

**METROPOLITAN  
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 25, 2020**

**9:15 AM**

***Information Packet***

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# METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

COMMITTEE: **Executive Committee Meeting**  
LOCATION: **Metropolitan Mosquito Control District**  
2099 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
DATE: **Wednesday, March 25, 2020**  
TIME: **9:15 AM**

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## A G E N D A

1. Approval of Minutes January 22, 2020 Meeting\*
2. Legislative Update – RCS Consulting (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
3. Insurance Liability Waiver\*
4. Approval of Updated HR Service Contract with Dakota County\*
5. Approval of Emergency COVID-19 Employee Response Plan\*
6. Report of Executive Director Performance Review Panel
7. Executive Director's Report
8. Other Issues
9. Adjournment

\* Action Requested

Commissioner Robyn West	Anoka County
Commissioner James Ische	Carver County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Jeff Johnson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Ramsey County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County

**Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, April 22, 2020, 9:15 a.m.**

**Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 27, 2020, 9:15 a.m.**

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# METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes  
January 22, 2020  
9:15 a.m.

Commissioner (Chair) Liz Workman called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

## **Roll Call:**

Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Jeff Johnson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Ramsey County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County

## **Staff:**

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director  
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator  
Cassie Sweeney-Truitt, Administrative Assistant

## **Visitors:**

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

Commissioner Liz Workman welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Tom Wolf offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

*Approval of  
November 21, 2019  
Committee Meeting  
Minutes*

## **Resolution 1:**

**Resolved**, that the November 21, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire seconded the motion and the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Peg Larsen reported that Governor Walz is asking for \$2 billion in bonding. He wants to cover items including public safety, housing,

*Legislative Update*

water quality, and roads. He wants to use \$203 billion in general obligation bonds and an additional \$571 million in general funds for a total of \$2.57 billion.

Of interest are some changes to the conduct of committees. All conference committee reports should be on members desk 12 hours before there is a discussion about them. Also, when the chair has the gavel, they must hold a meeting with the exception of weekends. Last session (2019), the chair frequently waited for long periods of time before calling a meeting. The 2020 session begins on February 11 and ends on May 18.

Representative Bob Gunter has announced his retirement. He is well respected, and he will be missed. The Republican Senate announced their goals for this coming session. They include tax cuts and eliminating taxes on Social Security. The Democrats in the Senate have not yet chosen their leader. I believe it will happen the first week of February. The Democratic House is looking to legalize marijuana among other things.

Kim Scott reported that she and Stephen Manweiler attended a Pesticide Preemption Law stakeholder's meeting at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on January 13. Representative Davne is proposing legislation to delegate pesticide regulatory authority to Class One Cities. We plan to meet with the City of Minneapolis which supports Davne's legislation to learn more about their concerns and explain potential impacts to mosquito control (especially vector).

We also plan to solicit feedback from the Department of Agriculture about legislative language we are proposing to Representative Wagenius for her pollinator protection legislation. Stephen Manweiler stated that our goal is to avoid the preemption issues and focus on maintaining public health protection.

Stephen Manweiler reviewed the budget and levy development schedule used in recent years and highlighted significant dates such as the August 1 deadline for approval of the preliminary levy for the next year and how these dates satisfy statutory requirements. In 2019, the full Commission approved the preliminary levy at their July 24 meeting. Both an Executive Committee meeting on June 24 and full Commission meeting on July 22 are part of the 2020 meeting schedule approved on January 9, 2020. The full Commission will vote on the preliminary 2021 levy at their July 22 meeting.

*Budget and Levy  
Development Schedule*

Stephen Manweiler reported that April 30, 2020 will mark the end of the sixth year of his tenure as the Executive Director for the District (the end

*Executive Director  
Performance Review  
Process*

of the third year of a three-year contract). Input will be solicited using an online system with paper forms available to Commissioners who prefer them. The input will be collected and compiled by Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator. Instructions for using the online input system (paper forms for those who request paper) will be provided to the Commissioners and appropriate staff by February 1, 2020 with a return due date by the February 26, 2020 Commission meeting. A Performance Review Panel has, customarily, been made up of some members of the Executive Committee and other interested Commissioners, who will receive the compiled input and meet with Mr. Manweiler to discuss his performance. The Commission has suggested that the Executive Director's KDAs (assigned in April 2019) be used as benchmarks for his performance. All Executive Committee members present agreed to discuss with Mr. Manweiler his performance at the March 25, 2020 Executive Committee meeting.

Stephen reported that on January 2, 2020 the District posted an advertisement for three Field Operations Supervisor positions vacated by retirement or promotion (two at our Oakdale facility and one at our Maple Grove facility). Applications are due on Friday, January 17, 2020. Application screening will occur the following week with interviews as soon thereafter as possible. We hope to fill all three positions by mid-February 2020. We are using ADP for the job recruitment process for the first time. Using ADP will eliminate separate job ad placement steps and redundant data entry required when we used NeoGov software.

*Executive Director  
Report*

Commissioner Liz Workman asked if there was anything else to come before this meeting. Nobody mentioned any additional items. Commissioner Liz Workman declared the meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

*Other Issues and  
Adjournment*

# METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

March 25, 2020

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**Requested by:**

Stephen Manweiler  
Arleen Schacht

**Action requested:**

Determine whether to waive statutory tort  
limits

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**Background:**

The District has obtained insurance coverage (General Liability, Property Casualty, Worker's Compensation, etc.) through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust for several years.

When renewing liability coverage, the District needs to decide whether or not to waive the statutory tort limits to the extent of the coverage purchased. The decision to waive or not to waive the statutory limits has the following effects:

If the District does not waive the statutory tort limits, an individual claimant would be able to recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total which all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. These statutory tort limits apply regardless of whether the District purchases the optional exceptional liability coverage.

If the District waives the statutory tort limits and does not purchase excess liability coverage, a single claimant could potentially recover up to \$2,000,000 on a single occurrence. The total all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to \$2,000,000 regardless of the number of claimants.

If the District waives the statutory tort limits and purchases excess liability coverage, a single claimant could potentially recover an amount up to the limit of the coverage purchased. The total all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to the amount of coverage purchased, regardless of the number of claimants.

- The District has traditionally not waived the statutory limits.
- The limits currently are \$500,000 / \$1,500,000.

# METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

March 25, 2020

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**Requested by:**

Stephen Manweiler  
Arleen Schacht

**Action requested:**

Approve Dakota County Human Resources  
Services Agreement

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**Background**

The departure of the Human Resources Manager in 2019 provided an opportunity to reevaluate how human resources responsibilities can be met in the future. The Human Resources Manager job description included eleven duties. Current MMCD staff fulfill most of these eleven responsibilities formerly assigned to the Human Resources Manager.

During its July 24, 2019 meeting, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission approved a contract for Dakota County to provide more limited advice and oversight of human resources activities for MMCD. Having access to professional advice from Dakota County has enabled MMCD to satisfy all human resource needs.

- The current agreement ends on December 31, 2020. The updated agreement ends on December 31, 2022.
- The updated agreement adds designated liaisons and contacts for Dakota County and MMCD.
- The updated agreement maintains the same hourly cost (\$94.00) and includes no other changes compared to the current agreement.

**Resolution:**

**Whereas**, MMCD desires professional advice to ensure all human resources responsibilities are satisfied in accordance to all applicable laws, and

**Whereas**, Dakota County and MMCD have determined that Dakota County can provide professional advice desired by MMCD,

**Be it now resolved**, that the Commission approves the updated Human Resources Services Agreement between MMCD and Dakota County.

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO  
CONTROL DISTRICT AND THE COUNTY OF DAKOTA  
FOR HUMAN RESOURCES CONSULTING SERVICES,**

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This Joint Powers Agreement (“**Agreement**”) is made and entered into by and between the County of Dakota (“**County**”), by and through its Employee Relations Department, and the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (“**MMCD**”) (the County and MMCD are sometimes collectively referred to as the “**Parties**”) pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59.

**WHEREAS**, the County is a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota;

**WHEREAS**, the Employee Relations Department (“**Department**”) is a County department and is required by law to provide certain services to the County;

**WHEREAS**, the MMCD is an independent statutory entity organized under Minnesota statutes chapter 473, of which the County is a member; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department is not required by law or contract to provide human resources services to the MMCD; and

**WHEREAS**, the MMCD has requested that the Department provide, and the Department is willing to provide, human resources consulting services to the MMCD upon request on an *ad hoc* basis, and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the Parties agree as follows:

- I. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Agreement is to enable the Department to provide human resources consulting services to the MMCD upon request on an ad hoc basis, and to establish the terms on which such services shall be provided.
- II. **Term.** This Agreement shall be in full force and effect on the date that it is fully executed by both Parties and shall continue in full force until it is terminated pursuant to paragraph 5.h. herein (the “Agreement Term”).
- III. **Services.**
  - a. **Scope.** The Department will provide human resources consulting services to the MMCD upon request on an *ad hoc* basis including, but not limited to, consulting on handling employee complaints, conducting employment investigations, and recruiting/advertising for vacant positions. In addition, Department staff may participate in applicant interviews and assist with selecting staff for human resources related functions.
  - b. **Discretion to Decline Services.** The Director of the Department (“Director”) shall have sole and complete discretion to decline to provide human resources consulting



services to the MMCD. Nothing in this Agreement shall obligate the Department to provide human resources consulting services to the MMCD.

- c. **Discretion to Obtain Services from Other Sources.** The MMCD shall have sole and complete discretion to obtain human resources consulting services from sources other than the Department. Nothing in this Agreement shall obligate the MMCD to obtain human resources consulting services from the Department.

#### IV. **Payment.**

- a. **Hourly Rate.** The MMCD shall pay for human resources consulting services provided by the Department pursuant to this Agreement at an hourly rate of \$94.00. On the first business day of each calendar year during the Agreement Term, the Director shall adjust the hourly rate then in effect to reflect the present cost of providing human resources consulting services to the MMCD, and the adjusted hourly rate shall apply to all human resources consulting services that the Department provides the MMCD during that calendar year. The Director shall provide written notice to the MMCD's Executive Director of any adjustment of the hourly rate prior to implementation of the new hourly rate.
- b. **Costs.** In addition to paying an hourly rate for human resources consulting services provided by the Department pursuant to this Agreement, the MMCD shall also reimburse the Department for any costs incurred by the Department in connection with providing such services. Reimbursable costs include, without limitation, long-distance telephone charges, postage charges, photocopying charges, printing charges, mileage charges (reimbursable at the Internal Revenue Service's then-applicable standard mileage rate), parking charges, delivery fees, messenger service fees, investigatory fees, and other reasonable expenses incurred by the Department in providing human resources consulting services to the MMCD.
- c. **Billing.** The Department shall invoice the MMCD on a monthly basis for human resources consulting services provided to the MMCD pursuant to this Agreement and any costs incurred by the Department in connection with providing such services. Said invoices shall identify the persons providing human resources consulting services to the MMCD and itemize the services provided by each such person, the amount of time that each such person spent providing services, and any costs incurred by the Department in connection with providing such services.
- d. **Time of Payment.** The MMCD shall, within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of an invoice, tender payment to the Department for the entire balance of the invoice. In the event the MMCD disputes any amount billed to it under this Agreement, the MMCD may withhold payment of said amount until after the dispute has been resolved.

#### V. **General Provisions.**

- a. **Compliance with Laws and Standards.** The Parties agree to comply with all federal, state and local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations now in

effect or hereafter adopted pertaining to this Agreement or to the facilities, programs and staff for which the Parties are responsible, including, without limitation, the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (“MGDPA”) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”).

- b. **Data Privacy and Security Compliance.** The Parties agree that all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained or disseminated in implementing this Agreement shall be treated in compliance with the MGDPA; HIPAA, and its implementing rules and regulations (including Privacy, Security, Breach Notification and Enforcement rules and regulations); and all other federal, state and local laws that apply to such data.
- c. **Non-Employee Status.** In implementing the terms of this Agreement, the County’s employees and agents are not employees of the MMCD, and the MMCD’s employees and agents are not employees of the County. Each party is solely responsible for the acts and omissions of its employees and agents and any claims that may arise therefrom.
- d. **Knowing and Voluntary Agreement.** The MMCD acknowledges and agrees that it has entered into this Agreement knowingly and voluntarily. The MMCD further acknowledges that it has been provided an opportunity to consult with an attorney of its choosing in connection with the negotiation and preparation of this Agreement, and that it has not relied on any advice of the Dakota County Attorney’s Office in negotiating, preparing, or entering into this Agreement.
- e. **Modification.** Any amendments, changes, or modifications to this Agreement shall be valid only if reduced to writing and signed by the Director and the MMCD’s Executive Director.
- f. **Waiver.** No waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall be valid unless it is reduced to writing and signed by the Director and the MMCD’s Executive Director. The failure by one party to require performance of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect that party’s right to require performance at any time thereafter, nor shall a waiver of any breach or default of this Agreement constitute a waiver of any subsequent breach or default or a waiver of any provision of this Agreement.
- g. **Complete Agreement.** With respect to its subject matter, this Agreement represents the complete and exclusive agreement between the Parties and supersedes any and all prior agreements.
- h. **Termination.** The Agreement shall terminate upon thirty (30) days’ written notice of either party to the other party, or upon December 31, 2022, whichever occurs first. Upon termination, the Department shall be entitled to receive compensation for the services provided in a satisfactory manner up to and including the effective date of termination.

- i. **Notice.** All notices and other communications required under or contemplated by this Agreement will be in writing and delivered personally, via First Class mail (postage prepaid) or e-mail to the following persons:

MMCD: Metropolitan Mosquito Control District  
2099 University Ave. W  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Stephen Manweiler  
Executive Director  
[mmcd\\_sam@mmcd.org](mailto:mmcd_sam@mmcd.org)

OR  
Arleen Schacht  
Business Administrator  
[aschacht@mmcd.org](mailto:aschacht@mmcd.org)

County: Matt Smith  
Dakota County Manager  
Dakota County Administration Center  
1590 Highway 55  
Hastings, MN 55033  
[matt.smith@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:matt.smith@co.dakota.mn.us)

**Liaisons.** To assist in the day-to-day performance and administration of this Agreement, the Parties designate the following persons as their liaisons:

MMCD: Business Administrator  
651-645-9149  
[aschacht@mmcd.org](mailto:aschacht@mmcd.org)

County: Andy Benish  
651-438-4382  
[andrew.benish@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:andrew.benish@co.dakota.mn.us)

- j. **Recordkeeping.** Records relating to the performance of this Agreement will be maintained by the County and the MMCD for at least six (6) years after the termination of this Agreement. The Parties will at all times have full and mutual access to all records relating to the performance of this Agreement.

- k. **Counterparts.** This Agreement, any amendments or modifications to this Agreement, and any other documents required to be executed in order to consummate or carry out this Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original. All such counterparts will together constitute one and the same instrument. A photocopy, facsimile, or digital image of an executed counterpart will be enforceable and admissible as an original.

**IN WITNESS HEREOF**, the Parties have executed this Agreement on the dates indicated below.

Approved as to form:	<b>COUNTY OF DAKOTA</b>
_____	
Asst. Dakota County Attorney/Date	
County Attorney File No. KS-19-303	By: _____
	Mike Slavik
Approved by Dakota	Title: Board Chair
County Board Res. # _____	
	Date of Signature: _____

	<b>METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT</b>
	By: _____
	Stephen Manweiler
Approved by	Title: Executive Director
MMCD Board Res. # _____	
	Date of Signature: _____

# METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

March 25, 2020

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**Requested by:**

Stephen Manweiler  
Arleen Schacht

**Action requested:**

Approval of Emergency COVID-19 Employee  
Response

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**Background:**

The COVID-19 situation in Minnesota has evolved quickly in late February and March. On Sunday, March 15, Governor Walz directed schools to close by Wednesday, March 18 through Friday, March 27. Evidence of community transmission has been detected recently (announced the weekend of March 14-15). Beginning the week of March 16, many offices are closed. Large meetings have been cancelled or postponed, and personal interactions should be minimized to slow transition according to recommendations from the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health. This will impact MMCD significantly. We are working to mitigate that impact.

This emergency response strategy is designed to reduce the risk to employees of COVID-19 infection and enable employees to continue to deliver the greatest level of MMCD services possible. It seems likely that more restrictions to limit transmission will be imposed. Supporting MMCD employees during this period will permit the fastest resumption of services when restrictions are lifted.

We continue to inform all employees about recommendations from the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

All seven facilities are regularly disinfecting offices and meeting areas.

Staff who are sick will not be allowed to report to work.

All meetings will be conducted remotely unless it is impossible, and the meeting is essential.

No groups larger than ten people are being convened; staff remain at least six feet apart.

Staff are creating workplans to determine the following:

- Which tasks must be completed before the beginning of the control season
- How many people and how much time is required to complete each task
- Which tasks can be completed remotely and which must be completed at the facility

All tasks are being prioritized. The goal is to attempt to maintain as many services as possible.

There are two scenarios where employees cannot report to work because of COVID-19.

- Employees who are diagnosed with COVID-19
- Employees who are not diagnosed with COVID-19 but are not able to work due to reasons including mandatory quarantine, home sequestration or school or workplace closure

We recommended the following responses to these scenarios involving COVID-19. These recommendations are based on the mandatory nature of these scenarios and the fact that a significant proportion of MMCD employees were hired recently enough to have accrued insufficient paid time off to cover these mandatory periods away from work. The near-term financial impact to the District is negligible because the amount these employees would be paid is no different from what it would be if COVID-19 was not impacting MMCD.

Employees who are diagnosed with COVID-19: Once an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, these employees will be paid by MMCD. Short-term disability may be available. These employees will not be able to return to work until their doctor certifies, in writing, their fitness to return to work.

Employees who are not diagnosed with COVID-19 but are not able to work: These situations could include mandatory quarantine, closure of the employee's workplace or children's school or mandatory home sequestration. These employees will not be able to return to work until a medical, State, County or school authority verified that the quarantine, sequestration or closure period is ended, and the employee is fit to return to work. In these situations, employees will fulfill as many of their responsibilities as possible by working remotely. These employees will be paid by MMCD.

Standard MMCD rules will apply to all other requests for time off.

# METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

MARCH 25, 2020

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**Requested by:**

Stephen Manweiler  
Arleen Schacht

**Action requested:**

Report of Executive Director Performance Review Panel

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**Background:**

April 30, 2020 will mark the end of the sixth year of Stephen Manweiler's tenure as the Executive Director for the District (the end of the third year of a three-year contract).

The process that we have used includes input from all MMCC Commissioners, the Executive Director's direct reports, and a few random fulltime District employees. Input will be solicited using an online system with paper forms available to Commissioners who prefer them. The input has been collected and compiled by Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator. Instructions for using the online input system (paper forms for those who request paper) was provided to the Commissioners and appropriate staff by early February 2020 with a return due date by the February 26, 2020 Commission meeting.

A Performance Review Panel has, customarily, been made up of some members of the Executive Committee and other interested Commissioners, who will receive the compiled input and meet with Mr. Manweiler to discuss his performance. At the January 23, 2020 Executive Committee meeting, all Executive Committee members present agreed to discuss with Mr. Manweiler his performance.

The Commission has suggested that the Executive Director's initiatives be used as benchmarks for his performance. The Panel will report at the March 25, 2020 Executive Committee meeting and the April 22, 2020 Commission meeting

**TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS**  
**FROM: STEPHEN MANWEILER**  
**RE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**  
**DATE: MARCH 2020**

## **1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES**

Responding to COVID-19 has been the most significant issue facing the District in late February and March. Staff are regularly reviewing CDC recommendations for self and community protection. We are following the State and Counties in terms of regulating building access. We are meeting remotely as much as possible with in-person meetings being a last resort. We have devised facility disinfection strategies and secured needed supplies. We communicate regularly as more is learned about the COVID-19 situation. We also are reviewing potential scenarios (e.g., quarantine or school closures that limit available staff) to determine how to maintain services as well as possible. We are reviewing our standard priorities to plan how to maintain as much of the most important services possible. We expect disruptions but are working to minimize impacts.

## **2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES**

So far March has been mild with normal temperatures and not a lot of snow or rain. Staff have already treated many smaller cattail sites with methoprene briquets. The remaining large cattail sites where cattail mosquito larvae were detected last fall will be treated with methoprene pellets or methoprene granules using helicopters in late May and early June.

Also, field staff are very busy interviewing and hiring applicants to fill the seasonal positions. To date, we have not received enough applications to fill all the inspector positions but staff report that the applicants they have interviewed are good. To help increase the number of applicants, staff have attended job fairs in the metro area and Mankato State and St. Cloud Colleges where past employees went to school. We have also put up recruitment posters at different venues around the District. The first inspectors will start on April 13.

Due to the threat of COVID-19 staff have recently gone through their facilities and disinfected all surfaces they have contacted to reduce exposure to the virus. This will be done on a regular basis. All staff have been made aware of the CDC recommendations to reduce the chance of contacting and spreading the virus, such as washing hands often, covering mouth when coughing, not coming to work when sick, and regular disinfection of their facilities.

Staff are also busy making final preparations for the start of the season which include finishing the updates to maps and breeding site data cards, preparing training information, and getting equipment ready for use.



### 3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

#### 2020 Season Preparations

We are currently planning contingencies for various COVID-19 scenarios while, at the same time, planning for a normal start to the 2020 mosquito season. La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) prevention begins in earnest as soon as staff are back in the field. We have opportunities to spot container and tire habitats in the spring that were hidden by vegetation during the previous summer. Eliminating those habitats early in the year prevents several generations of LAC vectors from developing there over the course of the summer.

Larval control applications targeting WNV vectors will begin in late May. Surveillance for the virus in mosquitoes will start late in May or early June. A primary component of WNV risk reduction is larval control within the stormwater management system. We partner with many cities to control mosquitoes in structures with difficult access. We will soon be contacting municipalities to assist us with mosquito control in underground stormwater management structures. We hope to make arrangements with cities that have cooperated with us in the past and to reach out to other cities that maintain underground stormwater structures.

Finally, we are about to begin training our Inspector staff in the concepts of mosquito-borne disease prevention. We place a heavy burden on our Inspectors as the front-line defense against mosquito-borne illnesses. Over the next several months, they'll be working to prevent La Crosse encephalitis, West Nile illness, Jamestown Canyon illness, western equine encephalitis, and eastern equine encephalitis. New to Inspector orientation this year will be helping them understand, to the degree that they can reassure the public, that mosquitoes cannot transmit the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

### 4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

We have hired six seasonal inspectors for the lab: three are returning employees and three are new but have had experience identifying mosquitoes and other insects. We should have a great crew this summer. Our first seasonal inspector will start April 13 and will assist with black fly identifications for samples collected in the small streams around the metro area.

We are now preparing for the start of the mosquito season. In March, we provide the field with labels for larval mosquito collections. Surveillance for the spring, snowmelt *Aedes* mosquitoes can begin as soon as the snow melts and the water temperature is around 40°F. We will be updating our mosquito identification keys and fine tuning the inspector orientation and training processes. Later, we will be setting up the adult surveillance network.

### 5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

#### Presentations

Friday, February 21 – Presented for City of Minneapolis

Alex Carlson, Stephen Manweiler, and Kirk Johnson spoke to representatives from the City of Minneapolis about MMCD in regards to the potential pesticide legislation.

Tuesday, March 10 – MN Hobby Beekeepers Association  
Alex Carlson spoke to about 100 people at the monthly meeting of the MN Hobby Beekeepers Association.

#### Commission Meeting Presentations

Stephen Manweiler has presented a summary of MMCD activities to Commissioners at Anoka County (2/25), Scott County (3/3), Carver County (3/3), and Dakota County (3/10). Scheduled for Washington County on 3/24. Alex Carlson and the nearest Regional Operations Manager have accompanied him.

#### Broadcast Media

WCCO Reporter Erin Hassanzadeh broadcast a story about MMCD briquet treatments on March 5, 2020 featuring Lucas Greimann of the Maple Grove facility.

KARE 11 Reporter Gordon Severson conducted a phone interview with Alex Carlson about the prevalence of deer ticks in the Twin Cities.

#### Social Media

Our social media presence grew substantially this past month due to two main reasons:

- 1) Paid advertising on FaceBook to recruit applicants from an audience that doesn't normally see our page, and
  - 2) a March 4 post about deer ticks that went viral and reached over 330,000 people.
- Facebook – 1,458 Page Likes (Up 327 from February 1)
    - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
  - Twitter – 557 Followers (Up 16 from February 1)
    - Twitter.com/metromosquito
  - Instagram – 99 Followers (Up 9 from February 1)
    - Instagram.com/metromosquito

#### Website/Newsletter

We continue to make updates to the MMCD website to prepare for the upcoming season. View the website at [www.mmcd.org](http://www.mmcd.org)

#### Recruiting

Recruitment activities have been busy this month. We have attended 6 job fairs in the past month and promoted job ads on Facebook and Instagram. Job Fairs have been at:

- U of W River Falls Career Fair – February 19
- Roseville Area Job, Career, and Resource Fair - February 25
- Hastings High School Career and College Fair - February 26
- Dunwoody College Career Fair - February 26
- MN Private Colleges Job Fair - February 27
- U of M Job and Internship Fair - February 28

## 6. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

### Deer Ticks Are Out!

- While not being found in high numbers yet, staff have found them out questing already. Check for ticks after being out in the deer tick's wooded habitat!

### Highlights of 2020 *Ixodes scapularis* (Deer Tick) Surveillance Study

- 0.795 *Ixodes scapularis* collected per mammal
- 62 positive sites (sites with  $\geq 1$  *I. scapularis* collected)

### Tick-borne Disease Cases, Minnesota

- Lyme disease: 2019 results not yet available but in 2018 there were 950 cases (17 per 100,000)
- Human anaplasmosis: 2019 results not yet available but in 2018 there were 496 cases (8.9 per 100,000)

### Public Education

- Distribution and/or re-stocking of brochures, tick cards and posters will begin in spring
- We continue to inform our Facebook followers of items of interest as they occur
- Our Tick Risk Meter is currently set to LOW. Deer ticks are out and will be questing any time temperatures are consistently above 40°F

### Signage

Signs to remind the public of deer ticks and disease prevention measures that were posted at dog parks and additional locations throughout the metro have mostly been removed for the season. For various reasons some signs remain up year-round.