

METROPOLITAN
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

October 26, 2022

9:15 AM

Information Packet

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

October 26, 2022 9:15 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 August 24, 2022
4. Financial Statements September 30, 2022
5. Approval of Checks and Claims
General 76495 – 76734

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
7. December 21 Commission Meeting Date*
8. Executive Committee Report for September 28, 2022
9. Executive Director’s Report
10. Operations Report – (Jon Peterson, Kirk Johnson)
11. Public Affairs Report (Alex Carlson)
12. Other Items
13. Adjournment

* Action Requested

Next Executive Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2022, 9:15 a.m.

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, December 21, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER	COUNTY	COMMISSIONER	COUNTY
___ Mandy Meisner	Anoka	___ Angela Conley	Hennepin
___ Mike Gamache	Anoka	___ Chris LaTondresse	Hennepin
___ Robyn West	Anoka	___ Jim McDonough	Ramsey
___ Gayle Degler	Carver	___ Nicole Frethem	Ramsey
___ Tom Workman	Carver	___ Rafael Ortega	Ramsey
___ Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota	___ Michael Beard	Scott
___ Laurie Halverson	Dakota	___ David Beer	Scott
___ Liz Workman	Dakota	___ Gary Kriesel	Washington
___ Kevin Anderson	Hennepin	___ Fran Miron	Washington

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES
AUGUST 24, 2022 - 9:15 AM

Chair Angela Conley called meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Angela Conley, Chair	Hennepin County
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Anoka County
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Carver County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Laurie Halvorson	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Ramsey County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator
Jon Peterson, District Operations Manager
Kirk Johnson, Vector Ecologist
Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Manager
Cassie Sweeney-Truitt, Administrative Assistant

Visitors:

Joe Langel, MMCD Legal Counsel
Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting
Kim Scott, RCS Consulting

Chair Angela Conley welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Laurie Halverson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption

Resolution 1:

The following administrative items were moved in one motion.

Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for July 27, 2022
Approval of Financial Statements July 31, 2022
Approval of Checks and Claims. General 76369 - 76494

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland seconded the motion and the Commissioners voted as follows:

Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Yes
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halvorson	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Fran Miron	Yes

Commissioner Mandy Meisner joined the meeting after the vote.

Intergovernmental Issues

With primary elections complete, we have finished the first leg of the coming elections. From here on out, it gets complicated as everybody seems to have their own agenda. For Republicans, much of their talking points center around inflation. For Democrats, their talking points are around protecting access to abortion. Both parties are talking about crime and public safety. There is talk of Senator Klobuchar running for president again. This would be very interesting since President Biden has said that he will run again. In Minnesota, the far-right Action 4 Liberty group had candidates who won their primaries, for example, Steve Drazkowski, running for the Senate. Whereas, incumbent Republican senators, such as senators Dornink from Brownsville, Johnson from East Grand Forks, Pratt from Prior Lake, and Utke from Park Rapids, won their primaries against Action 4 Liberty opponents, despite some of those incumbents running without the Republican endorsement.

In other closely watched primaries, DFL'r Ben DeNucci will vie for the late Sen. Tomassoni's seat and Republican Jordan Rasmusson will be on the ballot for retiring Sen. Ingebrigtsen's seat. Incumbents Steve Elkins and Liz Reyer beat their incumbent colleagues Andrew Carlson and Sandra Masin after being matched up in redistricting. Incumbent Republican Erik Mortensen beat former-incumbent Bob Loonan; Mortensen will face off against another former-incumbent Brad Tabke in November.

Some closely watched congressional primaries include District 5 where Rep. Omar narrowly beat Don Samuels with 2% more votes. While District 4 Rep. Betty McCollum handily beat her primary challengers. Walz and Jensen are the expected candidates for Governor and Ellison and

Schultz will face off for attorney general, with Schultz knocking Doug Wardlow out in the primary.

While some interest groups continue to press for a special session, there is little appetite from campaign focused legislators to return to the Capitol.

A [full list](#) of current legislators not seeking re-election or running for another position has been compiled by the Legislative Reference Library.

Click [here](#) to see how you were redistricted.

Click [here](#) to see who is running for 2022 elections in Minnesota.

Important Upcoming Dates:

November 8: Election Day

January 3, 2023: 2023 Legislative session commences

Early Season Hiring Deficit: Service Delivery Plans

Stephen Manweiler reported that hiring seasonal employees, especially those who can start work by May 1, has been difficult in recent years. Hiring was especially difficult during the months before the current (2022) season. Our recruitment group has tried many innovative ways to reach more qualified candidates with success meeting seasonal employee hiring targets by early June. Hiring enough employees who can start in April has been most difficult. In 2022, we were able to hire only slightly more than half of the desired seasonal employees who could start work by the end of April. We were up to about 84% by the end of May and close to target levels by mid-June.

More successful recruitment is only part of the solution. Being able to deliver desired services with fewer people is another. In 2005, MMCD completed its first large scale aerial treatments of summer floodwater sites that had a history of consistently producing mosquito larvae after significant (1+ inch rain in 24 hours) precipitation using longer lasting larvicides. The goal in 2005 was to expand the area to which we could provide larval control services with the same number of employees. Sites that consistently produced mosquito larvae over a three-year period were identified and treated with larvicides that remain effective for 28-days (currently includes Natular G30, MetaLarv S-PT, Altosid P35). Treatment with one of these larvicides meant we only needed to treat these consistent producer sites once each month instead of two-five time per month with Bti (VectoBac G) during wet years. This strategy enabled us to extend our reach about 20% farther out in terms of total acres we could treat during a summer floodwater brood.

We also have determined that these larvicides are equally effective in April and early May. We typically inspect (dip) sites several times in April through mid-May because eggs of several different species in the sites hatch at different times. Cooler water temperatures slow larval development which gives our employees more time to check all desired sites. We use larval surveillance data to decide when one Bti treatment will control the largest number of larvae. In a typical year, we still treat some of these sites two or more times with Bti during this period.

During the recent dry years, completing all desired early season larval control has been possible even with our hiring shortfalls. We probably would be negatively impacted during a very wet season with an early warm-up. To prepare for such a scenario we have identified early-season sites that consistently produced early-season mosquitoes and reviewed treatments made during wet years to evaluate how treating these consistent producer sites with a 28-day larvicide could save us time to finish inspecting and treating the remaining less consistent sites.

In one example using early treatments in a wet year (2014), treating 1,858 sites once with 28-day larvicides would have reduced treatments of those 1,858 sites by 610 treatments (2,468 treatments [including retreatments] in 2014 with Bti down to 1,858 single treatments with 28-day larvicides). Total treatments would decrease from 4,414 to 3,804 (a 13.8% reduction). We also would not need to dip these 1,858 sites which would save additional time, therefore requiring fewer employees to complete this work.

Executive Director's Report

Stephen Manweiler reported that several solid candidates for the Executive Director position were selected to be interviewed based upon their applications and Background & Experience responses. Stephen thanked Commissioners Angela Conley and Kevin Anderson for interviewing the candidates during the week of August 15. Finalists selected from the outcome of the interview process will undergo additional evaluations by Dr. Jane Coffey with results provided to Mosquito Control Commissioners for their review between late August and early September.

Stephen Manweiler reminded all Commissioners that as the summer wanes and autumn begins ticks will become active again. Activity will not be as great as in the spring but the risk of tick-borne disease still becomes elevated. Be sure to protect yourselves when you are out in areas where ticks might be active.

Operations Report

Jon Peterson reports that August has finally brought some rain to the seven-county metro. So far this month, we have responded to three different rains events. We have treated over 13,000 acres by helicopter. Field staff have been busy inspecting and treating smaller wetlands in response to these rains as well.

One of the goals that MMCD is working on for 2022, is to restore services, inspecting and treating more wetlands in P2, to levels we performed in 2016. Figure 1, on page 13 of the packet, shows the air treatments in 2016, blue sites in P1 and red sites in P2. For 2022, it has been a challenge to treat more wetlands due to the dry conditions. However, even though we have not treated, due to the dryness and no larva found, we still have expanded our services with inspections and treatments. Figure 2, on page 13 of the packet, shows both our inspections and treatments in 2022, blue sites in P1 and red sites in P2. As we plan our operations for 2023, we will continue to expand our services in P2 with our inspections and treatments.

Adult mosquito levels remain very low throughout the metro. Because of this, our adult treatment acres are lower this year as well. These treatments have been in response to some high nuisance numbers (mainly in June), potential disease vector mosquitoes, and community events, including the State Fair. We will continue to monitor our Monday night traps, inspect for disease vector mosquitoes, and treat areas if necessary.

Staff have been busy working on disease prevention work. Some of the work that we do to prevent such diseases as West Nile virus (WNV) and La Crosse encephalitis include treating catch basins, treating permanent man-made structures such as culverts and washouts, wood lot inspections, and neighborhood inspections.

Another important aspect of disease prevention work that we do includes eliminating containers and removing tires that function as larval mosquito habitat in woodlots and in people's yards. This year, we have removed and recycled 7,900 tires.

For MMCD's black fly program, we have made 55 treatments to small streams and 39 treatments to larger rivers (Minnesota, Mississippi, Rum, and Crow). The number of weekly treatments has decreased considerably due to the low water levels in the rivers. Overall, the adult black fly numbers have been low for the last three months.

As we move into September, we will lose the majority of our seasonal staff. Those staff that remain will be focused on inspecting for cattail mosquitoes. Larvae of these mosquitoes overwinter attached to cattail roots. The treatment for these mosquitoes typically occurs in late May of the following year.

Kirk Johnson stated, to date this year, CDC has reported 98 WNV cases in the U.S., (102 in 2021) but are still experiencing some reporting delay. There was one confirmed MN illness in Cass County (11 by this time in 2021). There was one blood donor positive in Polk County. We can expect to learn of more cases this year as surveillance is ongoing.

Twenty-five mosquito pools were positive for WNV (19 during the last three weeks). Low numbers of *Culex tarsalis* have been collected so far this year.

There have been two U.S. La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) cases, no illnesses yet identified in Minnesota, (both in Ohio). LAC risk will persist through September. However, the exposure risk decreases with the start of the school year. There is further risk reduction with seasonal vector population decline.

There has been one U.S. case of Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) in Rhode Island. The Minnesota Department of Health is investigating a JCV case in a Ramsey County resident to determine the likely exposure location.

Public Affairs Report

Alex Carlson reported the State Fair begins August 25. Our booth will be back in the Dairy Building this year. We have added some new features this year including new handouts, stickers

for kids that say “Junior Mosquito Technician,” and a computer set up so people can see where we monitor in their neighborhood.

Successful public interactions at recent county fairs have yielded lots of requests for job information and teacher presentation requests. Calls continue to be far below average. The most common calls we are receiving are to request tire pick-ups and report dead birds.

Most schools are now allowing outside speakers to come in. Several school presentations are already lined up for September and we hope to significantly increase our school presence this year. The school presentation has been updated to include new interactive elements and visuals.

Other Items

Stephen Manweiler reminded everyone that during the July 27 Commission meeting we decided to convene this August 24 Commission meeting remotely based upon Covid transmission and risk. We also agreed to review the situation at this (August 24) meeting to decide how to meet on September 28. Stephen reported that current Covid transmission is essentially the same as it has been between late May through now (August 24) and proposed convening the September 28 Executive committee meeting remotely. No Commissioners objected.

Adjournment

Commissioner Angela Conley adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT						
FINANCIAL STATEMENT						
September 30, 2022						
COUNTY		2022 LEVY		REC'D TO DATE		DUE
Anoka	\$	1,801,059		945,402	\$	855,657
Carver		670,161		354,180		315,981
Dakota		2,478,836		1,306,987		1,171,849
Hennepin		8,793,964		4,490,412		4,303,552
Ramsey		2,791,070		1,419,812		1,371,258
Scott		902,433		475,628		426,805
Washington		1,601,153		839,936		761,217
Market Value Credit		0		0		0
TOTAL	\$	19,038,676	\$	9,832,357	\$	9,206,319
Tax Delinquent Income	\$	0	\$	53,040		
Miscellaneous (Rent/Misc./Non-Levy)		100,000		83,814		
Interest Income		25,000		130,486		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	19,163,676	\$	10,099,697	\$	9,063,979
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>						
<u>ASSETS</u>						
Cash and Investments			\$	23,615,912		
Accounts Receivable				77,875		
Prepaid Expenses				0		
Consumable Material				678,858		
Equipment net of Acc Depreciation				2,097,476		
Land				1,118,867		
Building net of Acc Depreciation				2,696,985		
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>					\$	<u>30,285,973</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>						
Vouchers Payable			\$	169,473		
Pass thru Revenue				0		
Deferred Revenue				77,875		
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>					\$	<u>247,348</u>
<u>NET WORTH</u>						
Fund Balance:						
Nonspendable			\$	2,807,932		
Prepaid				0		
Committed				2,500,000		
Assigned				1,079,928		
Unassigned for Working Capital				19,858,493		
Total Fund Equity			\$	26,246,353		
Assets-Equipment				5,913,328		
TOTAL			\$	32,159,681		
ADD Income				10,099,697		
DEDUCT Expenditures				12,220,754		
TOTAL NET WORTH					\$	30,038,627
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH					\$	<u>30,285,973</u>

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT						
CUMULATIVE OPERATIONS STATEMENT						
September 30, 2022						
EXPENDITURES		ACTUAL		BUDGET		+OVER/-UNDER
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>						
Operations	\$	774,397				
Capital Items		0				
Repairs		0				
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$	774,397	\$	891,881	\$	(117,484)
<u>CONTROL DIVISION</u>						
Operations	\$	11,035,043				
Capital Items		236,460				
Repairs		174,854				
TOTAL CONTROL DIVISION	\$	11,446,357	\$	15,886,263	\$	(4,439,906)
<u>COMMISSION</u>						
Per Diem	\$	0				
Mileage		0				
TOTAL COMMISSION	\$	0	\$	2,359	\$	(2,359)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	12,220,754	\$	16,780,503	\$	(4,559,749)
BUDGET REMAINING			\$	2,961,265		
ORIGINAL BUDGET			\$	19,741,768		
EMERGENCY FUNDS				0		
TOTAL BUDGET			\$	19,741,768		

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

OCTOBER 26, 2022

Requested by:
Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Action requested:
December 21 Commission Meeting Date

Background:

December 21, 2022 (6:00 p.m.) is the date of the December Commission meeting approved at the Organizational meeting on January 6, 2022. Several crucial items need to be approved at the meeting including:

- Public Comment MMCD Payable 2023 Total Levy and 2023 Budget
- Approval of Payable 2023 Levy
- Approval of 2023 Budget

In 2021, this meeting took place on December 15. We conducted a remote meeting because of the Covid pandemic. Severe weather threatened to prevent us from completing the meeting. In 2022, the Executive Director retires on December 23. If something (weather issues, lack of a quorum) prevents completion of required items on December 21, very little time remains to complete these items before the end of 2022.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12	13	14 Equivalent of 2021 meeting	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Current 2022 meeting	22	23 Executive Director retires	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Resolved that the December meeting of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission be moved to December 14 (6:00 p.m.) with December 21 (6:00 p.m.) held as a back-up date. A meeting on either date likely will be convened in person.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 28, 2022
9:15 a.m.

Chair Angela Conley called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Robyn West	Anoka County
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Dakota County
Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Cassie Sweeney-Truitt, Administrative Assistant

Visitors:

Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting
Kim Scott, RCS Consulting
Joe Langel, MMCD Legal Counsel

Chair Angela Conley welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Approval of Minutes for June 22, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting

Commissioner Gary Kriesel offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 1:

Resolved, that the June 22, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Robyn West seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes

Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes

The resolution was adopted.

Intergovernmental Issues

At this point in the election season, the situation has become very interesting. Accusations are flying between candidates and so are the denials of those accusations. Right now, some of the races are tightening up, specifically for statewide elections, the governor and the attorney general races. Whether the polls are accurate is always a question, since it depends on who pollsters ask and how they present the numbers.

Legislators are still talking about coming back for a special session. If that were to occur, which is a big if, a special session would not occur until after the election. There are too many issues that each side does not want the other side to bring up for a vote, prior to the election. Crime is on the radar for voters now more than ever with inflation and abortion still hot topics.

Retiring Sen. Tom Bakk is back to his DFL roots with his endorsements of Representatives Dave Lislegard and Rob Ecklund on the Iron Range. MinnPost has an excellent analysis of the [20 MN Legislative races to watch](#), including:

- The Senate seat in Rochester, where longtime Republican Sen. Senjem is retiring, which is projected to flip to DFL.
- In Anoka/Coon Rapids, incumbent Sen. Jim Abeler is in a battle with challenger Kari Rehrauer (the seat is leaning DFL).
- In Lino Lakes/Vadnais Heights, incumbent Sen. Roger Chamberlain is in trouble after redistricting changed the makeup of the district (the seat is leaning DFL).
- In International Falls, the House seat held by Rob Ecklund is a toss-up.
- Another Range House seat with an incumbent matchup between Julie Sandstede and Spencer Igo is leaning Republican.

It will be a big change to have 50+ new legislative faces in January.

Click [here](#) to see who is running for 2022 elections in Minnesota.

Important Upcoming Dates:

September 23 - November 7: In person early voting for the general election
November 8: Election Day

January 3, 2023: 2023 Legislative session commences

MMCD Truck Situation

Stephen Manweiler reported that apparent supply chain disruptions have significantly delayed receipt of vehicles we ordered through the State of Minnesota Cooperative Purchasing venture this year. The vehicles we order were not available through the Cooperative Purchasing venture

in 2021. We have received only one of 18 vehicles ordered in 2022 (\$31,000 per vehicle before other fees and license costs of about \$2,000 per vehicle).

At present, we are 24 vehicles behind our replacement process. If receipt of vehicles ordered through the State Cooperative Purchasing Venture continues to be delayed in 2023, we will be up to 36 vehicles behind by the end of 2023.

We have retained older vehicles resulting in many being older than 15 years, some of which have incurred increased maintenance costs. The situation has been manageable to date but will become less so if we cannot secure new vehicles soon.

We have contacted fleet managers at dealerships to determine potential availability and cost of vehicles comparable to those we have acquired via the State Cooperative Purchasing Venture. We found four trucks ranging in cost from \$35,000 to \$45,000 (including fees and license) that were available for immediate delivery. No source has had more than two trucks available; most had none or one truck. The total cost of vehicles available from a single source is much less than the threshold in the District's purchasing policy that requires sealed bids. We plan to continue our queries. We also plan to continue to order vehicles through the State Cooperative Purchasing Venture in 2023 and thereafter.

Commissioner Nicole Frethem offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolved:

Staff are authorized to purchase vehicles needed in 2022-23 from fleet managers at dealerships to acquire vehicles that we have not been able to get through the State of Minnesota Cooperative Purchasing Venture with a total cost not to exceed \$425,000.

Commissioner Gary Kriesel seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner David Beer	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Stephen Manweiler reported that we finished our final aerial larvicide treatments on September 20 to control cattail mosquitoes that would have emerged early next summer. Staff are finishing surveillance to determine which additional sites need to be treated late next May to control cattail mosquitoes. We treat some cattail mosquitoes the year before to decrease pressure during late

May when winds can hamper aerial treatments. Staff also are finishing vector-related work. Friday, October 7 is the last day for seasonal employees.

The WNV situation in 2022 has been similar to 2021 overall. To date, CDC has reported two human WNV cases in Minnesota (one within the District). We tested 617 pools of vector mosquitoes, 42 of which were WNV positive. Most of these were the species (*Culex restuans*, *Culex pipiens*) that amplify WNV in birds. The species (*Culex tarsalis*) that brings WNV to humans has been less abundant overall in 2022 compared to 2021. Our lower high temperatures in August 2022 compared to 2021 also seem to have slowed amplification in 2022. We still expect to learn about more human WNV cases because the required lab work takes time to be reported to the Minnesota Department of Health and CDC after which we learn about it. We will present a more complete report at the October 26 Commission meeting.

Stephen Manweiler reminded all Commissioners that ticks now are active. Activity will not be as great as in the spring but the risk of tick-borne disease still becomes elevated. Be sure to protect yourselves when you are out in areas where ticks might be active. Check yourself after you have been in wooded habitats.

Other Items

Stephen Manweiler reminded everyone that during the August 24 Commission meeting we decided to convene this September 28 Executive committee meeting remotely based upon Covid transmission and risk. We also agreed to review the situation at this (September 28) meeting to decide how to meet on October 26. Stephen reported that current Covid transmission is lower than it has been between late May through August 24 and proposed convening the October 26 Commission meeting in person at MMCD's St. Paul headquarters. No Commissioners objected. Several noted that most other meetings currently are being held in person. We will hold the October 26 Commission meeting in person.

Adjournment

Chair Angela Conley adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: STEPHEN MANWEILER
RE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
DATE: OCTOBER 2022

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

After completion of the interview and review process, no candidate was hired to fill the Executive Director position. The job search will be reopened. The four experienced Managers (Business Administrator, Public Affairs Manager, District Operations Manager, Technical Services Manager) are well placed to maintain smooth District service delivery until a new Executive Director is hired.

On Thursday, October 27, we plan to enjoy our first in-person luncheon with all staff since before the beginning of the pandemic. The primary goal is to foster reconnection and a return to some sense of pre-pandemic normalcy. We hope to convene an employee recognition event in December.

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

Weather in September and early October has been warm and dry. In September, the metro area set a record for being the driest September in the 149 years of collecting precipitation information. This warm and dry weather has been great for completing work in the field. These dry conditions have also meant that many of the wetlands that we are inspecting and mapping are dry. It will again be interesting watching the snow fall throughout the winter to see if these wetlands will receive enough precipitation to get back to normal levels.

The 2022 field season was similar to 2021 with warmth, lack of major precipitation, and overall dry conditions in the wetlands. District staff made approximately 61,000 breeding site inspections for mosquito larvae and treated approximately 129,000 acres by ground and air. This is about 23,000 acres less than we treated in 2021. It is also well below the 15-year average of approximately 226,263 acres treated by ground and air.

The lack of precipitation and the treatments we made in the wetlands helped keep adult mosquito levels low during the 2022 season. We treated approximately 1,700 acres for adult mosquitoes. That is significantly below the average for the last five years of approximately 14,000 acres treated for adult mosquitoes. Treatments that did occur were in response to potential disease vector mosquitoes, public events such as the state and county fairs, and some high annoyance numbers early in the season in Anoka County.

The seasonal staff along with the Field Operation Supervisors have completed inspecting cattail sites for mosquito larvae. They had excellent weather to do this work in a timely manner. However, some of the inspections were difficult due to the extremely muddy conditions in these wetlands that are typically full of water. Also, some sites were completely dry again like last year. Staff are still reviewing the inspection data to finalize the acres that will be treated. Preliminary numbers suggest we found approximately 18,000

acres breeding this year. That is about 6,000 acres less than last year. In September, we did treat 4,085 of these acres by helicopter and 43 of these acres by drone with VectoLex. Most of the remaining acres will be treated next spring.

The last day for the seasonal staff was Friday, October 7. They worked in an efficient, effective, and safe manner again this season. The number of personal and vehicle incidents were comparable to last year, remaining low, showing staff's dedication to working safely in the field. Feedback during exit interviews showed staff enjoyed working for MMCD and enjoyed the work they do.

Field Operations Supervisors are now focusing on updating field maps, equipment repair, and team meetings. They will continue doing the mapping in the field until the cold, snow, and ice stop them.

3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

West Nile virus (WNV) activity this year was similar to that in 2021. As of October 4, the CDC received reports of 656 WNV illnesses among U.S. residents. The Minnesota Department of Health has reported five WNV illnesses to the CDC, one of which is a District resident (Hennepin Co.). There have also been five veterinary reports of WNV illness in Minnesota, four horses from outside the District and one reindeer kept in Ramsey County.

Forty-two mosquito samples of 617 tested in the MMCD lab returned positive results for WNV this year. The season's WNV infection rate of 3.56/1000 mosquitoes tested was slightly higher than the infection rate in 2021 (3.23/1000). Carver County was the only District county without a WNV positive mosquito sample. The earliest WNV positive mosquito sample was collected on June 22.

One La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) case has been confirmed in Minnesota this year. The infected individual is a resident of Olmsted County. Lengthy drought conditions impacted the *Aedes triseriatus* population in the District which remained below average most of the season. District crews responded in neighborhoods where *Ae. triseriatus* were found by inspecting properties for larval habitats and at times with adult mosquito treatments. Over the course of the 2022 season, MMCD employees removed 10,863 tires from the field for recycling and eliminated 1,087 container habitats and filled 92 tree holes.

The Minnesota Department of Health has confirmed one Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) illness in Minnesota this year. The case is in a resident of Ramsey County who was likely exposed to the virus in another Minnesota county outside of the District. Wisconsin has confirmed two JCV illnesses this year including one in a resident of St. Croix County which borders the District.

A second consecutive summer of drought in the District reduced the amount of larval habitat available for the primary eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) vector, *Culiseta melanura*.

Their population remained low in the District in 2022. Only four samples of *Cs. melanura* were pooled for testing in our lab. All four were negative for EEE virus.

4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

The end of September and October has been quiet in the lab. We completed the final round of adult mosquito surveillance the week of September 19. Very few mosquitoes were captured, as we've had relatively little rainfall since May. Figure 1 shows the weekly averages of adult mosquitoes captured over the 2022 season. The first emergence on June 6 was the only time mosquito levels were near the 10-year average. There was one rain event in August sufficient to produce a brood; however, the sites were so dry very few adult mosquitoes emerged. As of October 18, precipitation in the Minneapolis area is nine inches below the norm; much of the metropolitan area is in severe drought and is shown in the U.S. Drought Monitor map.

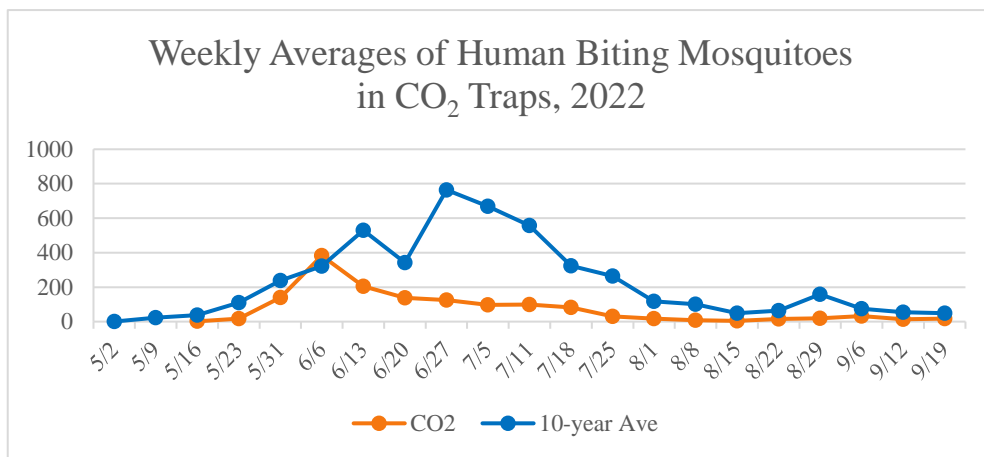
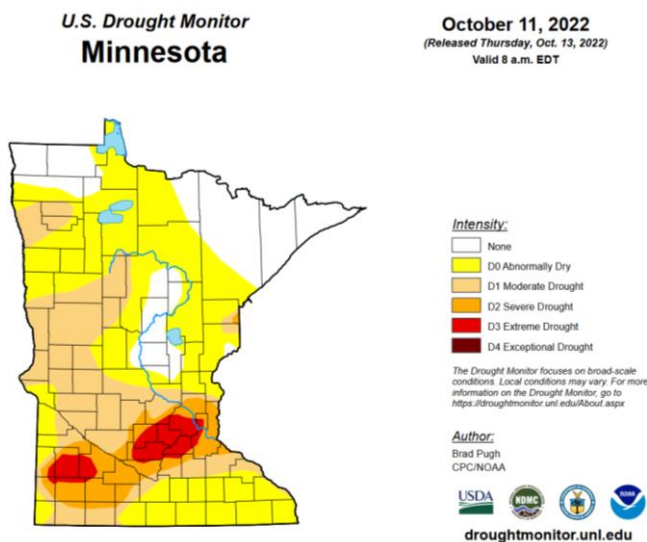


Figure 1. Average number of human biting mosquitoes per night in CO₂-baited traps in 2022. Traps (N=138) are placed in various locations in the seven-county metropolitan area.



Two technicians transferred on Sept 23 to the East facility to help with the cattail mosquito surveillance. Cattail mosquito work ended October 7. Our last technician's final day was October 18. Because he started a week later than the first hired field technicians, he was able to stay on a week later. He was able to complete various projects including nontarget sample processing for the Black Fly Program, small mammal processing for the tick-vector field surveillance study, and surveillance equipment maintenance for our adult mosquito surveillance network.

Scott Larson visited the Minnesota Department of Health on October 11 to talk to undergraduate students on careers in public health and to explain MMCD's operations. Remaining projects for the Entomology lab staff include performing IDs on the backlog of larval samples collected from ground sites this summer and adult samples from NJ light trap collections and long-term CO₂ trap collections. We also will be summarizing and analyzing our surveillance and writing and compiling the report to the Technical Advisory Board as well as attending conferences and participating on various District teams.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

School Presentations

MMCD has had some great opportunities to interact with students at a variety of schools throughout the District. On Wednesday, September 28 we presented for over 200 4th graders from around the Twin Cities at the Metro Children's Water Festival which was back in person for the first time since 2019. We've also delivered presentations to schools in Prior Lake, Apple Valley, and Maple Grove and have upcoming presentations in St. Paul, Champlin, Brooklyn Park, and Anoka.

On Thursday, October 6 we attended STEM Night at Cedar Park Elementary in Apple Valley and afterwards one of the organizing teachers said students named MMCD's booth as one of the favorites!

Customer Calls - Tire Pickup Requests

As we head into the colder months, the only customer calls we tend to receive are requests to pick up tires. For 2022, we've had 364 calls to request tire pickups (compared to 374 in 2021 and the field has collected and recycled over 10,000 tires so far. Here is the breakdown on where the requests have come in by county:

- Anoka County - 75 calls
- Carver County - 35 calls
- Dakota County - 27 calls
- Hennepin County - 63 calls
- Ramsey County - 37 calls
- Scott County - 51 calls
- Washington County - 71 calls

City Summaries

As we wrap up seasonal field work, we are preparing summaries of 2022 activity to be sent to all cities and townships in the District. These reports detail acres treated for larval control,

acres treated for adult control, tires removed, customer calls, and more for each city. The information is sent to the city administrator or town clerk and any communications people for whom we have contact information.

Reports will be sent by the end of October. Please contact Alex if you would like the reports for any particular city.

Social Media

Our social media has been active this past month providing updates to the public about MMCD's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to comments about gnats (black flies) and mosquitoes. Here are the latest numbers:

- Facebook – 1,782 Followers (No change in last month)
 - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
- Twitter – 954 Followers (No change in last month)
 - Twitter.com/metromosquito
- Instagram – 397 Followers (No change in last month)
 - Instagram.com/metromosquito
- TikTok – 373 Followers (No change in last month)
 - tiktok.com@metromosquito

6. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

Deer Ticks Are Out Now!

Deer tick adults (and larvae) are out questing! There is potential to encounter them throughout fall and possibly into early winter as they will quest until temperatures stay consistently below 32°F. Check for ticks after having been out in their wooded habitat!

MMCD Collaboration to Detect Exotic Ticks (Asian Longhorned Tick, Red Sheep Ticks)

Agencies involved in collaborative surveillance include Indian Health Services (northern MN), Minnesota Board of Animal Health, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Minnesota Department of Health, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, University of Minnesota, and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota.

As of October 15, no Asian longhorned ticks or red sheep ticks have been reported as being found in Minnesota.

Tick Vector Field Projects

Our 2022 tick surveillance effort began April 25. Round 1 was completed June 23 and Round 2 was done on August 25. As of October 15, 8 of 10 routes have been completed in our final round of surveillance.

Public Education/Outreach

- Distribution and/or re-stocking of brochures, tick cards and posters is ongoing.

- We continue to inform our Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/Tik Tok followers of items of interest as they occur.
- Our 2021 tick surveillance report is available on our website (<https://www.mmcd.org/docs/publications/tickreport2021.pdf>).
- Our Tick Risk Meter is currently set to **MEDIUM**. Adult and larval stage deer ticks are out now.
- Be sure to check yourself for ticks after being in wooded habitat.
- Signs to remind the public of deer ticks and disease prevention measures may be posted at dog parks and additional locations throughout the metro. For various reasons some signs remain up year-round.