

**Metropolitan  
Mosquito Control District**

**Commission Meeting  
February 26, 2026  
10:00 AM**

*Information Packet*

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# METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

FEBRUARY 26, 2026 – 10:00 AM

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 December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025
4. Approval of Organizational Meeting Minutes for January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026
5. General Checks and Claims 81159-81340

## REGULAR AGENDA

6. Legislative Update – Kim Scott & Peg Larsen
7. Annual Report
8. Presentation: 2025 Review of Field and Laboratory Activities
9. Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement\*
10. Executive Director’s Report
11. Other Items
12. Adjournment

\* Action Requested

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

**Next Full Commission Meeting: April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 9:15am**

**Next Executive Committee Meeting: March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 9:15am**

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT  
COMMISSION MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 17, 2025 – 6:00PM**

**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, Executive Director
- Maria Mancilla-Diaz, Business Administrator
- Jon Peterson, Assistant Director
- Mark Smith, Integrated Services Manager
- Scott Larson, PhD, District Entomologist
- Mark Smith, Integrated Services Manager
- Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Manager
- Paul Youngstrom, IT Manager
- Scott Grant, Field Operations Supervisor
- Monica Wickelgren, Field Operations Supervisor
- Monte Ebbesen, Administrative Assistant

**Guests:**

- Peg Larson, MMCD Lobbyist
- Sam Ketchum, MMCD Legal Counsel

Chair Rena Moran called the meeting to order at 6pm and welcomed all Commissioners, MMCD staff, and guests present. Commissioner Heather Edelson joined remotely due to an inability to travel at the time of the meeting.

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland motioned to approve the agenda; Commissioner Lisa Anderson seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Chair Moran briefly honored and gave thanks to present MMCD staff with upcoming retirements, including Mark Smith, Scott Grant, and Monica Wickelgren. Eric Sell was honored in absentia.

Chair Moran then invited MMCD lobbyist Peg Larsen to provide her legislative update. Ms. Larsen noted that the upcoming legislative session would primarily concern bonding and possibly discussions of gun control legislature. Ms. Larsen also briefly mentioned that 10 Republicans were vying for a gubernatorial bid in the 2026 state elections. She ended her update by noting that she and fellow MMCD lobbyist, Kim Scott, spoke to Brian Martinson at the Association of Minnesota Counties to discuss the possibility of tire legislature and political options for reducing the presence of waste tires in the Metropolitan area.

Commissioner Kelly Miller asked Ms. Larsen if tire legislature was the primary focus of the MMCD lobbyists at this time. Ms. Larsen clarified that she and Ms. Scott were continuing to protect MMCD's funding.

Chair Moran then opened the meeting for public hearing. She noted the Minnesota State statute that mandates a public hearing, followed by an overview of MMCD's proposed 2026 budget and levy. She then invited Executive Director Daniel Huff and Business Administrator Maria Mancilla-Diaz to provide further comment. Mr. Huff noted MMCD staff's consistency and transparency with Commissioners regarding the formation of 2026 budget and levy throughout 2025. He emphasized the key facets of the budget, including a five-year plan to elevate employee benefits and compensation to the median in the market.

Commissioner Miller asked Mr. Huff if the five-year plan took inflation into account. Mr. Huff responded that MMCD staff had taken into account an inflation rate of 3% for the 2026 budget. Commissioner Miller then asked if MMCD aspired to exceed the median, to which Mr. Huff replied that he strives to reach the median to continue MMCD's history of good employee retention. Commissioner Miller wondered if there was a means to get MMCD at the median sooner, possibly using one-time funds. Mr. Huff explained that there were pros and cons in doing so, and he would prefer a one-time bonus – an action that would remain sensitive to the malleable nature of MMCD's fund balance. Further discussion regarding one-time funds vs ongoing funds briefly continued before being paused by Chair Moran to allow Ms. Mancilla-Diaz to speak on the budget.

Ms. Mancilla-Diaz described the budget document found in the informational packet provided to Commissioners, noting that she wanted to produce a document that was accessible to residents. Ms. Mancilla-Diaz thanked Commissioners for approving the reallocation of surplus OPEB funds. Ms. Mancilla-Diaz emphasized that MMCD staff would keep the Commission updated on all major capital projects, and construction would not begin without the Commission's approval. She also noted a 22% decrease in the fund balance from 2025 to 2026, following up on Commissioners' previous concerns that the fund was bloated.

Commissioner Lisa Anderson raised some concerns regarding the percentage of the fund balance that was committed toward working capital and wondered if 37% was excessive. Ms. Mancilla-Diaz replied that the norm was between 25-35%, but the impact of weather volatility on MMCD's operations allowed for a greater amount. Commissioner Dave Beer then briefly expressed skepticism regarding MMCD's proposal to increase employee wages, citing concerns of potential oversight of the seasonality of MMCD's work. Mr. Huff responded that seasonality was considered in the compensation study conducted by Gallagher. Commissioner Reinert reiterated his previous stance that the fund balance could be significantly smaller. The Commissioner then suggested that the Commission vote on the proposed budget and levy, and further discussion could happen in the coming year. Commissioner Kevin Anderson concurred. Commissioner Halverson commented that working towards competitive compensation was important and course corrections could be costly in the future. Commissioner Kevin Anderson reminded his colleagues that the vote would only concern the 2026 budget and discussions regarding the long-term would first be conducted amongst Executive Board members. Commissioner Fran Miron seconded Commissioner

Anderson’s and Commissioner Reinert’s sentiments and ultimately expressed confidence in the proposed 2026 budget. Several Commissioners expressed a desire to continue conversation at a later time.

Chair Moran then opened the room for public hearing in accordance with Minnesota State statute. No members of the public commented. Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland then moved to approve the proposed 2026 levy; Commissioner Angela Conley seconded.

**RESOLUTION 1**

**WHEREAS**, the Commission, at its meeting on July 23, 2025, adopted a maximum levy for tax year 2026 in the amount of **\$21,590,768**, representing a potential **5.31%** increase over the 2025 levy; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed **final levy for tax year 2026** is **\$21,497,131.39**, representing an increase of **\$995,025.39**, or **4.85%**, over the 2025 levy; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commission of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District hereby approves the **final levy for tax year 2026** in the amount of **\$21,497,131.39**.

Vote by roll call commenced, with the votes as follows:

YEA

Commissioner Reinert  
Commissioner L. Anderson  
Commissioner Hamann-Roland  
Commissioner Halverson  
Commissioner Workman  
Commissioner K. Anderson  
Commissioner Conley  
Commissioner Edelson  
Commissioner Moran  
Commissioner McMurtrey  
Commissioner Miller  
Commissioner Beer  
Commissioner Cox  
Commissioner Miron

NAY

Commissioner Wolf

By the majority vote, resolution 1 passed.

Commissioner Miron made a motion to approve the proposed 2026 budget; Commissioner Conley seconded.

**RESOLUTION 2**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) continues to fulfill its mission to protect public health and improve outdoor quality of life through effective and environmentally responsible mosquito and black fly control and tick surveillance programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Director has presented a proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget totaling **\$23,282,100.67**, reflecting a balanced approach that maintains fiscal prudence while advancing key strategic initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission further acknowledges that the **final 2026 levy of \$21,497,131.39**—a reduction from the maximum levy set in July—demonstrates the District’s ongoing commitment to fiscal discipline and stewardship of public resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District Commission approves the **Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026** in the total amount of **\$23,282,100.67** on this day.

Vote by roll call commenced, with the votes as follows:

YEA

- Commissioner Reinert
- Commissioner L. Anderson
- Commissioner Hamann-Roland
- Commissioner Halverson
- Commissioner Workman
- Commissioner K. Anderson
- Commissioner Conley
- Commissioner Edelson
- Commissioner Moran
- Commissioner McMurtrey
- Commissioner Miller
- Commissioner Beer
- Commissioner Cox
- Commissioner Miron

NAY

- Commissioner Wolf

By the majority vote, resolution 2 passed.

Chair Moran then invited Mr. Huff to present his Executive Director’s report. Ms. Huff thanked Integrated Services Manager Mark Smith for his work at MMCD. Mr. Huff expressed excitement at the joint MMCD-MESB-MELSA Human Resources position. He then mentioned that MMCD administrators were entering mediation with the Liuna 636 representatives and union members, informing Commissioners that the Executive Board would be updated during a closed session at the time of the January Executive meeting. Mr. Huff thanked Commissioners for their discussion. He also briefly reiterated the planned capital projects for 2026. While Mr. Huff briefly summarized MMCD’s control activities in response to the discovery of an invasive mosquito population at the St. Paul Como Conservatory, Public Affairs Manager Alex Carlson gifted Commissioners with a custom 2025 MMCD commemorative coin. Mr. Huff then briefly shared some highlights of 2025 at MMCD. He wished Commissioners well during the holiday season.

Chair Moran thanked Mr. Huff and encouraged Commissioners to read MMCD staff’s department reports. Commissioner Conley applauded MMCD’s collaboration with MESB and MELSA. Commissioner Miron inquired about MMCD’s plan for tire disposal in 2026. Mr. Huff explained MMCD’s transition to drop-off events, and Public Affairs Assistant Monte Ebbesen provided some clarifying details. Chair Moran and Commissioner Workman encouraged further MMCD collaborations within the tire program.

Chair Moran wished all those present happy holidays. She then motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Hamann-Roland seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

### MINUTES

JANUARY 8, 2026 – 9:15AM

#### **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  
Monte Ebbesen, Administrative Assistant

#### **Guests:**

Sam Ketchum, MMCD Legal Counsel

Executive Director Daniel Huff called the meeting to order at 9:21am and welcome all present, including Commissioners Dave Beer and Kevin Anderson who were joining remotely due to an inability to travel at the time of the meeting. Mr. Huff began with an acknowledgment of Renee Nicole Good, who had been killed by federal law enforcement agents on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Primary MMCD legal counsel, Sam Ketchum, swore in all present Commissioners at 9:33am.

Mr. Huff then asked Commissioners to provide names of those appointed to the Executive Committee. All Executive members remained the same as in 2025, save for the replacement of Vice Chair John Fahey by Commissioner Lisa Anderson. Commissioner Tom Wolf moved to approve the appointment of Commissioner Lisa Anderson as Vice Chair and as a member of the Executive Committee, as well as the

approval of all appointments to the Executive Committee. Commissioner Kevin Anderson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Moran then wished all present a happy new year and echoed Mr. Huff’s acknowledgement and sadness at the death of Renee Nicole Good.

Following, discussion opened up to reschedule the February, March, and July Commission meetings due to potential conflicts with NACo and AMC conferences. The February meeting was rescheduled from Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February to the following day, February 26<sup>th</sup>, with a start time of 10am. Executive Committee members agreed to reschedule the March meeting at the January Executive meeting. The July Commission meeting would be rescheduled via digital calendar management software. Commissioner Angela Conley moved to approve the change of meeting date for the February meeting, as well as the plans for rescheduling the March and July meetings. Commissioner Cox seconded. The motion was approved by majority vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53am.

## **METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING**

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**Presented by:**

Kim Scott & Peg Larsen

**Informational:**

Legislative Update

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The 2026 Minnesota legislative session began on February 17th with a tribute to Melissa Hortman, her husband, Mark, and their dog, Gilbert in a joint session of the House and Senate. Speakers, including Gov. Walz, Speaker Demuth, and Zack Stephenson talked about her humor, decency, and ability to get hard things done. Members wore green in honor of Melissa Hortman’s love of trees and each member placed a single rose on her desk as they exited the chamber. Flower seeds and green ribbons were handed out to guests in the gallery, which included the Hortmans’ children and parents. Musicians from the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra performed in the Capitol and therapy dogs were present to honor Gilbert. Melissa’s desk in the House chamber will remain empty as a tribute for the entire session.

During the convening of the Senate, Sen. Hoffman spoke about how happy he was to be back and how much his experience changed his life. Sen. Hoffman is working to advance legislation to make the crime of impersonating law enforcement a felony.

The targeting of the Hortmans and the Hoffmans spurred action to increase security at the Capitol. They are still figuring out the process, which has changed slightly each day. Currently, the only exterior entrance to the Capitol is on the ground level of the south doors. One may also enter from the tunnel connected to the Senate building and the tunnel connected to the Judicial Center. Members of the public and legislative staff must pass through a weapons screening at each entrance. Legislators must show their badge, but they do not have to go through the screening. The weapons screening is fast, unless there is a rally or day at the Capitol with an influx of people entering the building.

So far, the DFL’s legislative priorities are in response to the Trump Administration’s Operation Metro Surge while Republicans focus is on fraud. There is support on both sides for a bonding bill and a new Office of Inspector General. Democrats are also focused on a ban on assault weapons. Overall, expectations are low for a highly productive session.

Gov. Walz released his bonding recommendations to the tune of \$907 million while requests from state and local governments were three times as much (\$3.19 billion). The debt service on the bonds could be as high as \$94 million, which may need to be paid for with budget cuts—to be determined after the February forecast is released on February 27th.

Committee deadlines have been set and are already fast approaching. The first and second deadlines are the same day, March 27th, when committees in both the House and Senate must act favorably on bills. The third deadline is April 17th when major appropriation bills must be passed by committees. The annual Easter/Passover break starts on March 27th at 5 o’clock and the legislature will reconvene on April 7th.

We had a positive meeting about waste tires with Rep. Bierman, the co-chair of the Health Finance and Policy committee, which Comm. Hamann-Roland and MMCD staff also attended. Rep. Bierman is open to holding an informational hearing to have MMCD present on the issue, likely after deadlines. An informational hearing would allow us to raise awareness and bring legislative attention to the issue.

We also met with MPCA and discussed the possibility of implementing a product stewardship program for waste tires; MPCA noted that it is important to have industry support (i.e., manufacturers, processors,

and retailers) and that product stewardship programs often take a few years to develop. Interestingly, MPCA said that the car title transfer fee was dedicated to waste tire cleanup at its inception, but the fee now goes into an environmental fund for other MPCA activities.

The Executive Committee submitted a letter to MN Department of Agriculture Comm. Peterson to request that MMCD become a testing site for pesticide license tests. This was in response to changes to MDA's process that resulted in a substantial increase of time and expense to MMCD. We are scheduled to meet with MDA later today to discuss MMCD's request.

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

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**Presented by:**  
Alex Carlson

**Informational:**  
Annual Report

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MMCD has published an Annual Report summarizing updates and activities from 2025. This takes some of the elements of previous years' Technical Advisory Board (TAB) report and trims them down while adding more information on other areas at MMCD like human resources, business administration, and public affairs. This is presented in a 28-page booklet with graphs and images.

Printed copies of the report will be available at the February Commission Meeting and posted online at [MMCD.org](http://MMCD.org).

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

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**Presented by:**

Jon Peterson & Dr. Scott Larson

**Informational:**

2025 Review of Field and Lab Operations

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Dr. Scott Larson, MMCD’s District Entomologist, and Jon Peterson, MMCD’s Assistant Director, will give a presentation on the 2025 mosquito season. Their review will cover the work performed during the season, including surveillance, operations, and mosquito borne vector components of MMCD’s programs.

Highlights of the 2025 season include:

- MMCD treated 281,750 acres during the 2025 season, the highest number of larval acres treated since 2016.
- Inspections and treatments increased for *Coquillettidia perturbans*, more commonly known as the cattail mosquito.
- MMCD used eight treatment drones, which collectively treated 12,744 acres—more than three times the acreage treated by drones in 2024.
- Staff completed a record number of catch basin treatments—319,699 in total—focused on suppressing mosquito species capable of transmitting West Nile virus.
- MMCD collected and recycled a record 22,959 tires.
- The District recorded the highest levels of West Nile virus activity of any year.
- MMCD detected and eliminated an invasive *Aedes* mosquito at Como Park.

Plans for 2026 include:

- Operationally, we plan to use Sumilarv in three facilities to treat catch basins.
- We plan to expand drone treatment acres in 2026, though this may be affected by the availability and purchase of additional drones.
- Cattail surveillance in 2025 identified a record number of acres needing treatment, and we plan to increase cattail treatment acres for the 2026 season.
- We have worked with our partners at the DNR and USFWS, and we plan to continue surveillance along the Minnesota River Valley for West Nile virus vectors.
- Staff will return to Como Park to monitor for invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes to ensure that the 2025 elimination efforts were successful.
- We plan to continue our strategic planning process and evaluate costs and options for expanding control services in P2 areas.
- We will continue with our current Black Fly and Tick Monitoring plans.

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

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**Requested by:**

Maria Mancilla-Diaz  
Jana Sullivan

**Action requested:**

Approve labor agreement modifications for the District’s bargaining unit.

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**Summary**

On January 30, 2026, MMCD and LIUNA 363 concluded mediation and reached a tentative agreement on a successor collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for the 2026–2027 term. The union membership has voted to ratify the agreement. The proposed agreement secures a two-year contract term and provides predictable wage and benefit adjustments consistent with the District’s adopted long-range financial planning framework. Management recommends approval.

**Agreement Overview**

**Contract Term:** Two years (2026–2027)

**Wage Adjustments:**

5% wage increase effective in 2026  
5% wage increase effective in 2027

**Benefits:**

50% employer contribution toward the Minnesota Paid Family Medical Leave payroll tax  
Health insurance cost-sharing consistent with current financial projections

**Contract Language Updates**

In addition to the economic provisions, the tentative agreement includes the following updates and clarifications:

- Updated Recognition and Union Security provisions for statutory compliance
- Clarified procedures for union access and payroll deductions
- Leave provisions updated to comply with the Minnesota Earned Safe and Sick Time Law
- Modernized non-discrimination and anti-harassment language
- Resolution of a step advancement grievance

These updates maintain operational continuity while providing stability for employees and predictable fiscal impacts for the District.

**Fiscal Impact**

The economic terms align with the District’s five-year financial plan and compensation strategy.

2026 fiscal impacts were incorporated into the levy and budget planning process.

Future financial planning will continue to account for projected health insurance costs and investment income trends. The agreement provides stability during implementation of major capital projects and strategic initiatives.

**Recommended Action**

Motion: Approve the 2026–2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement resolution.

**2026–2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement Resolution:**

**Whereas**, the District’s Field Operations Supervisors are represented for collective bargaining purposes by City Employees’ Union 363 of the Laborers’ International Union of North America (“363”), and;

**Whereas**, the most recent labor agreement between the District and 363 expired by its terms on December 31, 2025, and the parties have been engaged in negotiations toward a new agreement since July 2025, and;

**Whereas**, the Commission authorized the District’s negotiators to negotiate in good faith but within certain economic guidelines, and;

**Whereas**, the District’s negotiators and 363 have been successful in reaching a tentative agreement with respect to terms of a new labor agreement, and that tentative agreement has been accepted by the local 363 union committee, and;

**Whereas**, the economic provision modifications of the tentatively agreed upon labor agreement, as well as the overall provisions of said agreement are based on the total package wage and benefit adjustment factor authorized by the Commission, and they represent economic adjustments which are reasonable and beneficial for both the District's staff and our taxpayers, and;

**Be It Now Resolved**, that the tentatively agreed upon labor agreement, the major provisions of which are summarized below be approved by the full Commission, and staff be directed to implement the same.

**Wage Rates and Benefits: A compensation package of 5% annual wage increases in both years. The agreement also includes agreed-upon terms on health insurance cost-sharing and Paid Family Medical Leave, providing stability for both our workforce and long-range financial planning.**

**Term/Duration:** A two-year agreement effective on January 01, 2026 and expiring at midnight on December 31, 2027.

Adopted this 26 day of February 2026, by the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District.

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Rena Moran, MMCD Chair

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Maria Mancilla-Diaz, MMCD Business Administrator

## METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

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**Presented by:**

Daniel Huff

**Informational:**

Executive Director's Report

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While mosquito activity remains dormant during the winter months, District operations continue at a strong pace.

A huge thank you to Alex Carlson and the entire MMCD team for producing our first-ever Annual Report. This was a significant milestone for the District. The report highlights the professionalism, science-based approach, and public service commitment of our staff and better communicates the scope and impact of our work across the metropolitan area.

We are also making steady progress on our major capital initiatives. It is exciting to see plans for both the new Maple Grove warehouse and the laboratory remodel taking shape. These projects represent critical investments in safety, operational efficiency, and long-term service delivery capacity. We will continue to provide updates as designs and timelines advance.

### Hiring

We have begun hiring for our seasonal positions as well as several full time positions including Field Operations Supervisors in the Rosemount and Oakdale facilities, a Vector Specialist and a new Human Resources Coordinator position that will be shared with MLSA. Please help spread the word about our seasonal job openings.



 **Summer Jobs**   
Starting April to early June

- No Experience Needed
- All Training Provided
- Paid Holidays
- Promote Public Health
- Stay Active Outside
- 40 hrs./week Day Shift
- Paid Time Off
- Flexible Start/End Dates

180+ Seasonal  
Field + Lab Positions  
**\$17.45 - \$23.35 / hour**

 Info and Application:  
**mmcd.org**  
Affirmative Action Employer

**mmcd**  
Metropolitan Mosquito Control District

 

### Waste Tire and Legislative Engagement

We recently met with MPCA staff to discuss waste tire handling and ongoing regulatory considerations. I want to thank Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland for arranging a meeting with Representative Bierman to discuss potential legislative action related to tire management.

Thank you as well to our lobbyists, Kim Scott and Peg Larsen, and to Alex Carlson and Monte Ebbesen for their continued leadership and work on this important issue.

### **Professional Engagement and Knowledge Sharing**

Caleb Corona, Research Entomologist, presented at the Michigan Mosquito Control Association Annual Conference on pesticide resistance in the District.

Maria Mancilla-Diaz, Mir Bear-Johnson (Assistant Entomologist), Alex Carlson, Trent Steffes (Field Operations Supervisor – Andover), and I attended the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California Annual Conference. We gained valuable insights into California’s response to invasive *Aedes aegypti*, pesticide resistance management, emergency response coordination, and emerging best practices. Alex gave an excellent presentation on MMCD’s work with local schools.

These opportunities continue to strengthen our scientific and operational capacity as we prepare for the upcoming season.

### **Technical Advisory Board**

The Technical Advisory Board held its annual meeting. Subcommittee presentations were provided on public health, materials review, and our Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan. We appreciate the continued expertise and partnership of TAB members. The Chair of the TAB will present to the full Commission at the April meeting.

As we begin 2026, I remain grateful for the dedication of our staff and the continued partnership of the Commission. We are off to a strong start.

### **Departmental Updates**

#### **Field Operations**

*Jon Peterson, Assistant Director*

As we quickly approach the start of our season, tentatively scheduled for April 13th, we are closely monitoring field conditions. Currently, the metro area is not experiencing any drought conditions. However, due to the lack of snowfall, it is possible that drought conditions could develop. That being said, we still have nearly two months before the season begins, and both weather and field conditions can change rapidly.

During this month’s commission meeting, Dr. Scott Larson and I will provide a recap of the 2025 season. Highlights include treating more larval acres than in 2024, achieving record drone treatment acres, and responding to elevated levels of West Nile virus–positive mosquitoes. Please see the PowerPoint presentation for the complete summary of 2025 activities.

A few additional updates from Field Operations:

We are hiring three new Field Supervisors—two in Rosemount and one in Oakdale. These positions are the result of retirements that occurred in 2025. We anticipate the new employees starting within the first few weeks of March.

Our Seasonal Technician positions were posted on February 9. During the first week, we received more than 180 applications. Interviews will begin soon, with a projected start date of April 13, weather permitting.

Staff are actively recruiting for the upcoming season, including placing online advertisements, posting flyers, and attending job fairs.

Staff are finalizing updates to maps and associated wetland data. Seasonal staff will use these updated resources for inspections and treatments throughout the 2026 season.

### **Entomology Laboratory**

*Dr. Scott Larson, District Entomologist*

As we exit winter and get closer to the return of biting insects and ticks, the lab is finishing the identifications of all mosquito, black fly, and tick specimens collected in 2025. Afterwards, the main task remaining for lab staff is to identify the samples taken from the Mississippi River in areas where we control black flies and from areas outside of the District where we do not control black flies. This study on the non-target effects of our control treatments is required by the MN DNR as part of our permit agreement. Since this study began in 1995, we have repeatedly shown there is no difference between treated stretches of the river and untreated stretches in regard to the presence and abundance of non-black fly invertebrate species.

The Entomology department is conducting interviews for a new Vector Specialist position who will report to the Vector Ecologist. This position will provide a person with the necessary skillset to test for pathogens in mosquitoes and ticks using PCR. Sixty-two applicants applied, and 14 individuals are being interviewed. Hiring for seasonal employees has also started. With a bit of luck, all seasonal lab positions will be filled by returning employees saving valuable staff time that is often spent on training new employees.

### **Public Affairs**

*Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Manager*

#### School Presentations

In late January, we visited Brooklyn STEAM Middle School and presented about mosquitoes and ticks to tie-in with a book they are reading about Yellow Fever. The students were great and afterwards they sent very kind feedback. Here are a few of their comments:

“One thing that was interesting about the mosquito control was that they spat on you before they bite you so that it numbs the skin and so that you don't feel it. And I thought it was cool because I never knew that.”

“This presentation is connected to the mosquito theory because the mosquitoes also hold yellow fever and they cannot hold some viruses also maybe I would want to do this one day.”

“Thank you for coming out to our school and teaching us about mosquito's and cool facts, I hope you can have time to come back and join us!”



## Mosquitoes in the News

[Malaria researchers are getting closer to outsmarting the world's deadliest parasite](#) - Kwesi Akonu Adom Mensah Forson, The Conversation, January 26, 2026

- A summary of some of the new ways science has developed to fight malaria including new vaccines for children, an antibody that may help the body resist it, and new methods to track and share malaria activity.

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[Mosquito taste receptor could lead to new insect repellents](#) - Harrison Tasoff, The Current, February 13, 2026

- Researchers discovered a naturally occurring fatty acid on the skin “tastes bad” to mosquitoes, so they may work to develop a mosquito repellent that replicates this.

•

[CDC warns travelers amid outbreak of mosquito-borne virus in five countries](#) - Press Release, KARE 11, February 12, 2026

- An outbreak of Chikungunya, a disease spread by mosquitoes, has led the CDC to issue travel advisories for Bolivia, Cuba, Sri Lanka, The Seychelles, and Suriname.