 - Gained permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to set traps in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
 - Received DNR approval to set traps at Fort Snelling State Park.
 - Added traps in the Como Park neighborhood.
 - Collected mosquitoes for identification and WNV testing, with a focus on *Culex* species.
- **Larval Control:**
 - Increased inspections, sampling, and treatments in wetlands, catch basins, and residential yards within one mile of WNV-positive traps.

- Completed 2,195 additional inspections.
- Treated 200 acres in focused areas.
- **Adult Mosquito Control:**
 - Applied adulticide to create barriers between wooded areas and neighborhoods near high-infection traps, including the Minnesota River Valley.
 - Fogged around the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in preparation for the fair.
 - Completed 140 treatments, covering 900 acres.

IV. Interagency Collaboration

We are actively coordinating with several key partners:

- **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH):** Partnering with MDH epidemiologists to assess risk and coordinate response.
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service & DNR:** Working with staff at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Fort Snelling State Park to expand our surveillance and treatment operations.
- **Regional Collaboration:** We have convened a meeting of Upper Midwest mosquito control experts to share findings and refine control strategies. Colleagues in suburban Chicago are also seeing an increase in WNV activity.

V. Next Steps

Our response will be based on continued surveillance data. Our planned next steps include:

- Continuing increased adult mosquito trapping and testing.
- Continuing enhanced larval surveillance in *Culex* habitats.
- Providing larval and adult treatments based on surveillance results.

If infection rates remain at or rise to record highs, MMCD will consider widespread adulticide applications and increase media outreach.

VI. Future Planning

Looking ahead to the fall and winter, MMCD will:

- Revise our disease response plans.
- Refine the metrics that guide our control practices.
- Continue coordination with the DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to amend permits for ongoing surveillance and treatments when needed.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:

Maria Mancilla-Diaz

Informational:

Budget Follow-Up: Compensation Study

I. Executive Summary- Compensation Study

Maria Mancilla-Diaz will provide an overview and present the District’s confirmed answers and findings. This document provides a high-level summary of the recent salary study completed by Gallagher, incorporating all requested changes and directives.

II. Requested Changes and Directives

1. We have removed three specific organizations from our custom data set, as requested. This action did not have a significant effect on the study’s overall findings or conclusions regarding our market position.

2. Our study's comprehensive data set represents a wide range of organizations and employees across the industry for the 31 jobs reviewed.

- **Custom Survey Responses:** 636
- **Published Survey Organizations:** 4,672
- **Published Survey Employees:** 47,134

3. The published survey data our consultant used is robust and includes a mix of organizational types, including public, private, for-profit, and not-for-profit entities. This ensures our analysis is grounded in a broad, real-world comparison.

4. When we align our new salary structure with the median, we are positioning ourselves for a fair and competitive position in the market. The median represents the middle point of all salaries for a given role—half of the salaries are higher, and half are lower. This approach is preferred over using the average because it is less affected by a few very high or very low salaries, providing a more stable and representative benchmark for our new pay structure.

III. Strategic Compensation and the 2026 Budget

This study provides the foundational data for our compensation approach, and we will continue exploration and dialogue to ensure our pay practices are transparent and justifiable. More information will be presented as we finalize our budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:

Jon Peterson

Informational:

Budget Follow-Up: Fleet Management

I. Executive Summary- Fleet Management

Jon Peterson will provide an overview and presentation on the District’s current fleet. Our analysis finds that 37% of our current fleet is older than 15 years, which is MMCD’s current replacement plan. Research shows that MMCD’s replacement plan of 15 years is more than six of the metro counties.

II. Fleet Management – 5-year budget replacement plan

This plan addresses replacement of vehicles to return to MMCD’s replacement plan of 15 years. Over the next 5 years MMCD would need to replace 95 vehicles at an average cost of \$687,536 per year. This 5-year plan would improve the composition of MMCD’s fleet of hybrid/electric vehicles versus full size pickups, improving the District’s overall gas mileage and cost.

III. Fleet Management - Opportunities

The process of reviewing our fleet and talking with county fleet managers has also allowed for some opportunities. All 93 vehicles being replaced do not have back up cameras and many of the safety features current vehicles have. By replacing them, we not only make our staff safer but also reduce the risks of backing into objects and damaging our vehicles and other’s property. By researching how the seven counties are managing their fleets, we were educated on potential for fleet management software that would make our fleet management more efficient in the future.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:
Tim Stich

Informational:
Budget Follow-Up: Facilities Assessment

I. Executive Summary- Facility Management

Tim Stich will provide an overview and present the District’s five-year capital improvement plan and priority projects. The Facility Condition Index (FCI) is a metric used to assess a building's condition, with an FCI over 40% indicating a high risk of major deterioration that may require significant capital investment. Our analysis of the Facility Condition Index (FCI) for multiple facilities over a 10-year period reveals key insights into the long-term health of our assets.

II. Five-year Capital Improvement and Maintenance Plan

This plan addresses existing deficiencies and projected costs with an estimated total of **\$5,586,335**. This translates to an annual allocation of approximately **\$1,117,267** per year. The resulting capital plan targets issues that affect the safety, operability, or structural integrity of MMCD’s facilities. The 5-Year Maintenance Budget will be used to preserve, protect, and prolong the life of these facilities—keeping them functional, safe, and compliant. This combined approach demonstrates MMCD’s long-term commitment to public asset stewardship and fiscally responsible planning.

It is recommended that the District adopt an annual maintenance budget of **\$498,295**, totaling **\$2,491,476** over five years. This budget is based on a formula allocating 1.5% of the replacement value for primary facilities and 0.5% for storage structures. These benchmarks are commonly used by public agencies to ensure long-term facility health.

III. Major Projects

- **Entomology Laboratory:** This project will renovate the existing lab infrastructure, improve mechanical systems, modernize the elevator, and reconfigure office space to accommodate personnel.
- **Maple Grove Storage Structure:** This project involves the design and construction of an unconditioned commercial storage space on the current property. The design will facilitate safe and efficient movement for commercial tractor-trailers and blend with the existing building's aesthetics.
- **Plymouth Facility:** We are addressing significant issues at this facility, including severe structural deterioration, HVAC failure, extensive water damage, and outdated safety systems. This facility is projected to exceed 120% of its replacement value in repair costs within 10 years. It is recommended that only essential repairs be made to maintain occupancy, while identifying a replacement facility.

IV. Recent Progress

We have posted an RFP (Request for Proposal) for Architectural Services for both the Entomology Laboratory and the Maple Grove Storage Structure. For the Plymouth property, we are currently developing an RFP for Real Estate Services. We have also completed a Phase I study and are collaborating with the City of Plymouth on the project. All RFPs and subsequent decisions will be presented to the commission for approval.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:
Jennifer Macchia

Informational:
Health Insurance

I. Executive Summary

Jennifer Macchia will provide an overview of the disparity between the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District's (MMCD) employer health insurance contribution rates and those of the seven metro counties. The analysis finds that MMCD's contributions are substantially lower, which results in a much greater financial burden on its employees.

II. Comparison Data

The data presented in the table was collected by reaching out to the counties and using the data that was submitted by each county in the Gallagher MN Local Governments Salary and Benefits Survey.

Coverage Type	MMCD Contribution	7 Metro Counties Average
Single Coverage	68%	90%
Family Coverage	57%	80%

III. Findings

The comparison data reveals that MMCD employees are responsible for a significantly larger portion of their health insurance premiums compared to their counterparts in the metro counties.

This disparity leads to considerably higher out-of-pocket costs for MMCD employees, placing the district at a competitive disadvantage when recruiting and retaining talent. In a landscape where compensation and benefits are key factors for job seekers, MMCD's lower health contribution could be a deterrent, making it more challenging to attract qualified candidates and potentially contributing to employee turnover. Addressing this gap is critical to maintaining a strong, stable workforce and ensuring the long-term operational success of the district. This information is generally stated to respect the contract negotiations underway with a subgroup of the workforce.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:
Daniel Huff

Informational:
Executive Director's Report

Field and Lab Operations:

This summer has continued to be a challenging treatment season. Frequent rain has kept both field and lab staff busy, with treated acreage on par with last year's heavy season. Our expanded drone program is paying off—we have already completed three times as many drone treatments as last year.

Heat and poor air quality have added strain to field operations. I especially appreciate the work of the District's Safety Coordinator, Jon Litchy, in developing new protocols to keep everyone safe in these challenging conditions.

After peaking in early July, mosquito numbers are now following our 10-year average and continuing to decline.

West Nile Virus:

This month we have been responding to a significant increase in West Nile virus activity. This year's mosquito infection rate is the highest recorded since testing began in 2001. In response, we have expanded surveillance by adding traps and testing more mosquitoes. Field crews have increased larval treatments, including catch basins, and have stepped up adulticide use in high-risk areas.

Of particular concern are elevated virus levels in mosquitoes around the State Fairgrounds, the Minnesota River, and the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes. In Oakdale, Field Operations Supervisor Gabi Grogan has led the District's response at the Fairgrounds. She and her crew have been working overtime—conducting drone treatments of rooftops with standing water, treating waste containers for larvae, and performing night fogging operations. In Plymouth, Field Operations Supervisor Galen Krecklau has focused treatments around the Chain of Lakes, including inspecting Lakewood Cemetery and treating urns and other containers holding water. Galen has also led sampling and treatment efforts at Fort Snelling State Park. The District's Vector Ecologist, Jordan Mandli, has done an excellent job leading our overall response and will provide an update during the upcoming Commission meeting.

Alex Carlson has led the District's media and outreach strategy, resulting in coverage of West Nile virus stories by all local news stations.

Engagement:

We are also expanding our partnership with the DNR and Fort Snelling State Park staff. Special thanks to Caleb Corona for leading these efforts. The DNR has amended our park permit, allowing us to increase surveillance and treatment to reduce disease-vectoring mosquitoes.

In addition, we have had productive discussions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and have been granted permission to conduct surveillance there.

I have enjoyed visiting our field offices and shadowing staff in the field. I joined Andrew Cleland from Rosemount for dipping along the Minnesota River bottoms and worked with Mark Leonard from Plymouth to set adult traps.



Setting up a Gravid Trap in Hennepin County



Larval dipping at the Burnsville Landfill

Mark Smith organized our first-ever field day for Technical Advisory Board members—a successful and well-attended event that brought together 16 participants from state and local agencies including Hennepin and Washington County public health.

As part of our district exchange program, Ed Foley, Operations Manager, Lee County Mosquito Control District (Florida), will be visiting our District the week of August 18-22, meeting with staff, and observing our operations.

Budget Follow-Up:

In our continued effort to provide you with the information needed to make sound decisions for the District, we have followed up on your questions regarding the 2025 budget. Special thanks to Maria Mancilla-Diaz, Jon Peterson, and Jennifer Macchia for their thorough research.

Personal Note:

I am looking forward to a two-week expedition paddling the length of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area with my son. I am sorry to miss our August meeting.

Department Updates

Operations

The wet weather continued into the first part of August. Our staff have been very busy responding to rain events. They have also focused on disease response to the positive West Nile Virus traps. They have done additional larval inspections and treatments, targeting culex mosquitoes that have the potential to transmit disease. The disease response has also included adulticide. Photos 1-4 show some of the disease work we have been doing, including fogging around the State Fair Grounds.

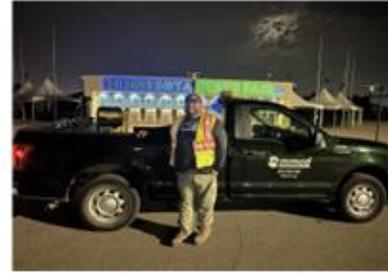


Photo 1 – Photo 3, larval habitat that may hold disease vector mosquitoes. Photo 4, MMCD fog truck at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds.

Since July 15th, we have treated approximately 62,000 acres by helicopter. The second half of July was very busy, as we treated by helicopter 11 out of 15 days. Overall, we have treated 205,060 acres by helicopter in 2025, which is approximately the same number of acres that we treated in 2024 during the same time period. Figure 1 shows the total acres treated by helicopter for the last 10 years.

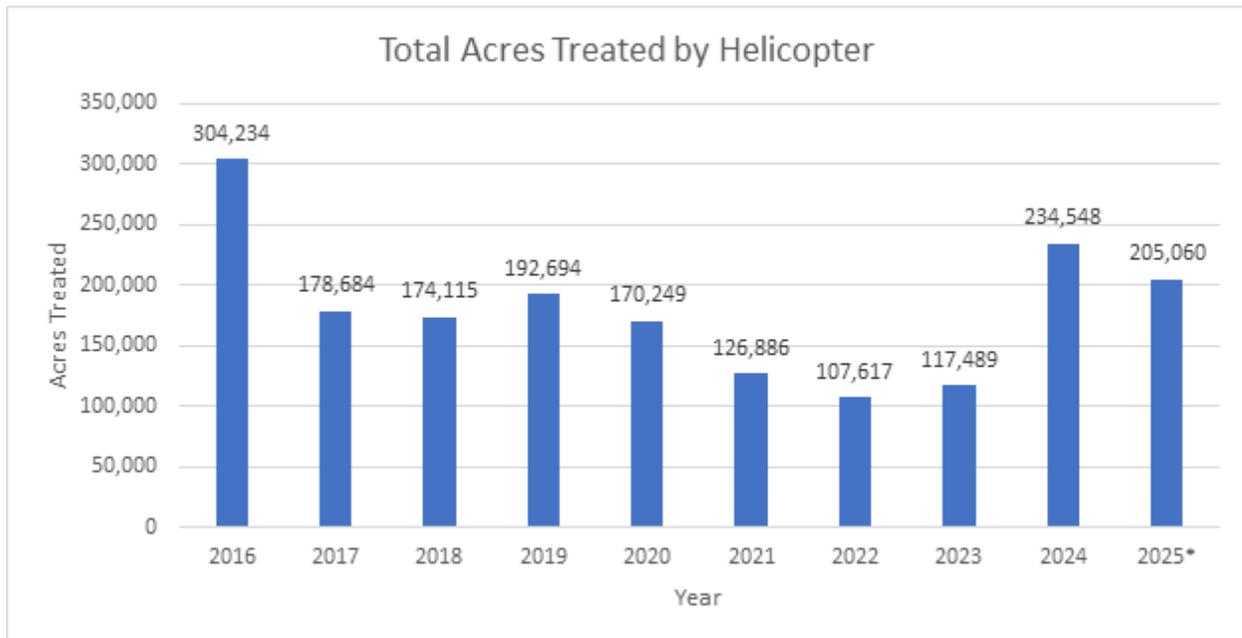


Figure 1. Total acres treated by helicopter per year (*2025 total is year to date).

MMCD drone staff continue to exceed our expectations. They have almost tripled the total acres treated from 2024. Facilities have been working to use their drones in different ways including helping to control disease vector mosquitoes at the State Fairgrounds by treating flat rooftops that hold water. To date, we have treated 9,383 acres by drone, as seen in Figure 2.

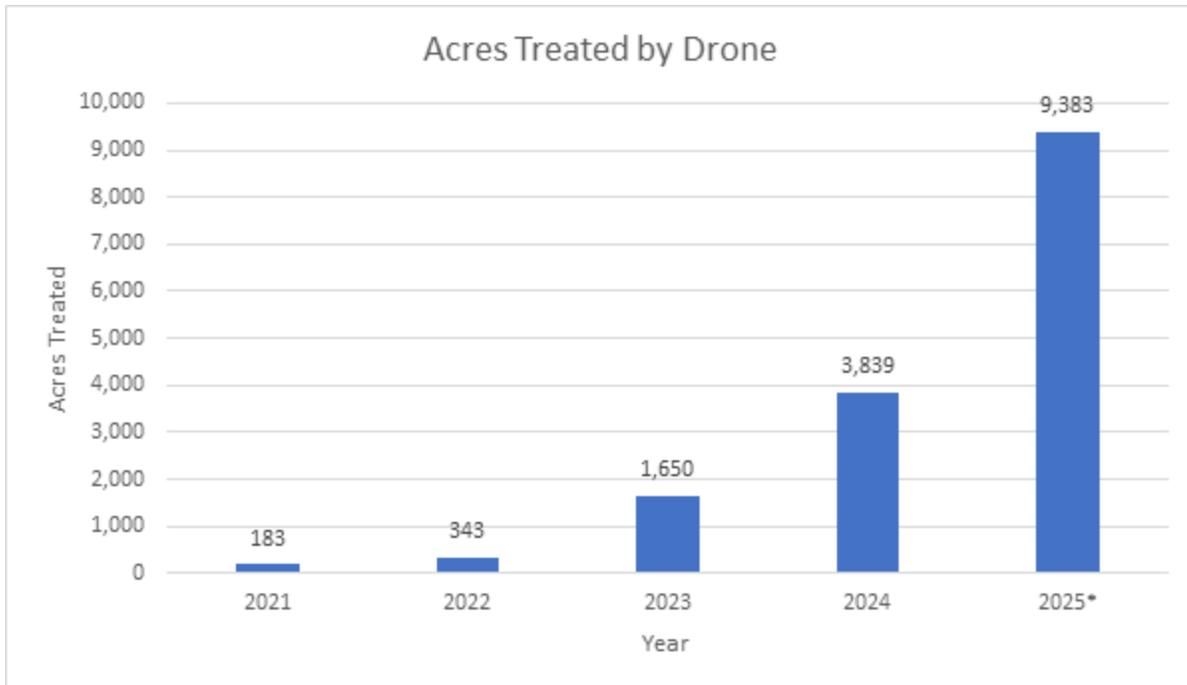


Figure 2. Total acres treated by drone per year (*2025 total is year to date)

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 15,473 acres by ground so far this season.

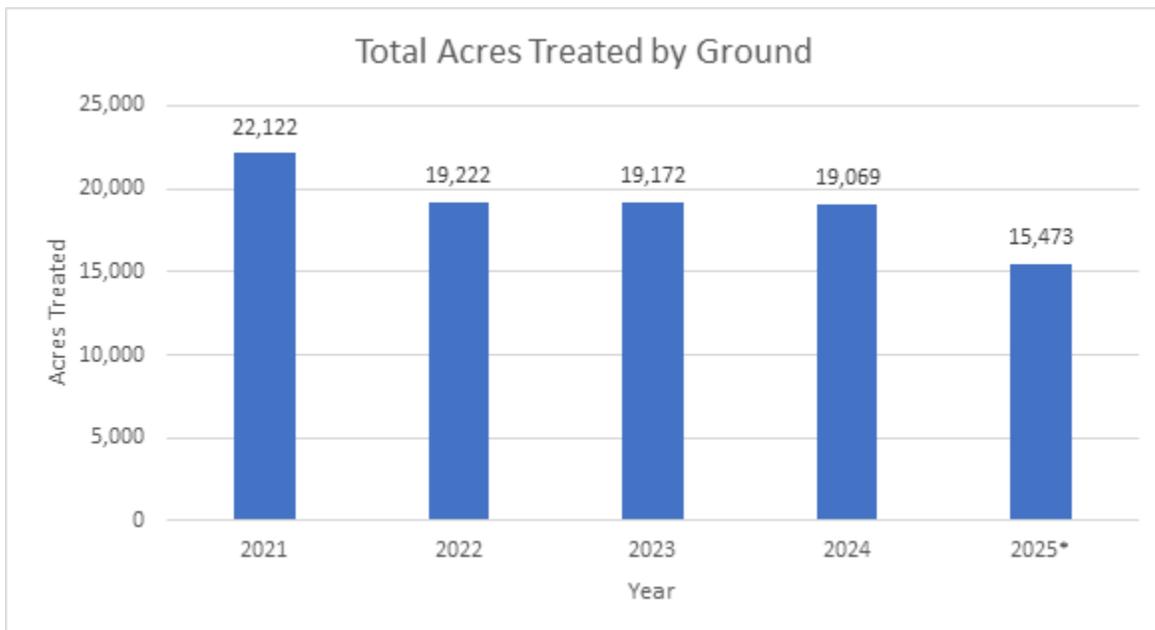


Figure 3. Total acres treated by ground per year (*2025 total is year to date)

Staff have been responding to high West Nile rates in adult mosquito traps. This work includes treating catch basins, eliminating tires and containers, additional adult surveillance, adult treatments, and doing our normal larval treatments by ground, drone, and helicopter. We have treated over 279,000 catch basins this year. That's 5,000 more catch basin treatments than all of 2024. Figure 4, below, shows total catch basins treated for the last 5 years. We have also treated 1,142 acres for adult vector mosquitoes to suppress those mosquitoes that have the potential to spread disease. Photo 5, 6 and photo 7 show the habitats we are focusing on to reduce larval disease vector mosquitoes.

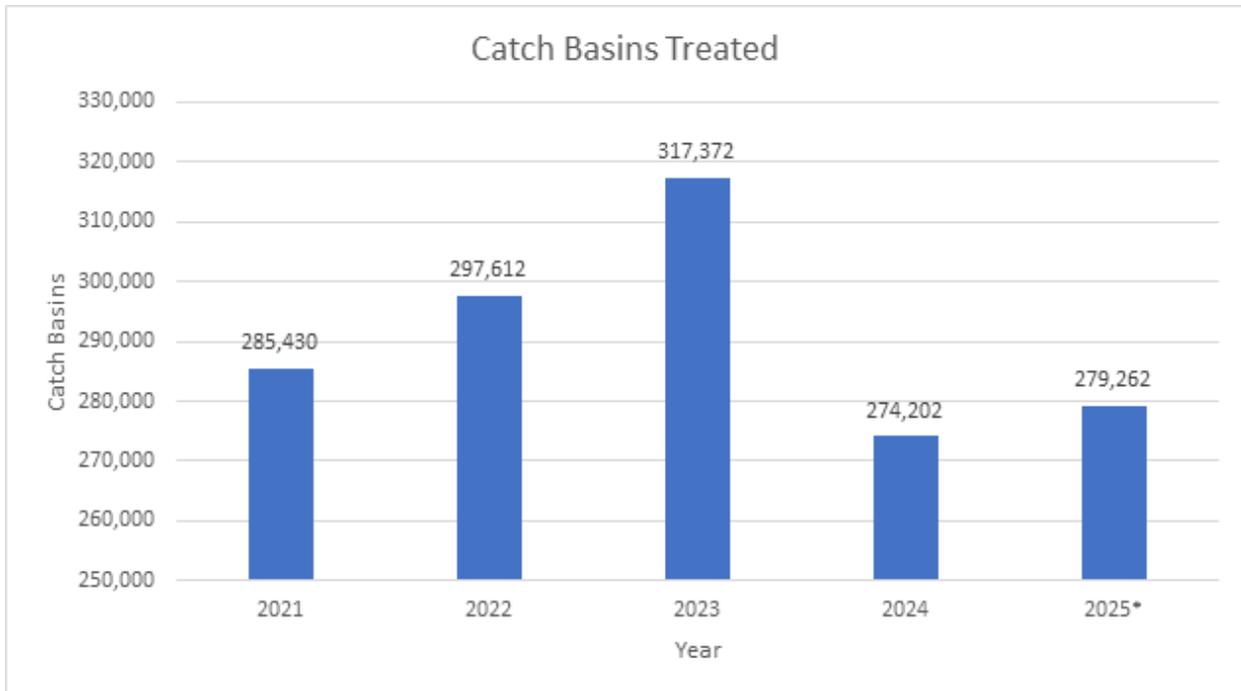


Figure 4. Total catch basins treated per year (*2025 total is year to date)



Photo 5-7 are habitats that staff are targeting, inspecting, and treating to reduce larval vector mosquitoes.

Integrated Services

A field demonstration day was held for our Technical Advisory Board (TAB) members on August 5th. MMCD has sixteen attendees from ten metropolitan agencies who participated. MMCD staff had a successful day increasing the understanding of our field operations and building stronger relationships with our TAB members and associated agencies.

West Nile Virus (WNV) continues to be a focus this summer. Surveillance of WNV vector species, virus testing, and respective actions have all staff working together to help lower the risk of this mosquito-borne illness. MMCD staff continue to have discussions with the MN DNR and USFWS to increase surveillance and conduct operations in the Minnesota River valley. Both agencies have significant properties within high population centers that could pose mosquito-borne illness risk to our citizens.

Catch basin treatments with the State Fairgrounds and surrounding area have all been completed. Staff continue to conduct surveillance and reduce WNV risk in preparation for State Fair.

A new control material, Sumilarv, continues to prove very effective in our catch basin program. The product evaluation trials in St Paul are showing 100% control through 6 weeks. This product could greatly enhance our control of WNV vector mosquitoes.

MMCD is hosting the Operations Manager of the Lee County Mosquito Control District (Florida) as part of our employee exchange program. MMCD is sharing ideas and innovations with other US programs to facilitate positive growth of both agencies.

Public Affairs

MMCD in the News

The elevated West Nile virus activity led to a lot of news coverage locally and statewide. Here are some of news stories that have run in the last few weeks:

- [West Nile virus surging in Twin Cities mosquitoes – CBS Minnesota/WCCO](#)
- [West Nile virus detected in mosquitoes across Twin Cities metro – MPR News](#)
- [West Nile virus surges in Twin Cities; human case confirmed – KARE 11](#)
- [Talking Mosquitoes on Minnesota Live – KSTP](#)
- [As West Nile mosquitoes thrive in the metro, an expert offers protective tips - MinnPost](#)



MMCD Vector Ecologist, Dr. Jordan Mandli, as featured in MinnPost.

Summer Events

Summer event season continues to be busy at MMCD with events targeting school-aged kids, seniors, and everyone in between! Here are some of the recent and upcoming events for July:

- August 3rd – Canadian Days Parade (Little Canada)
- August 4-10th – Dakota County Fair
- August 6th – Mosquitoes of Minnesota at the Rogers Library
- August 6-10th – Carver County Fair
- August 7th – Mosquitoes of Minnesota at the Maple Plain Library
- August 8-10th, 15-17th – Game Fair
- August 9th – New Brighton Stockyard Days Parade
- August 13th – Celebrate Summer Event in Maplewood
- August 16th – St. Paul Park Heritage Days Parade
- August 17th – Vadnais Heights Heritage Days Parade
- August 17th – Open Streets Minneapolis – Cedar/Riverside
- **August 21st – September 1st – Minnesota State Fair!**
- August 24th – Woodbury Days Parade
- August 26th – Brooklyn Park Safety Camp



Left – Booth setup for Open Streets Minneapolis Event

Right – Visiting with a special guest at Celebrate Maplewood