

METROPOLITAN
MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 19, 2020

9:15 am

Information Packet

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

COMMITTEE: **Executive Committee Meeting**
 Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
 2099 University Avenue West
 St. Paul, MN 55104

DATE: **Thursday, November 19, 2020**
TIME: **9:15 AM**

A G E N D A

1. Approval of Minutes for September 23, 2020 Meeting*
2. Intergovernmental Issues – (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
3. Approve Renewal of Helicopter Contract*
4. Award of Professional Representation Bid*
5. Executive Director’s Report
6. Other Issues
7. Adjournment

* Action Requested

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

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

(Proposed)

Organizational Meeting: Thursday January 7, 2021, 9:15 a.m.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 9:15 a.m.

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 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 with 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 Commission review by October 28, 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 Minnesota zoo deal with an outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in caribou. EHD is vectored by *Culicoides* midges. It also impacts deer and moose and similar hooved animals. It is not a human disease.

*Executive
Director's
Report*

MMCD is helping the zoo develop surveillance for midge larvae and adults. Modifying wetlands to mitigate larval midge development seems the most promising control measure. There is no effective method of adult midge control available. 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*

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

November 19, 2020

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Action Requested:

Renewal of helicopter services contract (2021-23)

Background:

The District uses contracted helicopter services to make control material applications in mosquito breeding sites throughout the District. The District has been contracting for multiple year services. Contracts covering 2012-2014, 2015-2017, and 2018-2020 have helped the District develop multiyear budget plans that meet service delivery needs.

The District solicited bids in 2012, 2015, and 2018. Bid specifications were sent to between 9 and 13 vendors each bid solicitation. Each time only one bid was received from the same vendor, Scott’s Helicopter Services. The relatively large number of helicopters required by the District seems to have limited the number of vendors that submitted bids. Scott’s Helicopter Services has provided excellent service every year for the District.

Scott’s Helicopter Services has proposed to renew the current contract with no changes except for a price increase of 8.20% which equates to a 2.66% annual increase over three years. Prices were last increased three years ago and have been steady since 2018.

Aerial Application – Six Helicopters with Upgraded GIS Systems	Per Year	Three-Year Contract
Scott’s Helicopter Service (2021-23) (proposed)	\$2,114,260.00	\$6,342,780.00
Current contract (2018-20)	\$1,954,075.00	\$5,862,225.00

Resolution:

Be it now resolved, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission approves renewing the three-year contract with Scott’s Helicopter Service for services rendered from April 1, 2021 through October 31, 2023 for an annual cost of \$2,114,260.00 (an 8.20% increase over the 2018-20 contract). This contract will include the same services and same guarantees as the 2018-20 contract.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

November 19, 2020

Requested by:

Stephen Manweiler
Arleen Schacht

Action Requested:

Approval of bid for professional representation services

Background:

The District desires professional representation services to remain aware of legislation that could potentially impact the District's ability to deliver services to citizens. The current contract and bid specifications include the following functions and reporting (services provided to MMCD).

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 with 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
- Upon request attend MMCD Board meetings
- Initiate regular phone communication with the Executive Director and other interested parties
- Other duties as agreed upon

Bid specifications were advertised through the League of Minnesota Cities. The deadline for submission to the MMCD front desk at 2099 University Avenue W., Saint Paul, MN, 55104 was 2:00 PM Central, Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

Three potential providers of professional representation contacted the District. Two (Flaherty & Hood, P.A., Knaak & Kantrud, P.A.) asked various questions. Only one submitted a proposal.

Potential Vendor	Proposal submission/questions?	Annual Cost
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Flaherty & Hood, P.A. Questions asked – no proposal submitted

Specifically, will the District be proactively seeking passage of legislation at the legislature or do you anticipate the work will fall more into the category of monitor and respond to legislative/agency issues as they arise? Understanding this will help me tailor a proposal to best meet your needs.

Second, I am noting that you currently have two registered lobbyists. This could mean one of three things...

- 1). You are required either by statute or your own operating procedures to go for an RFP every so often (as I know is the case with other state/local gov't agencies);
- 2). You are severing ties with your existing consultants; or
- 3). You intend for the new firm to compliment the work of your existing consultants.

Knaak & Kantrud, P.A. Questions asked – no proposal submitted

Please forward a copy of the MMCD proposal form indicated in the RFP for Representation Services. <https://www.mmcd.org/docs/commission/Lobbyist-RFP-Oct-2020.pdf>

Do you have the actual/budgeted amount for these services in the past two years and the current contract holder?

RCS Consulting LLC and KKS, P.A.	Bid proposal submitted All functions and reporting services are included.	\$20,000
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Resolution:

Be it now resolved, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission approves the proposal for professional representation services by RCS Consulting LLC and KKS, P.A. for services rendered from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022 for an all-inclusive annual cost of \$20,000.

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

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

On Thursday, November 5, 2020, we promoted Casey Herrmann to fill the Regional Operations Manager (ROM) position at the Jordan facility. Casey has been a Field Operations Supervisor with the District for over 13 years. He brings years of experience and wealth of knowledge of the Jordan facility and field operations.

We now plan to fill the District Operations Manager (DOM) position currently filled by Scott Christy who will retire on December 18.

Our first staff training session (disability training) will take place in December 1. All training conducted between now and April 2021 will be remote to adhere to COVID-19 safety measures. Most sessions will be recorded which should enable staff to complete all required training while meeting other work and family responsibilities during the pandemic.

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

We have just finished a gorgeous stretch of weather that has allowed staff to get out in the field to update maps. Even though it is getting colder, as long as we don't get a lot of snow conditions still are good for field supervisors to update maps. Some of the field supervisors who have been trained to operate the two surveillance drones have been using them to help map areas where changes from development have occurred or that are difficult to map. Each year staff try to update 20% of their field maps making sure breeding sites, roads, and landmarks are all accurately mapped.

With the warm temperatures we have enjoyed the first week of November, there have been reports from staff that they've seen adult mosquitoes flying around. These are mosquitoes that survived the freezing temperatures in October or came out of hibernation. With temperatures dropping again they should go back into hiding or hibernation. We are still wrapping up the last tire pickups that have been generated by citizen calls. These tires will then be dropped off at or picked up by tire recyclers. Field staff are also completing maintenance on equipment and vehicles, learning new mapping software, attending virtual meetings, online training, and taking time off.

3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

Human Illnesses in Minnesota

There were no West Nile virus (WNV) illnesses confirmed by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in 2020. Also, there were no WNV positive blood donors reported in Minnesota.

There were no Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) illnesses confirmed by MDH in 2020. The virus has caused numerous illnesses in Minnesota and Wisconsin over the past decade.

There were no La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) cases reported in Minnesota in 2020.

Although eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEE) caused illnesses in two Minnesota horses, there were no human illnesses attributed to the virus in Minnesota in 2020.

2020 Review and Preparations for 2021

District staff are reviewing data collected in 2020 and are in the early stages of planning to respond to mosquito-borne disease risk during the 2021 season. Prevention of EEE, JCV, LAC, and WNV infections will remain among our primary responsibilities.

We were forced to alter certain disease risk reduction activities in 2020 due to COVID-19 precautionary practices (i.e. not pairing Inspectors in one vehicle). We learned during the season to adapt to some of the challenges presented and we received additional feedback from Inspectors on improving those tasks further if COVID restrictions remain in place at the start of 2021.

4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the District hired fewer field inspectors than usual which resulted in many fewer larval samples collected in 2020. Lab staff have finished identifying 12,000 larval samples (3,417 from small sites treated by hand and 8,583 samples from air sites treated by helicopter). The total number of samples was well below the number collected in 2019 (over 20,000); the 10-year average is 23,907 samples per season. A total of 830 samples from tires, tree holes, and containers to detect La Crosse encephalitis vectors were identified. Additionally, 525 larval black fly samples were identified to determine if target species met treatment thresholds.

All adult mosquito samples have been identified and the data has been checked. The next lab project is to identify the benthic macroinvertebrates for the Black Fly Program's non-target impact study. That project should take two months to finish.

We can now begin our data quality checks and will begin to run summaries to be included in the surveillance chapter for the report to the Technical Advisory Board. Scott Larson is assisting the field with a mapping project focused on catch basins and he is also been working on developing MMCD's standard operating procedures for our drone activities. Carey LaMere is running data quality checks. In November, we will be attending (virtually) the Entomological Society of America's annual meeting

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Presentations

- October 22 and November 9 – Category L Presentation in partnership with University of Minnesota Office of Extension for MN Dept. of Ag recertification.

- October 26 – November 2 – Scarecrow Trail for City of Vadnais Heights – The East facility decorated a mosquito-themed scarecrow for this drive-through event.

We submitted our registration for the 2021 Minnesota State Fair! We are hoping we're back to business as usual in the Dairy Building.

City Reports

City reports are completed and being mailed out and sent electronically to city and township administrators this week. We will also be posting an overall recap on the MMCD website, so look out for that coming soon!

Off-Season Outreach

Reaching out to organizations for education, recruitment, and public awareness is difficult in the time of COVID, but the communications team continues to find innovative ways to reach new communities. We are working on a project to speak to up to several new groups this coming season one-to-one and virtually.

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 – 1,546 Page Likes (Up 1 from October 19)
 - Facebook.com/metromosquitocd
- Twitter – 765 Followers (Up 0 from October 19)
 - Twitter.com/metromosquito
- Instagram – 204 Followers (Up 5 from October 19)
 - 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 November 8, 2020.

Tick Vector Field Projects

The 2020 tick surveillance season began April 27. Our third and final round of surveillance was completed on October 29. 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 on our website.
<https://www.mmcd.org/docs/publications/tickreport2019.pdf>