

METROPOLITAN
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

October 28, 2020

9:15 AM

Information Packet

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

October 28, 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 August 26, 2020
4. Financial Statements September 30, 2020
5. Approval of Checks and Claims
General 73902 – 74120

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
7. 2020 District Financial Update and 2021 Initial Plans
8. Financial Auditor Contract Review*
9. Executive Committee Report for September 23, 2020
10. Executive Director’s Report
11. Operations Report – (Scott H-Christy, Kirk Johnson)
12. Public Affairs Report (Alex Carlson)
13. Other Items
14. Adjournment

* Action Requested

Next Executive Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2020, 9:15 a.m.

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 6:00 p.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
AUGUST 26, 2020
9:15 A.M.

Vice Chair Jeff Johnson called 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 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 Mary Liz Holberg	Dakota County
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Ramsey County
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Ramsey County
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Scott County
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Washington County

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator
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

Vice Chair Jeff Johnson 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 July 22, 2020
2. Financial Statements July 31, 2020
2. Approval of Check and Claims
General 73772 – 73901

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Jeff Reinert	Yes
Commissioner Robyn West	Yes
Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Tom Egan	Yes
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg	Yes
Commissioner Jeff Johnson	Yes
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Yes
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire	Yes
Commissioner Tom Wolf	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Lisa Weik	Yes

Commissioners Mandy Meisner, Angela Conley, Rafael Ortega and Michael Beard joined the meeting after the Consent Agenda vote.

Peg Larsen reported that the tension at the capital is palpable and with all of the special sessions it has become more so. The House of Representatives continues to grant the Governor emergency powers. The Senate continues to vote to remove them. Many people on both sides of the aisle think it is probably time to remove the powers. We will see if the Governor calls them back in in September for the fourth special session. The word is that he doesn't think he needs to and he is looking for a way to not do so. However, I do believe the session has to be called. If he does there is a question as to whether they are still in the 30-day silent period due to the sale of bonds. No one seems to be sure at this point although August 26 may be the thirtieth day after which they could pass bills containing money.

*Intergovernmental
Issues*

The informational hearing on the Governor's appointments to the PUC, for Commissioner of Commerce (Steve Kelly), and the Pollution Control Agency (Laura Bishop) have been very controversial and highly charged. The Senate also plans on hearings for DHS Commissioner Jan Malcolm. I understand the Governor and the Senate are not negotiating at this time. However, the Senate and House are speaking regularly. The removal of Commissioner Leppik from Labor and Industry has placed a veil of distrust over the Senate. The Governor's change of heart on the pipeline had added to this dilemma. Commissioner Kelly did state that by law that was his decision (in conjunction with the Governor).

Kim Scott stated that, putting the question of whether the Governor will extend his emergency powers (probably) or whether he has the power to extend his emergency powers without calling the Legislature back into session (he does not) aside, the expectation is that special session number four will occur on September 12.

If the Legislature can take up the bonding bill during the special session, this is really the only piece of legislation on tap that folks are considering (in addition to potential confirmation hearings in the Senate, as Peg mentioned). The Senate Majority, House Majority, and Governor previously agreed on a bonding package, which includes \$1.35 billion in general obligation bonds, \$300 million in trunk highway bonds, and \$147 million in appropriation bonds. Thus far, the House republicans have withheld their support, in order to, motivate Governor Walz to end his peace time emergency order. Newspapers in greater Minnesota have printed the names of House republican members who voted against the bonding bill.

Recently, Speaker Hortman indicated that Minority Leader Daudt may be reconsidering his caucus's position on the bonding bill. Six additional votes are needed to pass the bonding bill in the House. Though the package is unlikely to change, the additional six votes will get some attention. Some of these six votes may come from the New House Republican Caucus led by Steve Drazkowski who, some have speculated, may be interested in running for Congress.

To follow up on the pesticide control ordinance that Rep. Sydney Jordan (District 60A, Northeast Minneapolis) introduced in the first special session, I have not gotten any response to numerous calls or emails. While we will definitely find a way to reach Rep. Jordan prior to the start of the regular session, I am not too concerned about reaching her before the election. After the election, we will make sure to connect.

Stephen Manweiler introduced Alex Carlson who played one of several videos designed for outreach to schools to augment presentations in schools by MMCD staff that are being severely restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This video is an example of something positive developed in response to the pandemic. Alex Carlson explained that the video was aimed at middle school age students and was styled after similar educational material by Bill Nye who combines humor with an educational message. It was slightly over four minutes long and featured seven MMCD employees to depict a competition between two players (one a novice and the other experienced) about mosquito self-protection steps. A mosquito chooses the novice player for her next blood meal. The video explains why the experienced player was protected.

*School Outreach during
the COVID-19
Pandemic*

Commissioners responded positively to the video. Commissioner Meisner suggested using also the video for employee recruitment.

Stephen Manweiler reported that we still are on track to meet our expenditure plan. Unless early September is much wetter than typical, we will meet our expenditure plan.

*Executive Director's
Report*

Stephen Manweiler also reported that another exotic tick, the red sheep tick (*Haemaphysalis punctata*), has been found in Rhode Island. This tick can transmit many diseases, mostly to livestock. It is related to the longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) but is not able to reproduce by parthenogenesis (unmated females producing viable eggs and offspring). The red sheep tick has not been found in Minnesota. It has been added to the list of exotic ticks that a group of Minnesota agencies, including MMCD, are watching for.

Scott Helling-Christy noted that so far in August we received one major rainfall and some isolated ones. Due to these rainfalls, we treated 21,648 acres by helicopter; last year we treated 39,968 acres in August. The total acres treated by helicopter this season is 167,000 acres which is 15,000 acres less than the 182,000 acres that was treated at this point last year. Last season we treated a total of 192,000 acres by helicopter. If the rainfall trends stay similar, we should treat fewer acres this year.

Operations Report

During the last week of July and the first three weeks of August, we saw a steady decline in the number of adult mosquitoes in the District which resulted in a reduction of citizen calls related to mosquito annoyance. Just recently there has been a slight increase in adult mosquitoes in isolated areas in the District along with a slight increase in citizen calls.

Between isolated rainstorms staff have been spending time focusing on vector mosquitoes, conducting activities like treating catch basins and structures, performing neighborhood and woodlot inspections, conducting surveillance, and treating areas where these adult mosquitoes are found. For most of August, 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 the college students we hired start returning to school. This year we aren't going to be as short-handed as we usually are because some students who are attending local colleges and taking courses online are going to stay and work later than normal.

Kirk Johnson stated that the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has reported no cases of West Nile virus (WNV) illness to CDC. To date this year, CDC has reported 63 WNV cases in the USA (in 15 states)

including two fatalities (compared to 206 WNV cases with 11 fatalities in 2019).

Two mosquito pools tested positive for WNV to date (out of 411 pools). Last year through the same period, three mosquito pools had tested positive for WNV.

This is the time of year when La Crosse encephalitis (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 mosquito bites during the daytime, risk drops considerably 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.

Three human eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) cases have been reported in the USA (all in Massachusetts). Equine EEE illnesses have been reported in seven states including two horses in Wisconsin (Dunn and Pepin counties). MMCD staff have conducted adult control in response to elevated detections of *Culiseta melanura*, the EEE vector.

Alex Carlson reported that MMCD has joined a virtual marketplace arranged by the Minnesota State Fair because the usual State Fair activities have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public Affairs Update

Vice Chair Jeff Johnson asked if there was any other business remaining for the Commission to consider. Vice Chair Jeff Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Adjournment

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT						
FINANCIAL STATEMENT						
September 30, 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		1,369,460		1,325,819
Scott		871,673		467,716		403,957
Washington		1,566,024		784,859		781,165
Market Value Credit		0		0		0
TOTAL	\$	18,665,369	\$	9,591,322	\$	9,074,047
Tax Delinquent Income	\$	0	\$	33,387		
Miscellaneous (Rent/Misc./Non-Levy)		100,000		110,815		
Interest Income		135,000		86,389		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	18,900,369	\$	9,821,913	\$	9,078,456
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>						
<u>ASSETS</u>						
Cash and Investments			\$	14,765,076		
Accounts Receivable				83,795		
Prepaid Expenses				0		
Consumable Material				1,401,588		
Equipment net of Acc Depreciation				2,337,007		
Land				1,118,867		
Building net of Acc Depreciation				3,250,853		
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>					\$	22,957,186
<u>LIABILITIES</u>						
Vouchers Payable			\$	73,887		
Pass thru Revenue				0		
Deferred Revenue				83,795		
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>					\$	157,682
<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				9,821,913		
DEDUCT Expenditures				12,027,615		
TOTAL NET WORTH					\$	22,799,449
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH					\$	22,957,186

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT			
CUMULATIVE OPERATIONS STATEMENT			
September 30, 2020			
EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL	BUDGET	+OVER/-UNDER
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>			
Operations	\$ 703,143		
Capital Items	0		
Repairs	0		
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 703,143	\$ 906,305	\$ (203,162)
<u>CONTROL DIVISION</u>			
Operations	\$ 11,209,239		
Capital Items	11,458		
Repairs	103,071		
TOTAL CONTROL DIVISION	\$ 11,323,768	\$ 15,710,168	\$ (4,386,400)
<u>COMMISSION</u>			
Per Diem	\$ 0		
Mileage	704		
TOTAL COMMISSION	\$ 704	\$ 2,359	\$ (1,655)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 12,027,615	\$ 16,618,832	\$ (4,591,217)
BUDGET REMAINING		\$ 2,932,735	
ORIGINAL BUDGET		\$ 19,551,567	
EMERGENCY FUNDS		0	
TOTAL BUDGET		\$ 19,551,567	

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

October 28, 2020

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Informational:

2020 District Financial Update and 2021
Initial Plans

Background

Because of the economic impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic including an expected 10-15% deficit in 2020 levy receipts, in April 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

To meet our 2020 expenditure goal, we cancelled all planned service restorations except the increased cattail mosquito treatments, froze regular fulltime staff hiring, and postponed certain large capital purchases such as scheduled replacement vehicles. We also shifted some control materials to maximize the use of cheaper materials and conserve our supply of N95 masks.

October 2020 Update

The number of acres worth of aerial and ground larval mosquito control completed in 2020 is very similar to 2017. The number of seasonal inspectors was lower in 2020 because only one person could use a vehicle to satisfy social distancing requirements. Having fewer inspectors did not impact our ability to complete larval control because of the material choice changes we implemented and the relatively dry weather during 2020.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Acres Larval Control	304,682	193,890	187,727	212,172	194,651
Acres Adult Control	82,967	42,012	38,479	22,325	6,450
Seasonal Inspectors	238	234	229	229	184

Adult control was significantly lower in 2020, in part because adult mosquito abundance was lower overall and in part because fewer inspectors were available. Nighttime cold fogging was impacted the most.

Our expenditures reduction strategy for 2020 successfully restrained expenditures below our target of \$15,933,030. Without changes to our current strategy we forecast spending about \$1,500,000 less than our target by the end of December, 2020. This is primarily due to savings in the following expense items.

- Regular fulltime employee salaries were lower due to not filling a vacant full-time position and reduced overtime
- Seasonal inspector salaries were lower due to hiring fewer seasonal inspectors and less overtime
- Control material costs were lower because we preferentially used cheaper larvicides for large acre treatments
- Helicopter costs were lower because of fewer aerial treatments due to dry weather
- Capital expenses were lower because we delayed large cost purchases

Next Steps to Prepare for 2021

We recommend the following steps in late 2020 and early 2021 to continue working to balance District funding and expenditures and to maintain reserves to a level that adequately supports District cash flow needs.

- Consider purchasing some larger capital items (e.g., replacement vehicles, facilities maintenance items) before the end of 2020, items that otherwise would be purchased in 2021
- Carry over more control materials so we need to buy less next year, especially if the economic situation in 2021 still is unfavorable
- Review the economic situation by April 2021 to determine how to continue the District's longer-term plan to bring the levy and budget into parity
- Based upon how we decide to proceed with the District's longer-term plan, determine if we have the funding to restore some services cut in 2017

	Actual 2017	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Approved 2020	Preliminary 2021
Beginning Balance	\$12,192,381	\$13,063,662	\$15,598,370	\$18,298,424	\$17,647,229
Revenues/Sources					
Property Taxes					
Anoka County	\$1,587,353	\$1,660,247	\$1,651,491	\$1,711,614	\$1,711,614
Carver County	\$627,464	\$638,676	\$651,304	\$664,487	\$664,487
Dakota County	\$2,245,729	\$2,271,175	\$2,390,290	\$2,437,697	\$2,437,697
Hennepin County	\$8,098,999	\$8,334,417	\$8,419,357	\$8,718,595	\$8,718,595
Ramsey County	\$2,450,091	\$2,574,312	\$2,606,036	\$2,695,279	\$2,695,279
Scott County	\$794,603	\$837,940	\$869,122	\$871,673	\$871,673
Washington County	\$1,478,063	\$1,515,689	\$1,552,182	\$1,566,024	\$1,566,024
Market Value Credit	-	-	-	-	-
Total Property Taxes	\$17,282,302	\$17,832,456	\$18,139,782	\$18,665,369	\$18,665,369
Other Financing Sources	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$243,688	\$285,442	\$412,655	\$235,000	\$235,000
Total Other Sources	\$243,688	\$285,442	\$412,655	\$235,000	\$235,000
Total Revenue	\$17,525,990	\$18,117,898	\$18,552,437	\$18,900,369	\$18,900,369
Expenditures/Uses					
Commissioners	\$2,780	\$2,177	\$2,728	\$3,660	\$3,660
Control Operations	\$14,696,007	\$14,242,771	\$14,199,943	\$18,010,448	\$18,010,448
Capital Outlay	\$943,405	\$351,209	\$667,746	\$527,520	\$527,520
Administration	\$1,012,517	\$987,194	\$981,966	\$1,009,936	\$1,009,936
TOTAL	\$16,654,709	\$15,583,351	\$15,852,383	\$19,551,564	\$19,551,564
Ending Fund Balance					
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	\$9,042,244	\$11,922,138	\$11,270,943	\$10,619,748
TOTAL	\$13,063,662	\$15,598,370	\$18,298,424	\$17,647,229	\$16,996,034
Amount From Fund Balance Used For Expenditures	(\$871,281)	(\$2,534,547)	(\$2,700,054)	\$651,195	\$651,195

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

October 28, 2020

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Action requested:

One-year renewal for District financial audit services (2020 audit) and authorization to advertise for bids in 2021

	2017	2018	2019	2020 (proposed)
HLB Tautges Redpath				
Financial Auditors	\$21,975	\$22,650	\$23,350	\$23,350

Background:

The above maximum fee summary includes all expenses as well as professional service fees.

HLB Tautges Redpath has audited District finances for ten years. Their current three-year contract ended with completion of the 2019 audit, results of which were reported at the July 22, 2020 Commission meeting. HLB Tautges Redpath understands the District and has helped educate and prepare us for the ever changing GASB reporting requirements.

Beginning in March 2020, HLB Tautges Redpath worked with District staff to complete their 2019 audit remotely, a significant operational change for them and us. Including these operational changes, the total cost of the 2019 audit was \$22,404 (4% less than their contract maximum).

Bids were most recently solicited three years ago. Because HLB Tautges Redpath already has modified their processes to satisfy COVID-19 safety requirements and they have agreed to complete the 2020 financial audit (to be reported at the July 2021 Commission meeting) for the same maximum fee as for the 2019 financial audit, we recommend renewing their current contract for one year to include the 2020 financial audit. We also are asking for authority to solicit bids for financial audit services in 2021 after the 2020 financial audit has been completed.

Resolution:

Whereas, the current agreement between MMCD and HLB Tautges Redpath expired with completion of the 2019 financial audit in June 2020, and;

Whereas, preparations to begin the 2020 financial audit will start in November 2020, and;

Whereas, the 2020 financial audit will be completed using strategies implemented in March 2020 for completion of the 2019 financial audit to satisfy COVID-19 safety requirements, and;

Whereas, HLB Tautges Redpath will not increase its maximum fee of \$23,500 to complete the 2020 financial audit, and,

Whereas, HLB Tautges Redpath only charges for services rendered rather than automatically charging the maximum fee,

Be it now resolved, the agreement between MMCD and HLB Tautges Redpath be renewed for one year to complete the 2020 financial audit for the same maximum fee (\$23,500) as for the 2019 financial audit, and;

Be it now resolved, that District staff are authorized to advertise for bids for annual financial auditing services for the District for 2021 through 2023 after completion of the 2020 financial audit (summer 2021 at the latest).

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES
September 23, 2020
9:15 a.m.

Chair Liz Workman called the meeting to order at 9:25 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:

Peg Larsen, 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 its adoption.

*Approval of June 24,
2020 Executive
Committee
Meeting Minutes*

Resolution 1:

Resolved, that the June 24, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Jeff Johnson 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 this has been a fairly quiet month with the emphasis on the national political scene. There was a special session on the September 11 which extended the Governor’s emergency powers.

Legislative Update

The Senate did vote to end Commissioner Kelly’s term.

The Senate had announced another possible special session on September 21 to do bonding and the Governor’s supplement budget. However, this has not yet occurred.

Stephen Manweiler explained that the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board has been renting space from the MMCD since the mid-1990s. The current rental (lease) agreement will expire on December 31, 2020. Since the beginning of this agreement (January 1, 2019), utility and operating expenses have increased. The current rent is \$25,644 per year and will increase 3% to \$26,412 per year (\$2,201 per month) to cover increases in utilities and operating expenses. The new agreement is unchanged except for the new monthly rent.

*MESB Lease
Renewal (2021-22)*

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

Resolution 2:

Whereas, the current rental agreement between MMCD and MESB will expire on December 31, 2020, and the utility and operating expenses have increased since the initiation of the current agreement,

Be it now resolved, the new rental agreement between MMCD and MESB increases the annual rent to \$26,412 and includes the MOA language about Boardroom (205) use by MESB under certain circumstances.

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.

Stephen Manweiler stated that our current lobbyists have not raised their annual fee of \$20,000 since January 2008 and have provided excellent service. In late 2018, the Executive Committee discussed soliciting proposals when lobbyist John Kaul retired. The contract was extended one year with Kim Scott replacing John Kaul. The contract again was extended one year in 2019 because retaining lobbyists with good relationships with legislators seemed to ensure more effective District representation than soliciting proposals after the first year of a two-year legislative cycle.

*Lobbyist Contract
Renewal (2021-22)*

The current contract ends on December 31, 2020. The Executive Committee weighed the merits of extending the current contract and soliciting bids. They recognized the value of lobbyists with strong relationships with the legislature, highlighting the probable impact of the monarch kill caused the aerial adult mosquito treatment on August 27, 2020 in Fargo, North Dakota. They decided to solicit bids because bids were last solicited in 2007. They stated that their decision did not reflect their dissatisfaction with the current lobbyists.

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

Resolution 3:

Whereas, since 2008, the lobbyist contracts have included the same services as the current contract; and,

Whereas, these services include:

Functions

- Build relationships with MMCD staff and key legislators (both republican and democratic parties)
- Monitor developments in state government that impact MMCD operations
- Conduct research, assist with messaging, draft bills and find sponsors

- Represent the MMCD at the Legislature and the Executive Branch
- Support legislation consistent with mission of MMCD and oppose legislation harmful to MMCD

Reporting

- Provide, during session(s), weekly briefs to the MMCD Board and Executive Director by means of email reports
- Attend MMCD Executive and Full Commission meetings
- Initiate regular phone communication with the Executive Director and other interested parties
- Other duties as agreed upon

Be it now resolved, that District staff are authorized to solicit proposals for District Lobbyist services that include the same services as the current contract and are instructed to forward those proposals for Executive Committee review by November 19, 2020.

Commissioner Jeff Johnson 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.

Stephen Manweiler described how MMCD was helping the zoo deal with an outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in caribou. EHD is transmitted by biting midges (*Culicoides*). EHD also impacts deer, moose, and similar hooved animals. It is not a human disease.

*Executive
Director's
Report*

MMCD is helping the zoo develop surveillance for biting midge larvae and adults. Modifying wetlands to mitigate larval development seems the most promising control measure. There is no effective method of adult control. We also are connecting the zoo with other entomologists with greater knowledge about *Culicoides* midges.

Stephen also reported that MMCD has received very few questions or contacts about the risk of mosquito control to monarchs since our outreach to the public. We expect the issue to resurface during the next legislative

session when bills authorizing cities to regulate pesticides again will be discussed.

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 9:58 a.m.

*Other Issues and
Adjournment*

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

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

Scott Helling-Christy, District Operations Manager who also supervises our Plymouth facility, has announced his decision to retire. His last day with the District will be Friday, December 18, 2020.

Scott has completed a total of 45 years of service with the District. Over the years, Scott has made extensive contributions to the District. Scott has consistently shared his expertise and understanding with co-workers and others and has been a valuable and reliable asset to MMCD. His history of the District and his knowledge of the job will be missed.

Other Regional Operations Managers will transfer to the Plymouth and Rosemount facilities leaving an open position at the Jordan facility. Applications to fill this Regional Operations Manager position are due Friday, October 23, 2020. Soon thereafter, we will solicit applications for the District Operations Manager position.

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

Adult mosquitoes no longer are emerging from wetlands. We have not had a hard frost yet so on warm days we might see a few remaining adult mosquitoes in isolated areas trying to get that last blood meal before winter comes.

We received less rain in 2020 than 2019 but the number of acres we treated this year was similar to last year. District Staff completed almost 66,000 breeding site inspections for mosquito larvae and treated 194,651 acres which is slightly less than the 212,172 acres treated in 2019.

We treated significantly fewer acres for adult mosquitoes in 2020 than 2019. In 2019, we treated 22,325 acres and in 2020 we treated 6,450 acres. This could be due to three reasons. First, we received 505 less citizen calls related to annoyance this year compared to last year. Second, the number of vector mosquitoes found in our sampling was down this year. Third, we were operating with 20% less field staff due to COVID-19 protocols. In 2019, we received 1,963 citizen calls related to annoyance and in 2020 we received 1,458 calls. At this time of year, most of the citizen calls we receive are requests to pick up waste tires.

The seasonal Inspector staff along with the Field Operation Supervisors just finished inspecting cattail sites for mosquito larvae. They had excellent weather to do this work. The 29,368 acres they found breeding this year is very close to the 29,616 acres that was found breeding last year. We already treated 1,787 of these acres in September with VectoLex. Most of the remaining acres will be treated next spring.

The last day for the seasonal Inspectors was Friday, October 9. I have received nothing but positive feedback from the seasonal inspectors during their exit interviews related to the COVID-19 protocols we put in place. Everyone has commented on what a good job the District did and how safe they felt coming to work. As far as I know, no one working at MMCD has contacted the COVID-19 virus at work.

Field Operations Supervisors are now focusing on updating field maps, equipment repair, training, and meetings.

3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

West Nile Virus (WNV)

Fewer WNV illnesses have been reported to the CDC in 2020 than at this time in any other year since 1999, the year of its arrival in the United States. Only 212 WNV illnesses have been reported nationally. No WNV illnesses have been confirmed in Minnesota.

Only six mosquito samples tested in the MMCD lab returned positive results for WNV this year. West Nile virus positive samples were collected from Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties. The earliest WNV positive mosquito sample was collected on August 12, one week later than the earliest WNV positive sample in 2019 and more than two months later than the earliest WNV positive sample in 2018.

La Crosse Encephalitis (LAC)

No LAC cases were confirmed in Minnesota in 2020. District surveillance indicated that the *Aedes triseriatus* population remained below average for most of the season with the exception of two weeks in late August when the rate of capture was slightly above average for corresponding weeks of the past 20 years. District crews responded in neighborhoods where *Ae. triseriatus* were found by inspecting properties for larval habitats and sometimes with adult mosquito treatments. Over the course of the 2020 season, MMCD employees removed 11,536 tires from the field for recycling, eliminated 3,131 container habitats, and filled 374 tree holes.

Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV)

There were no Jamestown Canyon virus illnesses reported in Minnesota in 2020. We have continued working with partners through the Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-borne Disease to evaluate JCV in the region. We have processed dozens of mosquito samples to be tested for the virus later this year.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis

For the second consecutive year, EEE illnesses have been diagnosed in Minnesota horses. Two horses were euthanized in 2020 following infection with the EEE virus, one in Aitkin County in late August and one in Benton County in late September. The population of the primary EEE vector (*Culiseta melanura*) remained low in most of the District in 2020 although in the later portion of the summer our surveillance did detect areas with elevated numbers. Nineteen samples of *Culiseta melanura* tested in our lab were all negative for EEE virus.

4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

We are wrapping up the remaining lab projects including identifying larval samples, identifying nontarget macroinvertebrate samples from the Mississippi River, entering New Jersey trap sample data, rearing mosquitoes from eggs collected near a tire recycling facility in Scott County, and removing ticks from small mammals used to monitor the distribution of *Ixodes scapularis* (i.e. deer tick). Other projects we participated in this summer include sending *Culex tarsalis* from the seven metro counties to a researcher at Penn State who is conducting a population genetics study, submitted spring *Aedes* mosquitoes (89 pools) to test for Jamestown Canyon virus, and we performed limited IDs for vectors of the epizootic hemorrhagic disease outbreak in caribou at the Minnesota Zoo.

Weekly adult collections continued through September 22. The last weekly scheduled sampling date (September 29) was canceled due to cold, rainy conditions. The graph below (Figure 1) shows the average number of human biting mosquitoes collected compared to the 10-year average. While we had high levels of mosquitoes from early June through mid-July, mosquito levels were at or below the 10-year average from the end of July through September.

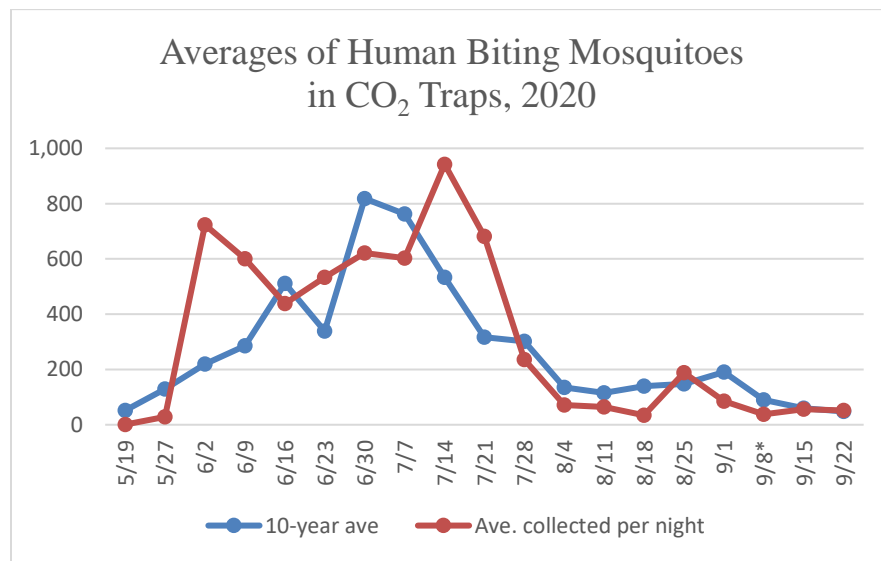


Figure 1. Average number of human biting mosquitoes per week in CO₂-baited traps in 2020 (N = 112-119). Traps are placed in various locations in the seven-county metropolitan area.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Presentations

- Friday, September 30 - Virtual presentation for Metro Children’s Water Festival for around 40 elementary aged students from around the Twin Cities.
- October 5 - Virtual presentation for Category L Recertification Clinic in partnership with University of Minnesota Office of Extension.

- October 12 - Virtual presentation for 4th grade students at Cedar Park Elementary in Apple Valley.

City Reports

We are in the process of compiling individualized “City Reports” for most of the cities and townships in the District. These will have a new look from years past and highlight the work we’ve done in terms of larval and adult treatments, acres inspected, tires collected, catch basins treated, and customer calls answered.

School Video

We continue to receive positive feedback from educators who have been using our school video. As of this report it has been viewed 284 times.

Customer Calls

Calls for September were down slightly from 2019:

Total Calls in September 2020 = 86
Total Calls in September 2019 = 101

Most of September was pretty dry with low mosquito numbers.

Social Media

Our social media presence continued to grow this month as we seek to educate and inform citizens on Facebook, Twitter, and our new Instagram page:

- Facebook – 1,545 Page Likes (Up 3 from September 1)
 - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
- Twitter – 765 Followers (Up 14 from September 1)
 - Twitter.com/metromosquito
- Instagram – 199 Followers (Up 31 from September 1)
 - Instagram.com/metromosquito

6. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

New Exotic Tick Found in the U.S.

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 detected in Minnesota as of October 17, 2020.

Tick Vector Field Projects

The 2020 tick surveillance season began April 27. As of October 17, eight of ten routes in the third and final round of surveillance have been completed. The first round of surveillance was completed on June 18 and the second round on August 27. Due to field staffing impacts of COVID-19, St. Paul staff are assisting as needed in the field in 2020.

Public Education/Outreach

- 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 will be out in low numbers throughout the fall, until temperatures stay consistently below 35 degrees.
- 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 posted on our website.
<https://www.mmcd.org/docs/publications/tickreport2019.pdf>