

**METROPOLITAN
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT**

**COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 22, 2020
9:15 A.M.**

Information Packet

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA
 July 22, 2020 9:15 A.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome and Introduction

CONSENT AGENDA *The following items (3-4) 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 April 22, 2020
4. Financial Statements June 30, 2020
5. Approval of Checks and Claims
 General 73375 – 73771

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Auditor’s Report on MMCD Financial Statements Ending December 31, 2019– (Redpath and Company)
7. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
8. MMCD 2021 Preliminary Levy*
9. MMCD 2021 Budget Development
10. Executive Committee Report for May 27, 2020 and June 24, 2020
11. Executive Director’s Report
12. Operations Report (Scott H-Christy, Kirk Johnson)
13. Public Affairs Report (Alex Carlson)
14. Other Items
15. Adjournment

* Action Requested

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, August 26, 2020, 9:15 a.m.

Next Executive Meeting: Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 9:15 a.m.

COMMISSIONER	COUNTY	COMMISSIONER	COUNTY
___ Mandy Meisner	Anoka	___ Angela Conley	Hennepin
___ Jeff Reinert	Anoka	___ Jeff Johnson	Hennepin
___ Robyn West	Anoka	___ Jim McDonough	Ramsey
___ James Ische	Carver	___ Mary Jo McGuire	Ramsey
___ Tom Workman	Carver	___ Rafael Ortega	Ramsey
___ Tom Egan	Dakota	___ Michael Beard	Scott
___ Mary Liz Holberg	Dakota	___ Tom Wolf	Scott
___ Liz Workman	Dakota	___ Gary Kriesel	Washington
___ Jan Callison	Hennepin	___ Lisa Weik	Washington

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES
April 22, 2020
9:15 A.M.

Chair Liz Workman called meeting to order at 9:23 a.m. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted remotely using GoToMeeting software. Roll call votes were recorded for each item because this meeting was conducted remotely.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Liz Workman, Chair	Dakota County
Commissioner Jeff Johnson, Vice Chair	Hennepin County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel, Secretary	Washington County
Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Anoka County
Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Anoka County
Commissioner Robyn West	Anoka County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Tom Egan	Dakota County
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg	Dakota County
Commissioner Jan Callison	Hennepin County
Commissioner Angela Conley	Hennepin County
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Ramsey County
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Ramsey County
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Ramsey County
Commissioner Michael Beard	Scott County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator
Nancy Read, Technical Services Coordinator
Scott Helling-Christy, District Operations Manager
Kirk Johnson, Vector Ecologist
Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Coordinator

Visitors:

Joe Langel, MMCD Legal Counsel
Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting
Kim Scott, RCS Consulting
Gary Montz, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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

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

Consent Agenda

Resolution 1:

The following administrative items were approved in one motion.

1. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2020
2. Approval of Checks and Claims
 General 73202 – 73374

Commissioner Tom Egan seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Yes
Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Tom Egan	Yes
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Jan Callison	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Jeff Johnson	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes

Gary Montz, the 2020 Technical Advisory Board (TAB) Chair, reported that the TAB met with MMCD staff on February 11, 2020 to review the District’s programs and plans for 2019. The TAB is very satisfied with the discussion at the meeting and MMCD’s program. The TAB approved two resolutions expressing support for the program as presented in the 2019 Operational Review and commending MMCD on your ability to manage budgets and keep focused on the tasks needed, including being prepared for emergencies and emerging issues.

*Technical Advisory
Board (TAB) Report*

Commissioner Robyn West offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 2:

Whereas, the Chair of the District’s Technical Advisory Board (TAB) has reported that the TAB reviewed District operations in 2019 and plans for 2020, and;

Whereas, the TAB and MMCD staff discussed in detail 2019 operations and plans for 2020, and;

Whereas, the TAB supports the program presented in the 2019 operations and plans for 2020, and;

Whereas, the TAB commends MMCD on its ability to manage budgets and keep focused on the tasks needed, including being prepared for emergencies and emerging issues;

Resolved, that the Commission accepts the report of the TAB Chair and approves the 2019 Operational Review and Plans for 2020;

Commissioner Jim McDonough seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Yes
Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Tom Egan	Yes
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Jan Callison	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Jeff Johnson	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes

Peg Larsen reported that there are major budget concerns at the legislature at this time. Even though some committees in the house are pushing forward to spend money, there is an expected deficit up over \$2 billion.

*Intergovernmental
Issues*

The voting by mail issue is very controversial. And very partisan. Minority leader Kent sent a letter to majority leader Gazelka. The letter stated that the minority wants to make sure that all of the rules are being followed. However, at this time it is very difficult to give the

notices that she requested. All issues have to be agreed upon by all four leaders. That is taking some time.

The Senate is meeting in session on its regular schedule of Monday and Thursday. The House, however, is not and is not due to come back till the end of April. However, committees are meeting virtually and discussing what they feel are the number one issues.

The Republican convention will be held May 15-16 virtually. This is because the deadline for filing is in June.

The legislature is constitutionally set to end May 18. They can be called back into special session by the governor at any time. There is discussion about them coming in over the summer to do whatever is left undone and possibly more things for COVID-19. There is a bill being put forth that would allow the legislature to call itself back into special session.

Kim Scott reported that it was very unlikely that pesticide legislation that could impact MMCD would be brought forward. We will continue to educate legislators about MMCD programs and how they are designed to protect public health and the environment.

Stephen Manweiler reported that the Executive Committee discussed waiving statutory insurance liability limits and, as in past years, decided not to waive the statutory limits.

March 25, 2020
Executive Committee
Report

The Executive Committee approved an updated contract between Dakota County and MMCD to provide limited Human Resources services. The new contract is changed from the current contract in two ways. The new contract expires on December 31, 2022 (the current contract expires on December 31, 2020) and the new contract adds designated contracts and liaison persons. The type and cost of services provided is unchanged.

The Executive Committee approved MMCD's Emergency COVID-19 response plan. The plan is designed to support staff working remotely because of school closures and the Stay-at-Home order to maintain their ability to begin to provide services to District citizens as quickly after the beginning of the season as possible in as safe a manner possible.

The Executive Committee also discussed the Executive Director performance appraisal process which is the next agenda item (Item 8) for this meeting.

*Report of Executive
Director Performance
Review Panel*

Chair Liz Workman reported that Executive Committee discussed with Mr. Manweiler his performance. They reviewed feedback about Mr. Manweiler's performance submitted by Commissioners, Mr. Manweiler's Direct Reports, and several randomly chosen MMCD employees. Overall the feedback was very positive and constructive. It included potential growth areas that were further clarified by a review of the ongoing situation with employees.

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 3:

Whereas, the District's Executive Director, Stephen Manweiler, is approaching the end of his sixth year in the position, and;

Whereas, Mr. Manweiler, by the terms in his employment agreement is to be evaluated annually concerning his performance by the Executive Committee that would draw conclusions and make findings regarding his performance and eligibility for salary increase with a recommendation to the Commission, and;

Whereas, the Executive Committee undertook and completed gathering relevant input about Mr. Manweiler's performance from both Commissioners and staff, and;

Whereas, the Executive Committee is confident in his leadership in maintaining the financial and operational integrity of the District including addressing all employee issues and supporting a positive work environment, and;

Whereas, the Executive Committee's conclusions and findings regarding Mr. Manweiler's performance were very positive, finding that he had fulfilled all of the responsibilities of the job very well and that the Executive Committee further found that he would be eligible for and would recommend him for a salary increase,

Whereas, the Executive Committee diligently assessed Mr. Manweiler's performance and found that it would serve the Commission's, its taxpayers' and the District's best interests to continue Mr. Manweiler's employment,

Resolved, that the Executive Committee finds that Mr. Manweiler has performed at a Highly Successful level in his sixth year as the District's Executive Director, that his fine performance is acknowledged and appreciated, that he be recommended for a salary increase equal to the amount approved for other employees, that the Executive Committee

finds that it is desirable and appropriate to enter into another three-year employment agreement with him and, and that all of these findings be recommended for approval by the full Commission.

Commissioner Mandy Meisner seconded the motion.
The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Yes
Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Tom Egan	Yes
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Jan Callison	Yes
Commissioner Angela Conley	Yes
Commissioner Jeff Johnson	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Rafael Ortega	Yes
Commissioner Michael Beard	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes

Stephen Manweiler briefly reviewed the budget and levy history since 2009. Record service demand from 2014 through 2016 reduced reserves below the minimum designated by the Fund Balance Policy to support District cash flow. The Commission and District worked together starting in 2015 to increase the levy and restrain budget increases as much as possible. Five expenditure reduction steps implemented in 2017 and maintained in 2018 and 2019, along with lower service demands during those years, resulted in reserves increasing each year. Reserves were increased to the Fund Balance Policy minimum by the end of 2019.

*2020 Plans and Initial
2021 Budget and Levy
Discussion*

In February 2020, Stephen reported that the District planned to restore some of the services it cut in 2017 because the reserves were sufficient to meet District cash flow needs and the difference between the budget and levy was \$400,000 less than the difference in 2017 (\$1,200,000).

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted a change of plans in mid-March 2020. Maintaining staff safety and ability to provide services were the near-term goals. We plan to provide the greatest level of services possible given limitations caused by the pandemic.

Stephen Manweiler reviewed the current 2021 levy and budget plan and compared it with two alternate plans. The current plan (2% levy

increase, 1% budget increase in 2021) and alternate plan 1 (1% levy increase and 0% budget increase in 2021) both enable the District to restore in 2022 more than half of the services cut in 2017. Alternate plan 2 (0% levy increase and 0% budget increase in 2021) delays service restoration by about one year. The economic impact of the pandemic will depend upon how quickly people will be allowed to go back to work. These three levy-budget scenarios are offered for consideration with the goal of balancing District resource needs and sources with desired service levels.

Stephen Manweiler reminded the Commissioners that they need to approve a preliminary 2021 levy by the end of July and approve a final 2021 levy by the end of December. Whatever levy amount they approve in July may be decreased but not increased in December.

Stephen Manweiler briefly reviewed the steps staff had taken since mid-March to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning in mid-March, staff arranged remote working capability. Staff then moved to developing plans for safe operations that satisfy all CDC and Minnesota Dept. of Health recommendations. These plans are nearly complete. Staff also began to determine and assemble all resources required to operate safely. We currently are bringing staff back into the workplace in a stepwise manner and are implementing and improving our safety plans. We plan to continue to have staff work remotely as much as possible to help satisfy social distancing recommendations. Inspectors will begin reporting to work on Monday, April 27 (two weeks later than planned). We will remain aware of the most current State actions and CDC and Minnesota Dept. of Health recommendations.

*Executive Director's
Report*

The District has donated 1,080 N95 masks (half in mid-March and half in mid-April) while maintaining a supply sufficient for District staff to operate safely.

Scott Helling-Christy reported that during the first two weeks in April most RFT field staff worked remotely from home. On April 13, most of the RFT field staff returned to their offices to work following the safety protocols that had been set up. Staff who continued to work remotely from home have children that they need to care for but are still scheduling some time to come into their facility to work. Field staff had planned to start inspecting small streams for black fly larvae and checking wetlands we treat with the helicopter for species of spring mosquito larvae the week of April 13 but snow and cold weather delayed that work until this week. So far, the rainfall in April has been below normal and we are seeing a fair number of wetlands less than 100% wet. We have found mosquito larvae in around 25% of the

Operations Report

wetlands. We expect to find larvae in a greater proportion of sites after the first warm weather.

Field staff are mostly working on developing protocols to bring seasonal inspectors back to work for the District safely. There have been a lot of good ideas and many have been put in place. The focus is how we can train seasonal inspectors, coordinate the work, and do the work while maintaining social distancing. Also, staff have been reviewing CDC recommendations on disinfecting the workplace and putting these protocols in place.

Most of the facilities have filled all their seasonal inspector positions and will be starting small groups on April. This will give each facility an opportunity to put the new protocols into operation and make any adjustments before more inspectors start on future dates. I believe we have made a lot of progress to create an environment where employees can feel safe at work under the current circumstances.

Kirk Johnson reported that early season La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) prevention efforts are ongoing. The LAC vectors, *Aedes triseriatus* and *Aedes japonicus*, are species that we can control simply by eliminating discarded tires and other water-holding containers. To date, about 100 tires have been collected for recycling.

It is too early to predict West Nile virus (WNV) risk in 2020. Weather conditions in May and June will greatly influence WNV transmission.

We plan to initiate WNV risk reduction services in the near future. Larval control in catch basins and other stormwater management structures will begin in late May. Adult mosquito surveillance will begin in mid-May. Testing adult mosquitoes for WNV will begin the first week of June or earlier if other WNV risk indicators warrant.

We continue to collaborate with the Midwest Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Disease (based at Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison) and MN Dept. of Health to investigate Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) risk. Many questions remain unanswered, although more is being learned about JCV transmission and risk each year.

Chair Liz Workman needed to leave to participate in another meeting (10:30 a.m. start) so Vice Chair Jeff Johnson facilitated the remainder of the meeting.

Alex Carlson reported that, since many public events this spring and summer are either canceled or will be much smaller, we are taking our public information campaign online by producing blog posts and

Public Affairs Report

videos to educate the public. We encourage Commissioners to share our posts and information to District residents who have questions!

Vice Chair Johnson asked if there was any other business remaining for the Commission to consider. Hearing none, Vice Chair Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Adjournment

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT						
FINANCIAL STATEMENT						
June 30, 2020						
COUNTY		2020 LEVY	REC'D TO DATE		DUE	
Anoka	\$	1,711,614	0	\$	1,711,614	
Carver		664,487	0		664,487	
Dakota		2,437,697	1,073,785		1,363,912	
Hennepin		8,718,595	0		8,718,595	
Ramsey		2,695,279	0		2,695,279	
Scott		871,673	447,541		424,132	
Washington		1,566,024	0		1,566,024	
Market Value Credit		0	0		0	
TOTAL	\$	18,665,369	\$	1,521,326	\$	17,144,043
Tax Delinquent Income	\$	0	\$	2,437		
Miscellaneous (Rent/Misc./Non-Levy)		100,000		33,594		
Interest Income		135,000		81,336		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	18,900,369	\$	1,638,694	\$	17,261,675
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>						
<u>ASSETS</u>						
Cash and Investments			\$	10,190,742		
Accounts Receivable				83,795		
Prepaid Expenses				67,149		
Consumable Material				2,013,040		
Equipment net of Acc Depreciation				2,337,007		
Land				1,118,867		
Building net of Acc Depreciation				3,250,853		
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>					\$	19,061,453
<u>LIABILITIES</u>						
Vouchers Payable			\$	65,135		
Pass thru Revenue				0		
Deferred Revenue				83,795		
					\$	148,930
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>						
<u>NET WORTH</u>						
Fund Balance:						
Nonspendable			\$	3,005,549		
Committed				2,500,000		
Assigned				850,888		
Unassigned for Working Capital				11,941,987		
Total Fund Equity			\$	18,298,424		
Assets-Equipment				6,706,727		
TOTAL			\$	25,005,151		
ADD Income				1,638,694		
DEDUCT Expenditures				7,731,322		
TOTAL NET WORTH					\$	18,912,523
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH					\$	19,061,453

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT				
CUMULATIVE OPERATIONS STATEMENT				
June 30, 2020				
EXPENDITURES		ACTUAL	BUDGET	+OVER/- UNDER
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>				
Operations	\$	480,573		
Capital Items		0		
Repairs		0		
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$	480,573	\$ 586,433	\$ (105,860)
<u>CONTROL DIVISION</u>				
Operations	\$	7,189,964		
Capital Items		2,554		
Repairs		58,165		
TOTAL CONTROL DIVISION	\$	7,250,683	\$ 10,165,403	\$ (2,914,720)
<u>COMMISSION</u>				
Per Diem	\$	0		
Mileage		66		
TOTAL COMMISSION	\$	66	\$ 1,526	\$ (1,460)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	7,731,322	\$ 10,753,362	\$ (3,022,040)
BUDGET REMAINING			\$ 8,798,205	
ORIGINAL BUDGET			\$ 19,551,567	
EMERGENCY FUNDS			0	
TOTAL BUDGET			\$ 19,551,567	

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

July 22, 2020

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Action Request:

Approve MMCD 2021 Preliminary Levy

Background

Expenditures during three years of very heavy service demands (2014-16) were greater than funds received resulting in reserves being depleted well below the minimum recommended to support District cash flow needs. In 2016, a plan was developed to support District finances in the long-term. The plan aimed to achieve three goals through incremental annual levy increases and smaller budget increases beginning in 2016.

Goal

Milestone or plan

Rebuild Reserves to the minimum amount recommended to support cash flow

Achieved by the end of 2019

Restore \$1.2 million worth of services cut in 2017 (2017 budget was \$1.2 million greater than the 2017 levy)

Increase levy until equal to budget through incremental annual levy and smaller budget increases over several years

Expand services in response to increasing District population and development

To be achieved after all \$1.2 million worth of services cut in 2017 have been restored

COVID-19 Impact on 2020

The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic likely will result in the July and December 2020 levy payments to the District being less than planned. It also is likely that economic recovery will not be complete by 2021. We propose modifying the long-term plan as follows.

- Cancel some planned service restorations as part of an expenditure plan revised in May to compensate for expected 10-15% 2020 levy deficit.
- Recommend maintaining the same levy and budget level in 2021 as in 2020.
- Review the long-term plan in 2021 and determine recommendations for 2022 based upon the economic situation in 2021 and projected economic situation in 2022.

Pausing levy and budget increases in 2021 will delay levy – budget parity by one year (2026) compared to the long-term plan as envisioned in January 2020 (Figure 1). The complete restoration of \$1.2 million worth of services cut in 2017 also will not be possible until 2026 (Figure 2).

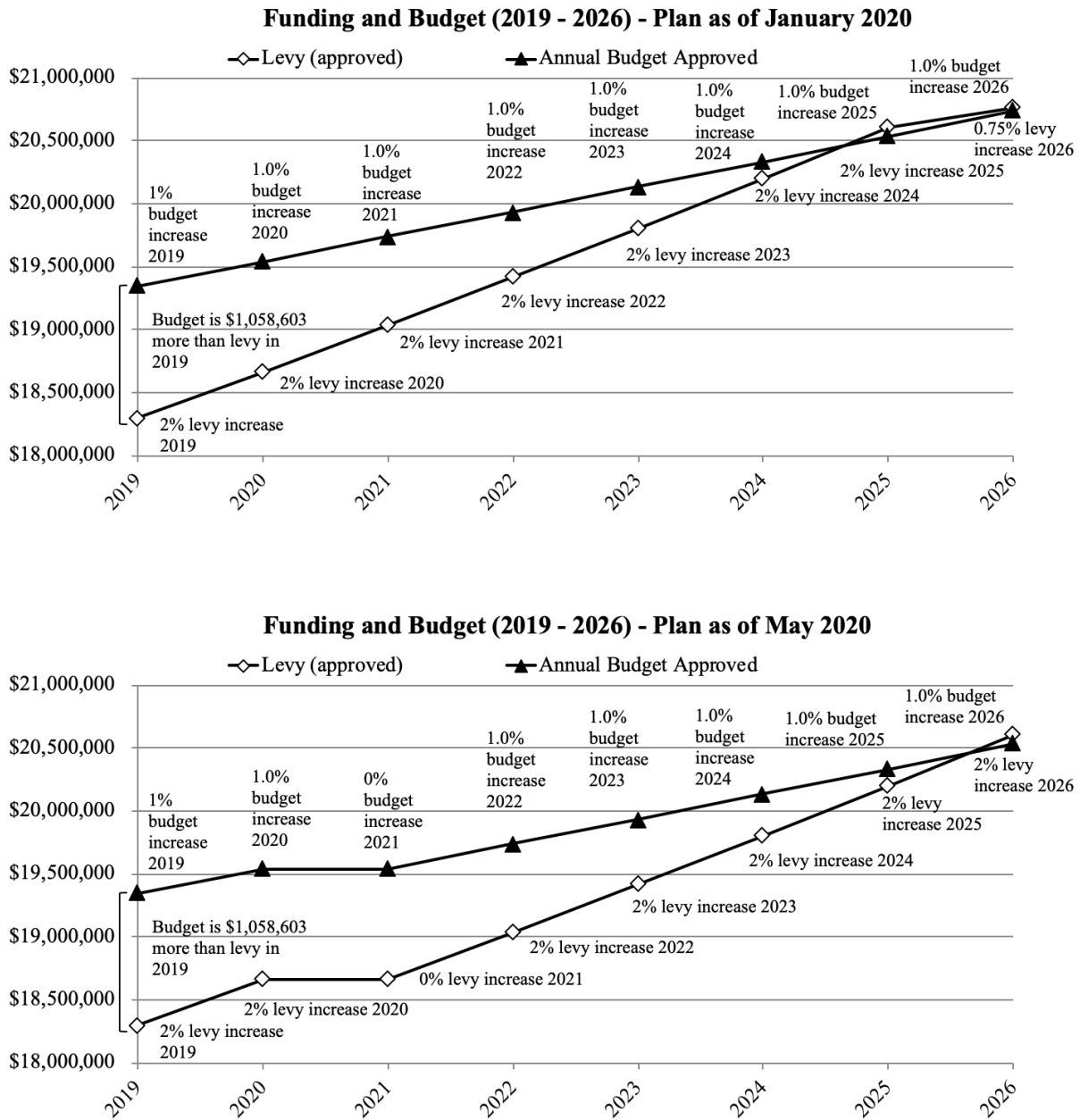


Figure 1. District budget and levy changes (2019 – 2026) as envisioned in January 2020 compared to impact of changes (0% increase in 2021 levy and budget) recommended in May 2020.

Recommended 2021 Levy and Budget

- To compensate for expected 10-15% 2020 levy deficit due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we recommend maintaining the same levy (\$18,665,369) and budget (\$19,510,815) level in 2021 as in 2020.
- The difference between the proposed 2021 budget and levy will be \$845,446.
- Pausing levy and budget increases in 2021 will delay levy – budget parity by one year (2026) compared to the long-term plan as envisioned in January 2020 (Figure 1).
- Complete restorations of services cut in 2017 will be delayed one year by keeping the 2021 levy the same as the 2020 levy (Figure 2).
- A preliminary 2021 levy of \$18,665,369 is well below the 2021 levy limit of \$ 27,314,676.

Resolution

Whereas, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District is required to certify a preliminary levy for payable 2021 to the Minnesota Department of Revenue by August 1, 2020 and,

Whereas, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission has reviewed property tax levy options to maintain District operational plans,

Be it now resolved, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission certifies the preliminary payable 2021 levy in the amount of \$18,665,369 to the Minnesota Department of Revenue, a 0% increase over the 2020 levy of \$18,665,369.

Next Steps: 2021-2026

- During the next few years, the budget and levy must be brought closer together to support resources required to restore all services cut on 2017 (Figure 2).
 - Continue to consider only needs-based budget increases in 2022 through 2026 (1% annual budget increases in 2022 through 2026) (Figure 1, Plan as of May 2020).
 - Need to include upcoming facilities maintenance needs between 2021 and 2023.

Year	Maintenance Item
2021	Maple Grove: Repair South Windows \$25,000, Rosemount: Repair Foundation Blocks \$10,000
2022	St. Paul: Paint Exterior \$20,000
2023	St. Paul: Compressors/HVAC replacement \$100,000, New Roof \$500,000

Service restorations planned in 2020 also have been reduced because of an expected 10-15% deficit in 2020 levy receipts due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 2). Our goal is to spend no more in 2020 than the funding we receive to protect District reserves until economic recovery is complete. It is likely that economic recovery will not be complete by 2021. Service restorations planned in 2021 may be reduced as well.

Percent Restorations of \$1.2 million of Services Cut in 2017

(difference between budget and levy divided by \$1.2 million)

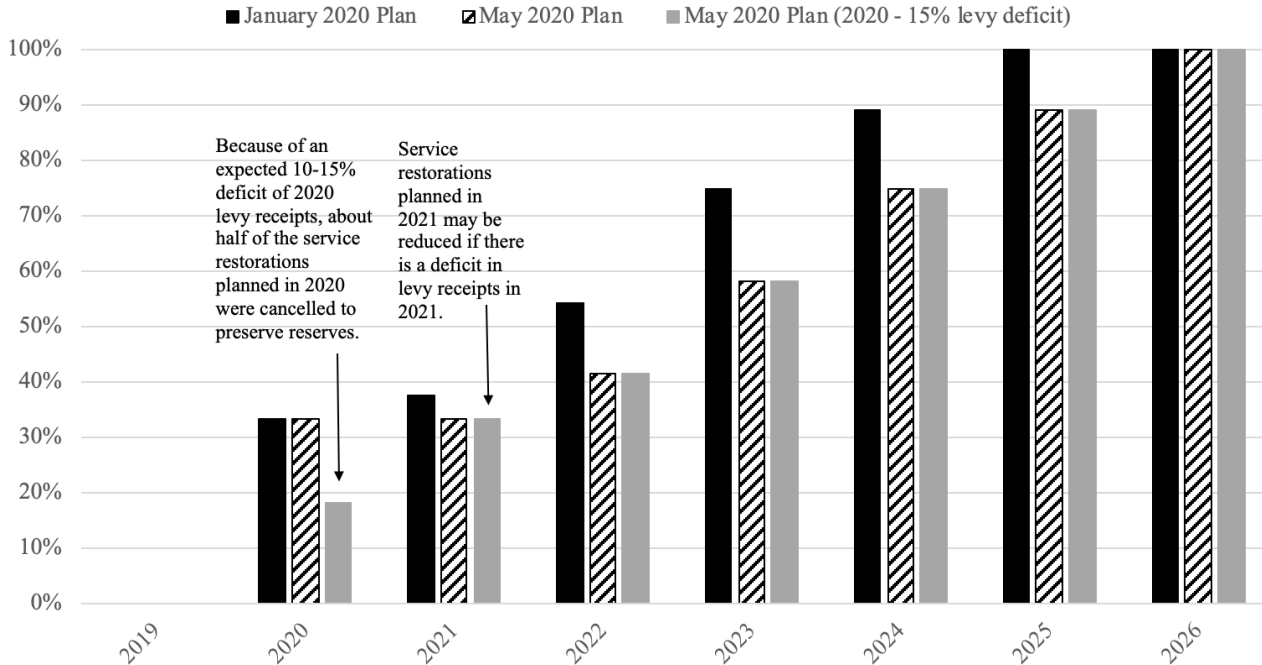


Figure 2. Planned restoration of \$1.2 million worth of services cut in 2017 envisioned in January and May 2020 including near term impact of expected 10-15% levy deficit in 2020.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

July 22, 2020

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Informational:

MMCD 2021 Budget Development

Because of the economic impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic including an expected 10-15% deficit in 2020 levy receipts, we modified the District's 2020 expenditure plan to limit expenditures of \$15,933,030 to achieve the following goals.

- Provide as many services as possible while maximizing staff and citizen safety by implementing social distancing and all other COVID-19 safety requirements
- Preserve our current cash reserves to insulate the District from negative economic impacts in 2020, 2021, and thereafter

We plan to meet our 2020 expenditure goal by cancelling all planned service restorations except the increased cattail mosquito treatments, freezing regular fulltime staff hiring, and postponing certain large capital purchases such as scheduled replacement vehicles. We also have shifted some control materials to maximize the use of cheaper materials and retain more expensive materials for later use if precipitation is more than typical later in the 2020 season.

Mid-July Update

As of mid-July, the number of acres worth of aerial larval control completed in 2020 is very similar to 2017.

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Mid-July	124,008	152,158	115,787	129,858
Season Total	178,124	173,337	192,690	

July-Sept weather forecasts predict slightly warmer than average and slightly drier than average conditions in 2020. The season total average between 2010 and 2019 is 236,881 acres worth of aerial larval control completed. The July-Sept total average is 83,949 acres.

In 2020, 107,023 acres remain to satisfy service demands before exceeding 236,881 acres. The July-Sept total exceeded 109,279 acres during only two years between 2010 and 2019. We anticipate a good chance of meeting our expenditure goal if the weather forecasts are accurate.

	Actual 2017	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Approved 2020	Proposed 2021
Beginning Balance	\$12,192,381	\$13,063,662	\$15,598,209	\$18,296,790	\$17,645,595
<i>Revenues/Sources</i>					
<i>Property Taxes</i>					
Anoka County	\$1,587,353	\$1,660,247	\$1,655,693	\$1,711,614	\$1,711,614
Carver County	\$627,464	\$638,676	\$650,252	\$664,487	\$664,487
Dakota County	\$2,245,729	\$2,271,175	\$2,397,191	\$2,437,697	\$2,437,697
Hennepin County	\$8,098,999	\$8,334,417	\$8,424,155	\$8,718,595	\$8,718,595
Ramsey County	\$2,450,091	\$2,574,312	\$2,622,810	\$2,695,279	\$2,695,279
Scott County	\$794,603	\$837,940	\$867,660	\$871,673	\$871,673
Washington County	\$1,478,063	\$1,515,689	\$1,553,280	\$1,566,024	\$1,566,024
Market Value Credit	-	-	-	-	-
Total Property Taxes	\$17,282,302	\$17,832,456	\$18,171,041	\$18,665,369	\$18,665,369
<i>Other Financing Sources</i>					
Other Financing Sources	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$243,688	\$285,442	\$460,570	\$235,000	\$235,000
Total Other Sources	\$243,688	\$285,442	\$460,570	\$235,000	\$235,000
Total Revenue	\$17,525,990	\$18,117,898	\$18,631,611	\$18,900,369	\$18,900,369
<i>Expenditures/Uses</i>					
Commissioners	\$2,780	\$2,177	\$2,728	\$3,660	\$3,660
Control Operations	\$14,696,007	\$14,242,771	\$14,201,051	\$18,010,448	\$18,010,448
Capital Outlay	\$943,405	\$351,209	\$666,643	\$527,520	\$527,520
Administration	\$1,012,517	\$987,194	\$1,062,608	\$1,009,936	\$1,009,936
TOTAL	\$16,654,709	\$15,583,351	\$15,933,030	\$19,551,564	\$19,551,564
<i>Ending Fund Balance</i>					
Nonspendable/Committed/Assigned	\$6,529,303	\$6,556,126	\$6,376,286	\$6,376,286	\$6,376,286
Unassigned/Working Capital/Tax Delinquencies	\$6,534,359	\$9,042,083	\$11,920,504	\$11,269,309	\$10,618,114
TOTAL	\$13,063,662	\$15,598,209	\$18,296,790	\$17,645,595	\$16,994,400
<i>Amount From Fund Balance Used For Expenditures</i>					
	(\$871,281)	(\$2,534,547)	(\$2,698,581)	\$651,195	\$651,195

	ADMINISTRATION	2017 ACTUAL	2018 ACTUAL	2019 ACTUAL	2020 BUDGET	2021 PROPOSED
1	Salary and Wages	\$761,158	\$765,333	\$793,541	\$792,046	\$792,046
2	Building Expense	\$57,013	\$66,571	\$59,494	\$52,770	\$52,770
3	Office Supplies	\$59,746	\$30,207	\$53,669	\$33,870	\$33,870
4	Travel and Mileage	\$2,377	\$1,735	\$2,649	\$4,250	\$4,250
5	Insurance	\$11,287	\$10,182	\$11,428	\$12,500	\$12,500
6	Interest	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
7	General Expenses	\$119,702	\$113,166	\$141,827	\$114,000	\$114,000
8	Repair and Maintenance	\$1,347	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500
9	Total Admin. Operations	\$1,012,630	\$987,194	\$1,062,608	\$1,009,936	\$1,009,936
10						
11	Administration Capital	\$12,493	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
12						
13	Total Administration -	\$1,025,123	\$987,194	\$1,062,608	\$1,009,936	\$1,009,936
14						
	COMMISSION					
15	Per Diem	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
16	Travel and Mileage	\$2,780	\$2,177	\$2,728	\$3,660	\$3,660
17						
18	Total Commissioners -	\$2,780	\$2,177	\$2,728	\$3,660	\$3,660
19						
	CONTROL/MONITORING					
20	Salary and Wages	\$6,625,114	\$6,559,521	\$6,561,904	\$7,652,148	\$7,652,148
21	Rent and Building Costs	\$1,098,603	\$846,623	\$851,853	\$894,660	\$894,660
22	Supplies & Expenses	\$312,010	\$248,544	\$322,968	\$281,850	\$281,850
23	Control Materials	\$4,244,856	\$4,137,801	\$4,013,552	\$5,831,000	\$5,831,000
24	Helicopter	\$1,728,305	\$1,553,479	\$1,746,405	\$2,527,560	\$2,527,560
25	Transportation Expenses	\$159,917	\$175,049	\$156,594	\$186,390	\$186,390
26	Insurance	\$266,828	\$251,095	\$239,335	\$268,510	\$268,510
27	General Expenses	\$142,834	\$180,498	\$109,931	\$156,630	\$156,630
28	Repair and Maintenance	\$117,364	\$290,161	\$198,509	\$211,700	\$211,700
29	Total Control Operations	\$14,695,831	\$14,242,771	\$14,201,051	\$18,010,448	\$18,010,448
30						
31	Control Capital	\$930,972	\$351,209	\$666,643	\$527,520	\$527,520
32						
33	Total Control Division -	\$15,626,803	\$14,593,980	\$14,867,694	\$18,537,968	\$18,537,968
34						
35	TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET	\$16,654,706	\$15,583,351	\$15,933,030	\$19,551,564	\$19,551,564
	Levy	\$17,300,234	\$17,832,456	\$18,171,041	\$18,665,369	\$18,665,369
	Revenue - other sources	225,753	285,442	460,570	235,000	235,000
	Fund Balance (end of year)	\$13,063,662	\$15,598,209	\$18,296,790	\$17,645,595	\$16,994,400
	Amount from FB used for exp.	(\$871,281)	(\$2,534,547)	(\$2,698,581)	\$651,195	\$651,195

MMCD CALENDAR FOR BUDGET YEAR 2021

Commission and Executive Committee provide direction to develop budget	May / June 2020
Commission approves preliminary 2021 levy and budget direction	July 22, 2020
First levy certification deadline for the District	August 1, 2020
Review 2021 budget and levy proposals	August 26, 2020
Proposed levy certified	September 10, 2020
Executive Committee reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	September 23, 2020
Commission reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	October 28, 2020
Executive Committee reviews budget	November 19, 2020
Parcel Specific Property Tax Notice	November 10 – 24, 2020
Commission adopts Final 2021 Levy & Budget (December Commission meeting)	December 16, 2020
Truth in Taxation Hearing (Commission & Staff)	December 16, 2020
Continuation Hearing if necessary (Commission & Staff)	December 16, 2020
Certify Adopted Payable 2021 Levy (Staff)	December 20, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: MMCD Board of Commissioners

FROM: Joseph Langel, MMCD Attorney

DATE: August 26, 2016

RE: Tax Levy Schedule

At the Commission meeting on August 24th (2016), there was a discussion about the budget calendar. Specifically, questions were raised about when MMCD’s property tax levy must be certified to the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue. The calendar in the Information Packet showed that the initial levy certification deadline is August 1st.

Some Commissioners questioned the validity of that date given that it is earlier than other taxing districts. A quick review of Minnesota Statutes chapter 275 (the property tax levy statute) indicated that (1) MMCD is defined as a special taxing district; and (2) “each special taxing district shall adopt and certify to the county auditor a proposed property tax levy” “on or before September 15.” *Minn. Stat. §§ 275.065, subd. 1(b), 275.066 (16)*. It therefore appeared that September 15th is, in fact, the correct deadline.

The quick statutory review during the meeting, however, did not reveal the additional provisions in Minnesota Statutes chapter 473, which relate specifically to MMCD. Section 473.711, subdivision 5, provides that MMCD “must certify its property tax levy to the commissioner of revenue by August 1 of the levy year.” This specific provision overrides the more general provision in Chapter 275.

The Commissioner of Revenue reviews the tax levy to ensure that the tax is within MMCD’s statutory levy limitation. That determination must be completed by September 10th. *Minn. Stat. § 473.711, subd. 5*. The Commissioner notifies the MMCD that the levy is appropriate and provides the amount of levy for each member county. The levy data is transmitted to the respective counties by September 15th. The Commission adopts the final levy and holds the Truth in Taxation hearing in December.

Let me know if anyone has additional questions about this process.

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes
May 27, 2020
9:15 a.m.

Chair Liz Workman called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted remotely using GoToMeeting software. Roll call votes were recorded for each item because this meeting was conducted remotely.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Robyn West	Anoka 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

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator

Visitors:

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

Chair 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 March
25, 2020 Committee
Meeting Minutes*

Resolution 1:

Resolved, that the March 25, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Robyn West seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Jeff Johnson	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Peg Larsen reported that COVID-19 relief legislation was passed by bipartisan votes in both bodies. This legislation includes emergency assistance for workers, families, and businesses. First responders will be eligible for workers compensation.

Legislative Update

Some other things that were passed included:

- election safety and security
- help for farmers and producers
- raising the age for tobacco to 21
- TCE (trichloroethylene) ban

The bonding bill did not pass because all Republicans in the house voted against it. Eighty one votes are needed to pass bonding, and the house has to pass it first. The bipartisan atmosphere eroded at the end of session.

They are coming back into session on June 12. Normally a special session would only last as long as they needed to do their work. However, with the emergency powers in place once they are called back, they stay in session until the emergency powers are ended. Peg does not expect them to do a lot of work until they have agreements. Many legislators who are not in leadership positions were not happy with the fact that they could not amend any bills. This was because they had been agreed-upon by leadership. All bills are dead when the Legislature adjourns sine die (at the end of the second year of the biennium). The fact that leadership is discussing the bills and determining what will be in them is nothing new. But not being able to amend them is something new. It remains to be seen how they finally wrap things up and if they get a bonding bill passed as well as other important legislation.

Kim Scott reported that any bill introduced during the regular session, such as the bill (HF 4661) introduced by Rep. Jordan, is dead when the Legislature adjourns sine die. Rep. Jordan could reintroduce the bill during special session, but she won't. The June 12 special session will be limited to addressing the bonding bill and whatever unfinished business the Legislature and Governor are able to agree upon. Kim will reach out

to Rep. Jordan to discuss her bill as we can expect that she may bring this up again next session.

Stephen Manweiler briefly reviewed the history of our current budget funding plan. Expenditures during three years of very heavy service demands (2014-16) were greater than funds received resulting in reserves being depleted well below the minimum recommended to support District cash flow needs. In 2016, a plan was developed to support District finances in the long-term. By the end of 2019, reserves were increased to the minimum amount recommended to support cash flow. In 2020, we had planned to begin restoring \$1.2 million worth of services cut in 2017.

*Longer-Term
Budget/Funding Plan*

Because of the recent COVID-19 economic impact and resultant change in our 2020 expenditure plan, we are recommending that we hold both the 2021 levy and budget at 2020 levels instead of recommending a 2% levy increase in 2021 and a 1% budget increase in 2021. This will increase the number of years required before the levy and budget are equal but seems prudent given what is not known about the severity of the COVID-19 economic impact in 2020 and 2021. Our hope is that economic recovery will enable us to resume our plan of levy and budget increases in 2022.

Stephen Manweiler reported that there have been more calls from citizens from areas including Hastings, Edina, Minneapolis, and Plymouth regarding annoyance including a species of black fly that we currently do not have a permit to treat. In the past few years, this species has become more prevalent and is causing annoyance in the early spring in a few locations. We are working with the DNR to amend our treatment permit. Otherwise, water levels in the rivers and streams are at levels that allow us to conduct surveillance and treatment of black fly larvae.

*Executive
Director
Report*

On Monday, April 27 seasonal inspectors began to return. Training and operations that were modified to meet social distancing and other COVID-19 safety requirements have gone smoothly. Regular fulltime staff who can complete their work responsibilities remotely have continued to do so. We foresee remote work by most regular fulltime staff at least part of the time continuing through the next few months depending upon how the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. All plans and required resources for staff to safely return to the workplace are available.

Senator Dzedzic introduced SF 4531 (pesticide control ordinance adoption by cities authorization), although we are not sure it will be heard this session. Stephen and Kim Scott shared with Sen. Dzedzic the

language that Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) provided to Representative Wagenius for a similar bill (HF 1255) introduced in the House. This language was developed after we contemplated the effect of the proposed legislation on MMCD's work, which is to protect the public health by controlling for vector-borne diseases like West Nile virus. We discussed the language with the City of Minneapolis and Rep. Wagenius, who indicated their support.

Representative Jordan introduced another bill (HF 4661) that gives cities the authority to regulate pollinator-lethal pesticides that is similar to HF 1255. We do not believe it will be heard this session. We will contact Rep. Jordan about mitigating impacts to MMCD.

Chair Liz Workman asked if there was anything else to come before this meeting. Nobody mentioned any additional items. Chair Liz Workman declared the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

*Other Issues and
Adjournment*

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES
June 24, 2020
9:15 a.m.

Chair Liz Workman called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted remotely using GoToMeeting software. Roll call votes were recorded for each item because this meeting was conducted remotely.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Robyn West	Anoka 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

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator

Visitors:

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

Chair 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 May 27,
2020 Committee
Meeting Minutes*

Resolution 1:

Resolved, that the May 27, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Robyn West seconded the motion.
The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Jeff Johnson	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Arleen Schacht reported that Redpath and Company conducted the audit of the MMCD financial statements ending on December 31, 2019. The audit was largely conducted remotely because of COVID-19 but went well. The goal of the independent audit was to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements of the MMCD for the year ended December 31, 2019, are free of material misstatement. Redpath and Company has issued an unmodified opinion on the MMCD's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019. A representative of Redpath and Company will provide a detailed report of their audit results at the meeting of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission on July 22, 2020.

*Financial Auditor's
Report*

Peg Larsen reported that the Legislature ended the special session without finishing much. They did pass legislation to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Disagreements between legislators prevented passage of other legislation including police reform and bonding.

Legislative Update

Kim Scott described various environment bills including legislation prohibiting neonicotinoid use in Wildlife Management Areas and granting authority to cities to regulate or ban pesticides (SF 4531 by Senator Dziejczic and HF 4661 by Representative Jordan). No environment bill passed. We are in contact with Sen. Dziejczic and Rep. Jordan about language modifications to protect MMCD's ability to control vectors similar to language Rep. Wagenius added to her legislation (HF 1255).

Stephen Manweiler reviewed the overall District goals for 2020 that include (1) providing as much service as possible while adhering to COVID-19 safety requirements and (2) preserving our current cash reserves to insulate the District from negative economic impacts in 2020, 2021 and thereafter.

*2020 Expenditure
Update*

As of mid-June, the number of acres worth of aerial larval control completed in 2020 (95,691) is very similar to 2017 (94,882) and 2019 (96,752). July-Sept weather forecasts predict slightly warmer than average and slightly drier than average conditions in 2020. The season total

average between 2010 and 2019 is 236,881 acres worth of aerial larval control completed. The July-Sept total average is 83,949 acres.

In 2020, 141,190 acres remain to satisfy service demands before exceeding 236,881 acres. The July-Sept total exceeded 141,190 acres during only two years between 2010 and 2019. We anticipate a good chance of meeting our expenditure goal if the weather forecasts are accurate.

Our long-term plan initiated in 2016 includes annual levy increases and smaller annual budget increases until the levy and budget are equal (funding/resources equal planned expenditures). In 2017 we cut \$1.2 million in services (difference between the 2017 budget and levy) to rebuild cash reserves. Cash reserves were restored to the minimum level recommended to support District cash flow needs by the end of 2019. In January 2020, the difference between the budget and levy was about \$800,000. We planned to restore \$400,000 worth of services cut in 2017.

*Longer-Term
Budget/Funding Plan*

Due to COVID-19, we are recommending a pause in levy and budget increases in 2021 (0% increase in 2021) with another review in 2021 to determine how to resume the plan. The levy and budget would have become equal in 2025. Pausing the plan in 2021 will delay budget – levy parity until 2026.

Because of expected COVID-19 related levy shortfalls in 2020, we have cancelled most of the service restorations planned in January to preserve District cash reserves. Service restorations planned in 2021 also will be reduced by pausing budget and levy increases in 2021 and the potential economic impact of COVID-19 in 2021.

Stephen Manweiler reported that Governor Walz announced Phase III of the Stay Safe MN plan, including a gradual turn of the dial to allow cautious and safe re-opening of indoor dining, gyms, and entertainment venues beginning Wednesday, June 10, 2020. Because it is a critical service, District operations have been permitted so long as a COVID-19 preparedness plan had been developed that satisfies CDC and Minnesota Department of Health recommendations. Since mid-March we have changed operations significantly including all staff working remotely as much as possible. Phase III continues to mandate remote working when possible meaning that District operations will continue unchanged unless significant new recommendations are forthcoming from the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health.

*Executive Director's
Report*

Multiple District employees have expressed a desire to help communities impacted by COVID-19 and social unrest. The District's Sustainability Team is collecting donations of food and basic necessities to be delivered

to local organizations. This is an expansion of ongoing support, primarily by adding more basic necessities to food donations.

We developed a statement of solidarity that our Public Affairs has posted on our website, FaceBook, and other communication venues. This statement of solidarity incorporates feedback from MMCD legal counsel and is comparable to similar statements issues by counties.

Given the July – September weather forecasts (slightly warmer and drier than typical), the remaining season may favor higher populations of *Culex pipiens* which may increase human WNV risk. No WNV positive mosquitoes have been detected yet although we still are early in this season.

Chair Liz Workman asked if there was anything else to come before this meeting. Nobody mentioned any additional items. Chair Liz Workman declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

*Other Issues and
Adjournment*

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

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

We received approval from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to hold a virtual Applicator Recertification Workshop on Thursday, July 23. We will be using GoToMeeting so inspectors needing recertification will be able to view the conference on a computer (recommended) or smartphone/tablet. MDA waives training fees for all District staff who attend these joint workshops.

The new Mosquito Control Manual for MDA certification has been completed after a more than year-long collaboration between MDA, MMCD and the University of Minnesota Extension. This manual is now available for all persons desiring MDA certification for mosquito control.

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

Heavy rain that fell throughout the District the last weekend in June set the stage for us to treat a little over 37,000 acres over the July 4th holiday weekend. So far this season we have treated 140,000 acres (air and ground) which is similar to the 147,000 acres we treated last year up to the same point in the season. We are also seeing an increase in adult cattail mosquitoes which is expected this time of year. Surprisingly, citizen mosquito annoyance calls have been significantly less this year compared to last year. This season so far, we have received 789 calls compared to 1,351 calls in 2019 and 1,192 calls in 2018. With more people staying at home due to the pandemic we were anticipating that the calls would be up. Not exactly sure why this is the case. In response to citizen calls, recent emergence of adult cattail mosquitoes and surveillance for disease vectors, staff have treated 1,543 acres for adult mosquitoes this season.

Fortunately, this spring the rivers and streams did not flood meaning we were able to make treatments for black fly larvae when needed. Currently, black fly adult levels are low in most areas and citizens are not experiencing the high level of annoyance like they did last year.

Staff completed some successful test treatments to wetlands with the treatment drone. Some minor adjustments to the calibration need to be made and then staff should be able to start making treatments on a regular basis. Staff are encouraged by the results so far and are excited to make more treatments. This will really help save time treating sites that are very difficult to treat by ground but too small to treat by helicopter.

Between the rains, staff are completing surveillance and treatments for disease vector mosquitoes, also doing neighborhood inspections which include removing and emptying

containers and informing the public of the potential risk of having containers that hold water on their property. Typically, we can anticipate treating another 50,000 to 80,000 larval acres between now and the end of the mosquito season. Hopefully, this will be the case and we won't experience higher than normal rainfall for the rest of the season.

The Covid-19 protocol we put in place is working well. Feedback from staff tells us that they are confident that the protocols are creating a safe environment for them to work in. So far, we haven't had any regular fulltime staff test positive for the virus. We are hopeful this will remain the case for the rest of the season. Also, we have had only five minor injuries this year.

3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

There have not yet been any reports of mosquito-borne illness in Minnesota from hospitals, clinics, or veterinarians.

This year we have tested 152 mosquito samples for WNV, all of which were negative for the virus. Last year there was little WNV activity in the area. By the end of 2019, we had detected WNV in only five of 649 mosquito samples tested and illnesses were confirmed in just two residents of the District. The low level of WNV activity last year likely resulted in few infected mosquitoes overwintering. This is one of the most influential factors leading to the slow start to the WNV season that we have observed this year.

Temperatures typical of the mid-summer months usually lead to an increase in WNV and it should reach a detectable level soon. Field crews will continue working to reduce vector populations with the goal of reducing the risk of West Nile infections. Catch basins and other stormwater management structures are important habitats for some of the WNV vectors and staff have been focused on completing the tens of thousands of larvicide applications required each month. We anticipate having to respond with adult control to *Culex tarsalis* population increases in some communities following recent area-wide rainfall events.

With breaks in the rainfall, field crews will be able to devote more time to surveillance for *Ae. triseriatus*, our native La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) vector, and other container inhabiting mosquitoes. Elimination of larval habitat is our most effective method for reducing LAC risk. We have recycled 5,655 tires and we have eliminated 1,047 other LAC vector habitats this year.

4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

The workflow in the lab this year has been steady and staff have kept up with the samples. Some staff have been learning full species level IDs for larval samples that we typically cannot process until the fall. We had a very large brood the last week of June and we processed 1,176 larval samples in two days! In June and early July, the adult mosquito levels have been near the 10-year average. The dominant species in late June was *Cq. perturbans*,

however, with the June 28 brood, high levels of summer floodwater *Aedes* are anticipated. The *Cq. perturbans* levels will begin to diminish over the next few months.

Also of interest (at least to the lab): We collected over 1,600 *Culex* mosquitoes in a gravid trap (a record high), we have detected the invasive mosquito *Aedes albopictus* multiple times in sampling conducted near a tire recycling facility, and last week we trapped *Psorophora ciliata*, which is considered rare in the District and is one of the largest mosquitoes we see.



Aedes albopictus



Psorophora ciliata

Below is a graph of the average number of human-biting mosquitoes captured in carbon dioxide-baited traps (137 traps total) which are set each Monday evening. The early peak was likely a combination of spring and summer *Aedes* species; from mid-June to July 7 the predominant species is *Cq. perturbans* (Fig. 1).

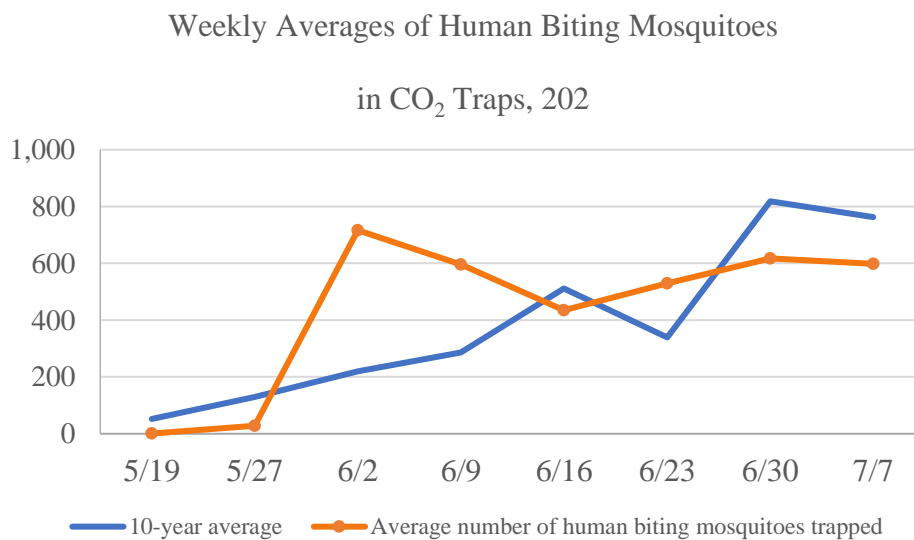


Figure 1. Average number of human biting mosquitoes per week in CO₂-baited traps in 2020. Traps (N=137) are placed in various locations in the seven-county metropolitan area.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Presentations

Due to precautions over COVID-19, all public presentations are currently postponed or cancelled as are all our public events. We are working on “distance” methods to get our message out to the public this year with the assumption that almost all 2020 events will be either cancelled or reduced in size.

Media Activity

WCCO – Mosquito Control Underway After Heavy Rainfall – July 1, 2020

<https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2020/07/01/mosquito-control-underway-after-recent-heavy-rainfall/>

Minnesota News Network – Update on Mosquito Season and West Nile virus – July 6, 2020

Media projects in-development:

- NorthMetro TV followed Field Operations Supervisor (FOS) Murray Parent on July 10 for a story to air the week of July 13.
- Minnesota Bound followed FOS Aubrey Soukup and interviewed Public Affairs coordinator Alex Carlson for a full feature to air next May.

Website News and Updates

For National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, we published several pieces about some different people at MMCD:

- FOS Shawn Partyka
 - <https://mmcd.org/2020/06/22/nmcaw-field-operations-supervisor-shawn-partyka/>
- Field Inspectors Tom Ovre and Julia Line
 - <https://mmcd.org/2020/06/24/nmcaw-mosquito-inspectors-julia-line-and-tom-ovre/>
- Lab Inspectors Koudai Sugii and Cassie Bowen
 - <https://mmcd.org/2020/06/26/nmcaw-lab-inspectors-koudai-sugii-and-cassie-bowen/>

We also published a piece about how Kirk Johnson tests mosquito samples for West Nile virus: <https://mmcd.org/2020/07/01/how-mmcd-tests-mosquitoes-for-west-nile-virus/>

Customer Calls

Calls for June were lower in 2020 than they were in 2019.

Total Calls in June 2020 = 552

Total Calls in June 2019 = 1,047

Part of this is because last year black fly calls were heavy in early June whereas this year they came in May (May total calls were higher in 2020). There are likely a variety of other factors including the pandemic and more people finding information on social media or our website.

Instagram Takeovers

This year we have been handing over our Instagram for a day for inspectors from different facilities. So far East, Plymouth, Maple Grove, and North have all run the account for a day. You can view their takeovers at our Instagram page (login required):

<https://instagram.com/metromosquito>

This has been a good opportunity to both improve staff morale and educate the public about work they don't always get to see us doing.

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 black flies and mosquitoes. Here are the latest numbers:

- Facebook – 1,534 Page Likes (Up 17 from June 15)
 - Facebook.com/metromosquitoscd
- Twitter – 701 Followers (Up 47 from June 15)
 - Twitter.com/metromosquito
- Instagram – 133 Followers (Up 13 from June 15)
 - Instagram.com/metromosquito

6. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

MMCD Collaboration to Detect Asian Longhorned Tick

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.

No Asian longhorned ticks have been reported found in Minnesota as of July 11, 2020.

Tick Vector Field Projects

Our 2020 tick surveillance season began April 27. As of July 11, three of ten routes in our second round of surveillance have been completed. Our first round of surveillance was completed on June 18. Due to impacts of COVID-19, St. Paul staff are assisting as needed in the field in 2020.

Public Education/Outreach

- Distribution and/or re-stocking of brochures, tick cards and posters remains suspended for now (due to the COVID-19 situation).
- We continue to alert our Facebook followers to tick activity and other items of interest and are periodically reminding people that we would like any **unusual ticks mailed to us!**
- Our Tick Risk Meter is currently set to **LOW**. Deer ticks may be out in low numbers, but we are past peak.
- Signs to remind the public of deer ticks and disease prevention measures are being posted at dog parks and additional locations throughout the metro.