

**Metropolitan
Mosquito Control District**

**Executive Committee
January 28, 2026
9:15 AM**

Information Packet

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

COMMITTEE: **Executive Committee Meeting**

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

DATE: **Wednesday, January 28, 2026**
TIME: **9:15AM**

A G E N D A

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda*
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of November 20th, 2025 Meeting Minutes*
5. Legislative Update (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
6. Plymouth Facility BOV
7. Letter to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture*
8. Schedule March Executive Committee Meeting
9. CLOSED SESSION – Union Negotiations
10. CLOSED SESSION – Executive Director Performance Evaluation
11. Executive Director’s Report
12. Other Issues and Announcements
13. Adjournment

* Action Requested

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

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, February 26, 2026, 9:15a.m.

Next Executive Meeting: March 2026, Day TBD

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Requested by:

Daniel Huff

Action Requested:

Approve Executive Meeting Minutes –

November 20, 2025

November 20th, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Roll Call:

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

Staff:

Daniel Huff, Executive Director
Maria Mancilla-Diaz, Business Administrator
Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Manager
Monte Ebbesen, Public Affairs Assistant

Visitors:

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

Chair Moran called the meeting to order at 9:15am. Present members included Commissioners Moran, Fahey, Anderson, and Reinert.

Commissioner Kevin Anderson moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Fahey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MMCD Legal Counsel Sam Ketchum clarified a consent agenda item: approval of the US Bank Corporate Credit Account. Commissioner Fahey moved to approve the entire consent agenda; Commissioner Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Moran invited MMCD Lobbyists Peg Larsen and Kim Scott to present their report. Ms. Larsen summarized the results of the local elections and noted that Walz was still the Democratic candidate for Minnesota Governor. Ms. Scott mentioned the impending re-elections, retirements, and movements within the MN Legislature. Ms. Scott also mentioned her and Ms. Larsen's work on bonding proposals and the beginning actions of lobbying for tire legislature. Ms. Scott noted that it would be a long process due to the political dynamics of the legislature.

Chair Moran asked some clarifying questions about the current legislature regarding waste tires and the status quo of waste tires and dumping in the Twin Cities. Commissioner Anderson inquired if there were alternative mechanisms to manage waste tires. Commissioner Reinert suggested collaboration with the

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, to which Ms. Scott responded that they were in contact with the agency but needed to further discuss with counties. Some further discussion occurred, wherein all Commissioners agreed it was a concerning issue that was being given appropriate attention. Chair Moran thanked Ms. Scott and Ms. Larsen for their time and information.

Chair Moran then invited Business Administrator Maria Mancilla-Diaz to present on the 2026 MMCD Budget and levy. Ms. Mancilla-Diaz gave a brief overview of the financial documents provided to the Executive Committee. Ms. Mancilla-Diaz emphasized that all capital outlay projects would be presented and reviewed by the board before and during implementation. Ms. Mancilla-Diaz also addressed some changes to the budget from the July budget, including OPEB funds and employee compensation. Some discussion occurred regarding MMCD's intended Paid Family Leave projected cost to employees.

Commissioner Fahey moved the recommendation to the Full Commission to approve the final MMCD Levy for 2026. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, and the motion passed without dissent. Commissioner Anderson moved the recommendation to the Full Commission to approve the final MMCD Budget for 2026. Commissioner Fahey seconded the motion, and the motion passed without dissent.

Chair Moran then invited Ms. Mancilla-Diaz to discuss the approach for a performance evaluation of Executive Director Daniel Huff. Extensive discussion occurred regarding the best method for compiling feedback from MMCD Commission members. Commissioners agreed that the performance evaluation was to be conducted internally.

Mr. Huff then presented his Executive Director's report. Mr. Huff briefly shouted out Public Affairs staff for their work on the Recruitment video and also thanked Ms. Mancilla Diaz for her work on the budget. He expressed contentment that the 2026 proposed levy was ultimately decreased. Mr. Huff also mentioned his excitement for a new, shared HR position between MELSA, MESB, and MMCD. Mr. Huff also noted ongoing union negotiations and progress on capital projects.

Commissioner Reinert asked if it was concerning MMCD staff that three staff were retiring in such a short period of time. Mr. Huff responded that MMCD currently employs a large cohort of retirement-aged folks. Additionally, new leadership can influence employees to retire.

Chair Moran thanked the present staff and Commissioners for their time and a productive meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:

Kim Scott & Peg Larsen

Informational:

Legislative Update

We are working on a few legislative issues that we would like to update you on.

Regarding how to address the increase in waste tires, we are looking into several options. We are continuing to have discussions with AMC, who advocates on waste issues for counties across the state. AMC's capacity around waste issues is currently focused on implementing the law for extended producer responsibility for packaging, as well as, addressing e-waste. AMC convenes meetings for the Solid Waste Administrators Association and will be asking about having MMCD present on the waste tire issue at a future meeting. The purpose would be to raise awareness and build a coalition to support a legislative solution. We are also working on setting up a meeting with MPCA to discuss how waste tire haulers are permitted and how those permits are enforced and whether there are any grant opportunities that could support MMCD's tire collection events. Lastly, we have reached out to Rep. Bierman, co-chair of the Health Finance and Policy committee, about a bill to add a surcharge to the sale of tires.

We are working to address the licensure issue with the Department of Agriculture, which also represents an increased cost to MMCD due to the Department's outsourcing of test administration. We will be meeting with Asst. Commissioner Vaubel and her team to discuss the option of MMCD administering the test to its own employees rather than going through the MDA process.

Lastly, we will be meeting with Sen. Limmer in February to talk about the potential of bonding for one of MMCD's facility projects. (The Maple Grove facility is in Sen. Limmer's district.)

The legislative session begins February 17th.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:

Maria Mancilla-Diaz

Informational:

Plymouth Facility

The Broker's Opinion of Value (BOV) for our Plymouth facility is now complete and available for review. This independent assessment provides a critical foundation for our facility planning, offering objective market data to inform the District's long-term infrastructure strategy. The BOV will serve as a key reference point as we evaluate whether to renovate the existing Plymouth facility, acquire other properties, or pursue new construction.

To ensure a thorough and transparent process, the following roadmap outlines evaluating options and preparing a recommendation for the Full Commission.

Evaluation Roadmap

1. Strategic Oversight and Validation

The Executive Committee is responsible for ensuring that all recommendations are grounded in objective analysis and aligned with the District's long-term operational needs. The Executive Committee will review and validate financial models, assumptions, and cost projections for each facility scenario (renovate, purchase, or build).

2. Resource Allocation and Professional Services

To reach an informed conclusion, the Executive Committee will guide the strategic engagement of specialized expertise. The Executive Committee will identify and recommend allocation of funds for essential professional services, such as site inspections, appraisals, real estate advisory, and architectural consultations.

3. Decision Synthesis and Board Preparation

The final phase is translating technical findings into a clear strategic direction for the Full Commission. Staff will synthesize complex financial and operational findings into concise, actionable recommendations.

Conclusion

Completion of the BOV for the Plymouth facility marks a significant milestone in our commitment to responsible stewardship of resources and capacity. Following this structured roadmap, the Executive Committee will ensure a strategic, fiscally prudent approach that results in a facility solution serving the District and its stakeholders for years to come.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Requested by:
Daniel Huff

Action requested:
Sign the letter of support for MDA testing.

Prior to 2024 Pesticide License testing was offered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to MMCD staff and only charged the cost of the license (\$15). Supervisors were able to set appointments and have multiple staff members complete the tests at once. In 2024 MDA began phasing out testing on-site and working with a third-party vendor, Metro Institute, to take over testing. Metro Institute charges \$60 per test in addition to the cost of the license. Cost per staff member at MMCD for the test and license fee went from \$15/person to \$135-195/person, costing the organization more than \$10,000 in one year.

Additionally, Metro Institute testing sites often are not equipped to handle the number of staff needing to test, requiring individuals to wait while tests are taken one at a time on the 1 or 2 available computers.

MMCD is requesting that Executive Committee members sign a letter of support to become a testing partner with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

January 28th, 2026

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
DRAFT LETTER

To Whom it May Concern:

We, the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD), recommend that MMCD become a testing site for Pesticide Licenses recognized by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). Staff at MMCD regularly sit for exams to become licensed in Category A (Core), Category B (Aerial), and Category L (Mosquitoes, Ticks, and Black Flies). The expense and time required to accomplish these tests has grown enormously in the past several years and becoming a testing partner would reduce the burden to achieve a Pesticide License for the 200+ seasonal and full-time staff at MMCD.

Being licensed to apply pesticides in the State of Minnesota shows that MMCD staff have competence and expertise in the field. While most materials that MMCD staff apply are categorized as General Use and do not require a license, it is still viewed as an important aspect of the job. Various staff members at MMCD have contributed to test development and five staff members are credited authors on the latest revision of the Category L Study Manual, the primary resource to prepare for the license tests. MMCD staff are the primary provider of Category L recertification workshops throughout the state and many public, commercial, and private applicators access MMCD resources.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture maintains partnerships with 55 County Testing Partners that are allowed to conduct Pesticide License tests. These partners are allowed to charge a fee and are able to offer testing at their discretion. None of these county partners are located within the seven-county metro area. MMCD staff have made calls to several metro counties, and none are interested in offering testing, because the testing load would be dominated by MMCD staff and is therefore not worth their time.

As a special taxing district overseen by County Commissioners, MMCD would like to become a County Testing Partner and be allowed to offer Pesticide License Testing to ensure staff are able to meet the qualifications needed. I support MMCD in this request.

Sincerely,

MMCD Executive Committee Members

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

Presented by:
Daniel Huff

Informational:
Executive Director's Report

I don't know about you, but I haven't seen a mosquito all year. Even with the cold weather, folks continue to be busy at MMCD.

Our annual audit by an external firm is underway. I want to thank Jennifer Macchia for leading this effort. We have brought back a familiar face, Arleen Schacht, to provide temporary support to Jennifer and her team.

We have also initiated recruitment for three supervisor positions, a human resources generalist, and one vector specialist. In addition, all staff recently participated in training focused on having difficult conversations.

Finally, we continue to work closely with staff regarding concerns related to increased ICE enforcement activity in the metro area. This includes planning for potential impacts on field operations once the treatment season begins. We are particularly mindful of the increase in negative interactions with the public. Several staff experienced threatening situations last year, and elevated stress and anxiety in our communities heighten these concerns. We are actively exploring additional approaches to support staff safety and ensure District operations can proceed smoothly across the metro area.

Departmental Updates

Field Operations, Entomology Laboratory

No report at this time.

Public Affairs

Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Manager

Annual Report

For the first time, MMCD will be publishing an Annual Report summarizing all activity from 2025. The report is currently in progress and will be presented at the February Full Commission meeting. Below is a preview of two pages:

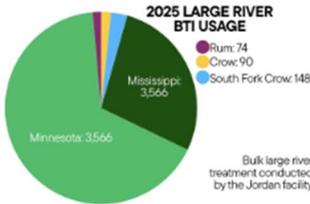


BLACK FLY PROGRAM

Adult black flies are commonly called gnats due to their small size (~1/8") and extensive swarming behavior. The adult female bite can cause red itchy sores, large swellings and in some cases severe allergic reactions.

The MMCD black fly control program was established in 1983 in response to an increase in complaints about adult black flies. Its goal is to reduce pest populations of adult black flies within the MMCD to tolerable levels. Larval black flies are filter feeders and develop in clean flowing rivers and streams.

Larval populations are monitored by staff at 208 small stream and 31 large river sites using standardized sampling techniques. Liquid Bti is applied to sites when the target species reach treatment thresholds following MMCD's permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR).



Bulk large river treatment conducted by the Jordan facility

721
Larval Samples Identified

110
Small stream treatments using **54.6 gallons** of liquid Bti

67
Large river treatments using **5,364 gallons** of liquid Bti

0.45
Blackflies per sweep on average



EDUCATION OUTREACH

47
School Presentations

4,540
Students Reached

27
Community Presentations

89
Local Media Appearances

60
Public Events & Parades

ALEX CARLSON
METROLOGICAL SERVICES CONTROL DIVISION



Public outreach is an important part of MMCD's Integrated Pest Management Program. We engage with the public to inform residents about MMCD activities, educate people on how to protect themselves from vectors, and recruit staff to fulfill our seasonal workforce. Outreach efforts include school presentations, public events, community presentations, parades, media appearances, e-mail newsletter, social media, and much more!

In 2025 staff delivered the highest number of school presentations since pre-COVID. We continue to restructure these presentations to make them more interactive and engaging. We made appearances on local media to make mosquito and tick projections, alert the public about elevated West Nile risk, and offer tips for personal protection.

Some of our biggest events from 2025 included the Minnesota State Fair, Grand Old Day (pictured to the left), the Children's Water Festival, and The Great Minnsect Show.

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Mosquitoes in the News:

[Mosquitoes really do archive animal DNA, just like in 'Jurassic Park'](#) – Ashley Fike, VICE News, January 8, 2026

- Researchers in Florida examined the bloodmeals from pools of mosquitoes and found the DNA of 86 different animals.

[Beating back the Aedes aegypti mosquito](#) – Katarina Zimmer, Knowable Magazine, January 12, 2026

- Countries all over the world are trying to combat the Aedes aegypti or “the perfect mosquito to spread disease.” This article details some of the methods being used.

[Shrinking forests are giving mosquitoes a greater taste for human blood, study suggests](#) - Dr. Crystal Richards, ABC News, January 14, 2026

- Deforestation has meant less access to wildlife that many mosquitoes feed on. The result is that they are adapting to feed on humans, according to this study.