

**Metropolitan
Mosquito Control District**

Commission Meeting

August 26, 2020

9:15 A.M.

Information Packet

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

August 26, 2020 9:15 A.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome and Introduction

CONSENT AGENDA *The following items (3-5) are administrative in detail and will be approved in one motion unless a commissioner wishes to withdraw an item for discussion.

3. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for July 22, 2020
4. Financial Statements July 31, 2020
5. Approval of Checks and Claims
General 73772 – 73901

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
7. School Outreach during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Alex Carlson)
8. Executive Director’s Report
9. Operations Report (Scott H-Christy, Kirk Johnson)
10. Public Affairs Report (Alex Carlson)
11. Other Items
12. Adjournment

* Action Requested

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, October 28, 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
July 22, 2020
9:15 a.m.

Chair Liz Workman called meeting to order at 9:16 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 Jeff Reinert | Anoka County |
| Commissioner Robyn West | Anoka County |
| Commissioner Tom Workman | Carver County |
| Commissioner Tom Egan | 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 |
| Commissioner Lisa Weik | Washington County |

Staff:

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

Visitors:

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

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

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

Resolution 1:

The following administrative items were approved in one motion.

Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for April 22, 2020
Financial Statements June 30, 2020
Approval of Checks and Claims
General 73375 – 73771

Commissioner Tom Wolf seconded the motion.

Commissioners voted as follows.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Jeff Reinert | Yes |
| Commissioner Robyn West | Yes |
| Commissioner Tom Workman | Yes |
| Commissioner Tom Egan | 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 |
| Commissioner Lisa Weik | Yes |

Cathy Lydon, CPA, Redpath & Company, reviewed the results of the audit of MMCD financial statements ending December 31, 2019. She described four aspects of the audit report.

*Auditor's Report on
MMCD Financial
Statements Ending
December 31, 2019*

Opinion on the Fair Presentation of the Financial Statements
Report on Internal Controls
Report on Compliance with Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for
Political Subdivisions
Communication with Those Charged with Governance

Cathy reported that the financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in accordance with GAAP which means a totally clean report. She noted that the auditor report does not include any findings, just the compliance.

Cathy reported no findings on internal control over financial reporting. She also reported no legal compliance findings.

Cathy reported that the District has a net OPEB asset of \$2,636,142. The District's pension liability is \$3,690,841.

Cathy stated that as of December 31, 2019, The District's unassigned fund balance was \$11,941,987 which is \$3,490,574 above the minimum defined in the District's Fund Balance Policy. This minimum defines the amount of money needed to support cash flow between January and July when the first tax payments are received.

Cathy reported that no difficulties were encountered while performing the audit and that there were no disagreements with District management. Cathy thanked the MMCD staff for their assistance, especially Arleen Schact and Jennifer Machia.

Peg Larsen reported that the second special session ended much like the first. The one bill that made it across the finish line was a compromise police reform package. The bill prohibits warrior style training and puts a very tight range on choke holds. It was a watered-down version of the ideas that the House had put forth initially. In the Senate, some DFL senators actually voted against it because it didn't go far enough. As we all know, in the Legislature if you can get a start that is a good thing. The bonding bill did not make it through the House, with only 75 votes in favor and it needs 81. Therefore, the Governor's supplemental budget did not occur either. Looks like they will be coming back for a third special session in August. They have to come back because of the governor's emergency powers. Legislative approval is not required, in order to, extend the governor's emergency powers, but the Legislature does have the right to stop them with agreement from both Houses. The Senate did vote to put a stop to the governor's emergency powers and they also voted to stop him from deciding what will happen with education. However, the House did not agree and so the peacetime emergency declaration will continue.

*Intergovernmental
Issues*

Kim Scott reported the expected third special session in August will coincide with a promised budget forecast. The predictions are that the forecast will show a state budget deficit of \$4-8 billion. Several bills granting cities the authority to regulate or ban pesticides were introduced during the regular session, but none were passed. We will continue to reach out to the authors to educate them on how these bills can impact MMCD's public health protective actions and ways to mitigate that impact. The newest House member, Rep. Sydney Jordan, is the author of one of these bills that was introduced during the first special session. Despite several attempts, we have not been able to reach Rep. Jordan, but we will make sure to have a conversation about her bill before the next regular legislative session. We also will reach out to Emma Greenman (the person who will replace Rep. Wagenius).

Stephen Manweiler reviewed the long-term plan developed in 2016 to bring levy and budget levels together. This plan has three goals: (1) restore reserves

*MMCD 2021
Preliminary Levy*

to the minimum required to support cash flow, (2) restore \$1.2 million worth of services cut in 2017 and (3) expand services in response to increased human population and development in the District.

In January 2020 we planned to restore about one third of the services cut in 2017 because reserves had been increased to the cash flow support minimum in 2019 and the difference between the 2020 budget and levy is about \$800,000 (the difference was \$1.2 million in 2017). As envisioned in January 2020, the long-term plan would result in budget-levy parity in 2025 (and full restoration of services cut in 2017).

In March 2020 COVID-19 hit. By April we received reports from counties that they were preparing for a 10-15% deficit in tax collections. We responded by reviewing how our January 2020 expenditures plan would impact District finances including our reserves if we experienced a 15% levy deficit. We determined that without changes, our expenditures plan would rapidly deplete our reserves. Arleen Schacht determined that expenditures at a level no greater than 2019 actual expenditures would preserve our reserves. The 2019 actual expenditure level became our 2020 expenditure target.

Staff reviewed and prioritized various segments of the control program to determine which should be cut or changed to meet our expenditure target. We canceled all service restorations except expanded larval cattail mosquito treatments. We have shifted to the cheapest larval control materials when possible, frozen regular fulltime staff hiring, and deferred some purchases such as replacement vehicles.

Because the economic impact of COVID-19 most likely will not end in 2020, we recommend maintaining the same levy and budget level in 2021 as in 2020. 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. The complete restoration of \$1.2 million worth of services cut in 2017 also will not be possible until 2026.

Commissioner Jeff Johnson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 2:

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 MMCD 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.

Commissioner Tom Wolf seconded the motion.

Commissioners voted as follows.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Jeff Reinert | Yes |
| Commissioner Robyn West | Yes |
| Commissioner Tom Workman | Yes |
| Commissioner Tom Egan | 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 |
| Commissioner Lisa Weik | Yes |

Stephen Manweiler proposed developing a 2021 budget that includes no increase over 2020 (part of the pause in the long-term plan). Our current goals are to preserve as many services as possible in 2020 and preserve current reserves to insulate the District from negative economic impacts due to COVID-19.

*MMCD 2021 Budget
Development*

As of mid-July, the number of acres worth of aerial larval control completed in 2020 is very similar to 2017. Aerial larval control costs are a major part of costs during the control season and therefore a useful proxy for overall expenditures. July-September weather forecasts predict slightly warmer than average and slightly drier than average conditions in 2020.

In 2020, 107,023 acres remain to satisfy service demands before exceeding 236,881 acres (season total average between 2010 and 2019). The July-September total exceeded 107,023 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.

In addition to extensive discussions about the 2021 levy and budget, the Executive Committee reviewed the following topics.

*Executive Committee
Report for May 27,
2020 and June 24,
2020*

Plans implemented to maintain staff safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safe return of seasonal employees beginning on April 27

Modified (mostly remote) employee training

Successful delivery of services to citizens

Enhanced public relations outreach so citizens understand how our COVID-19 responses might affect services and what they observe

Enhanced food and basic needs item donations by District employees in response to COVID-19.

Adding to our DNR treatment permit an early season black fly species that has become more common and problematic during the last few seasons.

Our work with legislators who introduced bills to grant authority to cities to regulate pesticides (including SF 4531 [Dziedzic] HF 4661 [Jordan]) to add language to mitigate the impact on MMCD's vector control operations.

Stephen Manweiler reported that we received approval from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to convene a virtual Applicator Recertification Workshop on Thursday, July 23. We will be using GoToMeeting so inspectors who need 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.

*Executive Director's
Report*

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.

Scott H-Christy reported that heavy rain throughout the District the last weekend in June set the stage for us to treat about 37,000 acres over the Fourth of July holiday weekend. So far this season the number of acres we have treated is very similar to the amount we treated last year which is around 145,000 acres including both ground and helicopter treatments.

Operations Report

We are also seeing an increase in adult cattail mosquitoes which is expected this time of year, mostly the first half of July. This season so far, we have received 1,181 calls related to mosquito annoyance. Even with the recent surge of calls from citizens, which is probably due to the emergence of cattail mosquitoes, citizen calls are less than 2018 (1,403) and 2019 (1,559). With more people staying at home due to the pandemic we were anticipating that calls would be up. We are not exactly sure why the call volume is down this year. Hopefully, it's because people aren't being bothered as much by mosquitoes. In response to citizen calls, the recent emergence of adult cattail

mosquitoes and the surveillance for disease vectors, staff have treated 1,600 acres for adult mosquitoes this season.

Fortunately, this spring the rivers and streams did not flood and 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 have made some successful test treatments to wetlands with the treatment drone. Some minor adjustments to the calibration needed to be made and now 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 the sites that are very difficult to treat by ground but too small to treat by helicopter.

Between the rains staff are conducting inspections and treatments for disease vector mosquitoes, 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 suggests that they are confident that the protocols are creating a safe environment for them to work in. So far, we haven't had anyone contract the virus while working at MMCD and we only had one person who was exposed away from work test positive. We are hopeful this will remain the case for the rest of the season. Also, we have had only six minor injuries this year.

Kirk Johnson reported that mosquito-borne disease has started slowly this year. To date CDC reports only 13 WNV cases in the United States and no cases yet in Minnesota. The closest case is one person in Iowa. Last year was a relatively quiet WNV year with 76 U.S. cases by this date including no MN cases but cases in IA, ND, and SD.

None of the 181 mosquito pools tested to date have been WNV positive. The average date of first WNV+ mosquito pool is July 9 with the median date being July 5. The first WNV+ mosquito pool in 2019 was collected on August 7.

Zero La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) cases have been identified in Minnesota. Prevention efforts are ongoing; staff have eliminated 6,357 tires and 1,179 other larval habitats to date.

No cases of Jamestown Canyon virus have been identified in MN or WI to date (so far in 2020, only one case in NH).

Alex Carlson compared total citizen calls to date. Of total calls in 2020, 81% have been about mosquito or black fly annoyance and 13.5% were tire pickup requests.

Public Affairs Report

| | May | June | July 1-17 |
|----------------|------|-------|-----------|
| 2019 | 257 | 1,047 | 347 |
| 2020 | 325 | 552 | 426 |
| Percent change | +20% | -47% | +23% |

Potential reasons for the differences include (1) the black fly surge came in June 2019 and May of 2020, (2) mosquito abundance at the end of June 2020 was below the 10-year average, and (3) bigger things in the world such as COVID-19 were happening in June this year.

Our first virtual Pesticide Applicator Training on July 23 will be closely watched by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture who will be conducting additional workshops later this year.

Each facility has taken a turn running the official Instagram page for MMCD (today the lab is taking over). This has allowed them to share photos, videos, and stories about their daily work and each has done a great job of showing creativity and detail about the work of MMCD.

We have heard from MMCD staff that this has been a great project for staff morale and we've heard from the public that they've learned new things about MMCD work by following these takeovers.

All takeovers are on the MMCD Instagram profile and now they are uploaded to our YouTube page.

In lieu of the fairs that we usually attend as an important aspect of MMCD outreach, we are putting together two videos that are going to help us with outreach. One will be aimed at students (upper elementary) and another at the general public.

Chair Liz Workman asked if there was any other business remaining for the Commission to consider. Hearing none, Chair Liz Workman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Adjournment

| METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| FINANCIAL STATEMENT | | | | | |
| July 31, 2020 | | | | | |
| COUNTY | | 2020 LEVY | REC'D TO DATE | | DUE |
| Anoka | \$ | 1,711,614 | 866,259 | \$ | 845,355 |
| Carver | | 664,487 | 343,251 | | 321,236 |
| Dakota | | 2,437,697 | 1,296,419 | | 1,141,278 |
| Hennepin | | 8,718,595 | 4,463,357 | | 4,255,238 |
| Ramsey | | 2,695,279 | 1,298,960 | | 1,396,319 |
| Scott | | 871,673 | 447,541 | | 424,132 |
| Washington | | 1,566,024 | 784,859 | | 781,165 |
| Market Value Credit | | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| TOTAL | \$ | 18,665,369 | \$ 9,500,647 | \$ | 9,164,722 |
| Tax Delinquent Income | \$ | 0 | \$ 33,336 | | |
| Miscellaneous (Rent/Misc./Non-Levy) | | 100,000 | 96,866 | | |
| Interest Income | | 135,000 | 83,480 | | |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ | 18,900,369 | \$ 9,714,329 | \$ | 9,186,040 |
| BALANCE SHEET | | | | | |
| ASSETS | | | | | |
| Cash and Investments | | | \$ 17,182,712 | | |
| Accounts Receivable | | | 83,795 | | |
| Prepaid Expenses | | | 67,149 | | |
| Consumable Material | | | 1,563,187 | | |
| Equipment net of Acc Depreciation | | | 2,337,007 | | |
| Land | | | 1,118,867 | | |
| Building net of Acc Depreciation | | | 3,250,853 | | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | | | \$ | 25,603,570 |
| LIABILITIES | | | | | |
| Vouchers Payable | | | \$ 85,991 | | |
| Pass thru Revenue | | | 0 | | |
| Deferred Revenue | | | 83,795 | | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | | | \$ | 169,786 |
| NET WORTH | | | | | |
| 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 | | | 9,714,329 | | |
| DEDUCT Expenditures | | | 9,285,760 | | |
| TOTAL NET WORTH | | | | \$ | 25,433,720 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH | | | | \$ | 25,603,570 |

| METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| CUMULATIVE OPERATIONS STATEMENT | | | | | | |
| July 31, 2020 | | | | | | |
| EXPENDITURES | | ACTUAL | | BUDGET | | +OVER/-UNDER |
| <u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u> | | | | | | |
| Operations | \$ | 552,830 | | | | |
| Capital Items | | 0 | | | | |
| Repairs | | 0 | | | | |
| TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE | \$ | 552,830 | \$ | 693,057 | \$ | (140,227) |
| <u>CONTROL DIVISION</u> | | | | | | |
| Operations | \$ | 8,650,743 | | | | |
| Capital Items | | 2,554 | | | | |
| Repairs | | 78,929 | | | | |
| TOTAL CONTROL DIVISION | \$ | 8,732,226 | \$ | 12,013,658 | \$ | (3,281,432) |
| <u>COMMISSION</u> | | | | | | |
| Per Diem | \$ | 0 | | | | |
| Mileage | | 704 | | | | |
| TOTAL COMMISSION | \$ | 704 | \$ | 1,804 | \$ | (1,100) |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$ | 9,285,760 | \$ | 12,708,519 | \$ | (3,422,759) |
| BUDGET REMAINING | | | \$ | 6,843,048 | | |
| ORIGINAL BUDGET | | | \$ | 19,551,567 | | |
| EMERGENCY FUNDS | | | | 0 | | |
| TOTAL BUDGET | | | \$ | 19,551,567 | | |

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

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

On Thursday, July 23, Alex Carlson facilitated the first virtual Applicator Recertification Workshop hosted in collaboration with Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the University of Minnesota Extension. We used GoToMeeting so inspectors needing recertification were 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 workshop went very well. Seventy-one District employees participated.

Staff have used the treatment drone to treat a total of 23 small sites on seven days in July and early August, all with Altosid P35. They have been optimizing settings to achieve desired flow rates, drone speed, swath, and material dose and placement. Staff have been working with the manufacturer, Leading Edge, who has been very helpful. One goal is to treat small floating cattail sites in September with VectoLex, sites that otherwise would be treated when frozen in March with much more expensive Altosid briquets. Treating in September with VectoLex will be much safer and quicker than treating the sites when frozen.

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

So far in August, we received one major rainfall and one that was more isolated. Between the two rainfalls we treated 18,360 acres by helicopter compared to last year when we treated 39,968 acres in August. The total acres treated by helicopter this season is 164,000 acres which is 18,000 acres less than the 182,000 acres that was treated at this point last year. Last year we treated a total of 192,000 acres by helicopter. If the recent rainfall pattern continues, we should treat fewer acres this year.

Over the past four weeks we have seen a steady decline in the number of adult mosquitoes in the District which has resulted in a reduction of citizen calls related to mosquito annoyance.

Between isolated rain storms, staff have been focusing on vector mosquitoes by treating catch basins and stormwater structures, neighborhood inspections, woodlot inspections, surveillance, and treating areas where these adult mosquitoes are found. Citizen calls related to mosquito annoyance have been down so staff have been able to respond to the calls and address their concerns.

This is also the time of year when the college students we hired start returning to school. This year we won't be as short-handed as usual because some students who are attending local colleges and taking courses online are going to stay and work later than normal.

3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

West Nile Virus (WNV)

There have been no WNV illnesses reported in Minnesota this year. There has been little WNV activity throughout our region. South Dakota has reported three WNV illnesses and Iowa one. North Dakota and Wisconsin have not reported cases.

Two mosquito samples collected on August 12 were positive for WNV. The first detection of WNV in mosquitoes was later than this in only two other seasons (2004, 2011). District WNV cases with local exposures were low in those years: four and two, respectively. Last year the first detection of WNV in mosquitoes occurred on August 7. There were only two WNV illnesses in the District last year.

La Crosse Encephalitis (LAC)

This is the time of year when LAC risk is greatest. Most LAC infections in Minnesota occur from late July through early September. Since LAC cases are much more common in children than adults and the vector mosquitoes bite during the daytime, risk typically drops once the school year begins. With some schools going to distance learning or hybrid models, kids will remain at risk if spending time outdoors during the day. La Crosse encephalitis has not been reported yet in Minnesota this year.

Our collections of *Aedes triseriatus*, Minnesota's native LAC vector, have been below average the entire season. Conversely, collections of *Ae. japonicus*, an introduced LAC vector, have remained above average for most of the season. Crews have been responding with risk reduction services when prompted by surveillance results. We are controlling adult mosquitoes where isolated vector populations are located, and District staff are constantly searching for and eliminating small aquatic habitats used by mosquito larvae. Crews have removed 8,150 tires from the field for recycling and have eliminated 2,079 additional larval habitats.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

Nationally, only one human EEE illness has been reported (Massachusetts). It is still early in the peak risk period for EEE illnesses. Cases in horses have been reported in Florida and Georgia and recently in two nearby Wisconsin counties (Dunn and Pepin). Last year there were two horse cases in Minnesota. We have been testing samples of the primary vector of EEE, *Culiseta melanura*, for the virus. All of the samples tested so far this year have been negative.

4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

We are already into mid-August and our first lab staff are returning to school. We will have two inspectors working in September who will focus on larval and adult mosquito IDs and tick removal from small-mammal trapping for the *Ixodes scapularis* surveillance program. Currently, we are almost finished processing samples from a brood of mosquitoes that resulted from a large storm on August 9-10. Many locations received between 1-4 inches of rain and there were reports of golf ball and softball sized hail.

Figure 1 shows the average number of human-biting mosquitoes captured in carbon dioxide-baited traps (122 trap locations) 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*. Thereafter, populations have declined. About 12% of the mosquitoes captured on August 11 were *Cq. perturbans* compared to 78% human biting *Aedes*.

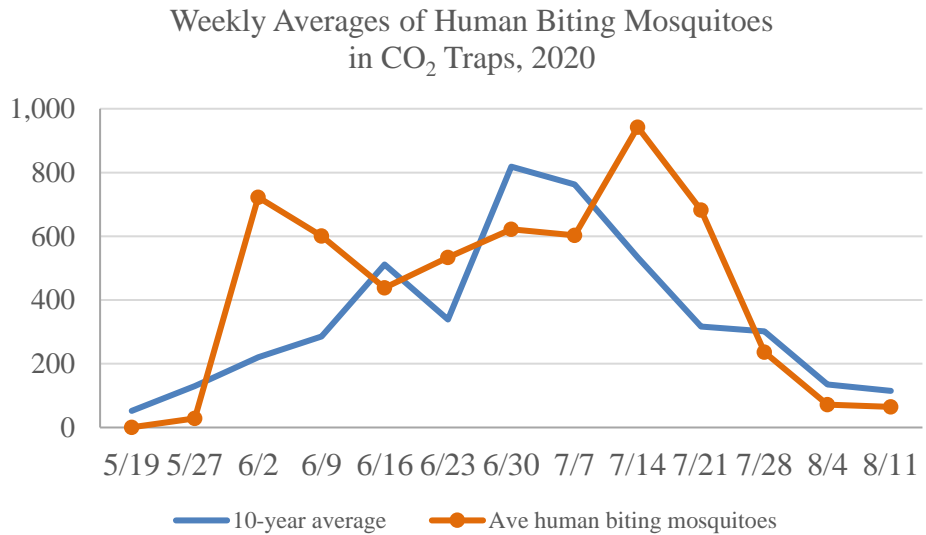


Figure 1. Average number of human biting mosquitoes per week in CO₂-baited traps in 2020 (N = 112-119). Traps are placed in various locations in the seven-county metropolitan area.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Presentations

July 22 - Presentation for Eagan Rotary with Commissioner Tom Egan.

Media Coverage

KARE 11 – Average year so far for mosquitoes, but that could change after the rain this week – July 24, 2020

<https://www.kare11.com/article/news/average-year-so-far-for-mosquitoes-but-that-could-change-after-the-rain-this-week/89-8458da14-cebc-475b-9511-7bbb134f3c5f>

Star Tribune - St. Paul Park couple launches petition to save their kids from bigger than average mosquito swarms - July 14, 2020

<https://www.startribune.com/st-paul-park-couple-launch-petition-to-save-their-kids-from-bigger-than-average-mosquito-swarms/571767802/>

- NOTE: This was a strange story because the couple featured never brought up their concerns to us before launching a petition against Washington County CDA

(Community Development Agency). After the story was published, Field Operations Supervisor Shawn Murphy spoke to them and was very helpful and they were appreciative.

North Metro TV - Managing Mosquitoes with Metropolitan Mosquito Control District - July 23, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pvWoR6SaAs>

Lake Minnetonka Association did a story about MMCD and tips to avoid mosquitoes that was published in their printed newsletter.

Media projects in-development:

- Minnesota Bound has two stories about MMCD set to air next year - one about mosquito control and another about ticks.

Video Projects

With no State Fair happening this year, we are coming up with creative ways to connect with the community. The main way we are doing this is by creating video projects that cover a lot of the MMCD presentation materials. We have two projects in production:

- 1) A 20-minute video for school-aged children in a fun, Bill Nye type format.
- 2) A 5-minute video for the general public that talks about IPM and the work MMCD does.

We aim to debut the student video on August 24 and the IPM video a week or two after that. Here's a sneak preview: <https://twitter.com/metromosquito/status/1293210039096946697>

Customer Calls

Calls for July were about the same in 2020 as in 2019:

Total Calls in July 2020 = 663

Total Calls in July 2019 = 659

There was a big dip in calls at the end of the month which coincided with a decline in mosquito numbers in sweeps and traps.

Instagram Takeovers

We have continued to hand over our Instagram to the field facilities to show some educational information about MMCD day-to-day operations. The Lab and the Catch Basin Crew have both had takeovers in the last month. You can view their takeovers at our Instagram page (Instagram account 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 gnats and mosquitoes. Here are the latest numbers:

- Facebook – 1,542 Page Likes (Up 8 from July 11)
 - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
- Twitter – 742 Followers (Up 41 from July 11)
 - Twitter.com/metromosquito
- Instagram – 157 Followers (Up 24 from July 11)
 - Instagram.com/metromosquito

6. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

New Exotic Tick Found in the US

The Minnesota Department of Health reported to us that the red sheep tick, *Haemaphysalis punctata*, has been found in Rhode Island. This tick species is closely related to the Asian longhorned tick and is known to transmit several diseases to livestock.

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 August 15, 2020.

Tick Vector Field Projects

The 2020 tick surveillance season began April 27. As of August 15, eight of ten routes in the second round of surveillance have been completed. The 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

- Staff from KARE11 television show Minnesota Bound will be doing a story on MMCD and ticks on an upcoming episode. They will be taping on August 18. We will work with the Public Affairs Department on this project.
- 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.
- The 2019 distribution study report is up on our website.
<https://www.mmcd.org/docs/publications/tickreport2019.pdf>