

**Metropolitan
Mosquito Control District**

Commission Meeting

February 22, 2023

9:15 AM

Information Packet

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

FEBRUARY 22, 2023, 9:15 AM

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 December 14, 2022
4. Approval of Organizational Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2023
5. Approval of Checks and Claims
General 76869 - 77069

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Intergovernmental Issues – Peg Larsen, Kim Scott
7. Executive Committee Report for January 25, 2023
8. Budget and Levy Development Schedule
9. Executive Director’s Report
10. Operations Report– Jon Peterson, Kirk Johnson, Mark Smith
11. Public Affairs Report – Alex Carlson
12. Other Items
13. Adjournment

* Action Requested

Next Executive Meeting: Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 9:15 a.m.

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 9:15 a.m.

COMMISSIONER	COUNTY	COMMISSIONER	COUNTY
___ Mike Gamache	Anoka	___ Angela Conley	Hennepin
___ Julie Jeppson	Anoka	___ Chris LaTondresse	Hennepin
___ Mandy Meisner	Anoka	___ Mai Chong Xiong	Ramsey
___ Gayle Degler	Carver	___ Nicole Frethem	Ramsey
___ Tom Workman	Carver	___ Rena Moran	Ramsey
___ Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota	___ David Beer	Scott
___ Laurie Halverson	Dakota	___ Tom Wolf	Scott
___ Liz Workman	Dakota	___ Gary Kriesel	Washington
___ Kevin Anderson	Hennepin	___ Fran Miron	Washington

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 2022
6:00 PM

Chair Angela Conley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was in person.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Angela Conley, Chair	Hennepin County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel, Vice-Chair	Washington County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem, Secy.	Ramsey County
Commissioner Mandy Meisner	Anoka County
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Anoka County
Commissioner Robyn West	Anoka County
Commissioner Gayle Degler	Carver County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Dakota County
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Chris LaTondresse	Hennepin County
Commissioner Jim McDonough	Ramsey County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

Staff:

Stephen Manweiler, Executive Director
Arleen Schacht, Business Administrator
Jon Peterson, District Operations Manager
Kirk Johnson, Vector Ecologist
Alex Carlson, Public Affairs Coordinator

Visitors:

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

Chair Angela Conley welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.
Commissioner Laurie Halverson arrived after roll call.

Because some Commissioners needed to leave early to attend other events, Chair Angela Conley deferred agenda items that involved reports until after those associated with votes.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 1:

The following administrative items were moved in one motion.

Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes for October 26, 2022

Approval of Financial Statements November 30, 2022

Approval of Checks and Claims. General 76735 – 76868

Commissioner Kevin Anderson seconded the motion. Chair Angela Conley asked all in favor to say “Aye” and those opposed to say “No.” The resolution was approved unanimously.

Public Comment MMCD Payable 2023 Total Levy and 2023 Budget

Chair Angela Conley opened the meeting for public comment and (three times) asked anyone from the public who wanted to comment to please come forward. Nobody stepped forward to comment about the 2023 MMCD payable levy and MMCD 2023 Budget.

Commissioner Fran Miron moved that the public comment period be closed. Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland seconded the motion. Chair Angela Conley asked all in favor to say “Aye” and those opposed to say “No.” The resolution was approved unanimously.

Approval of Payable 2023 Levy

Commissioner Jim McDonough offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 2:

Whereas, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission has reviewed the proposed property tax levy for payable 2023 considering the needs of the program, and

Whereas, the 2023 levy is proposed in the amount of \$19,419,470, a 2% increase over the 2022 original levy of \$19,038,696, and

Whereas, the Commission has held a public hearing conforming with truth in taxation requirements,

Be it now resolved, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission adopts the payable 2023 levy in the amount of \$19,419,470 to the Minnesota Department of Revenue, a 2% increase over the 2022 levy of \$19,038,696, and authorizes staff to certify the levy to the Minnesota Department of Revenue and the Counties of the District.

Commissioner Chris LaTondresse seconded the motion. Chair Angela Conley asked all in favor to say “Aye” and those opposed to say “No.” The resolution was approved unanimously.

Approve Budget for 2023

Commissioner Mike Gamache offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 3:

Whereas, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission has reviewed the proposed 2023 operations budget of \$19,933,874, a 1% increase from the original 2022 budget (\$19,741,768), which is sufficient to meet the needs of the program, and

Whereas, the operations budget includes capital equipment and maintenance of \$527,520 for replacement equipment and facility maintenance, and

Whereas, the budget leaves intact the MMCD’s unassigned working capital account which needs to cover approximately 55% of expenditures and leaves \$8,652,020 for emergency disease control, employee benefits, control materials, and other assigned funds,

Be it now resolved, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission approves the final 2022 operations budget in the amount of \$19,741,768, and adopts the proposed 2023 expenditures budget in the amount of \$19,933,874, an increase of 1% from the 2022 budget.

Commissioner Chris LaTondresse seconded the motion. Chair Angela Conley asked all in favor to say “Aye” and those opposed to say “No.” The resolution was approved unanimously.

Closed Session Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.03 to Discuss Labor Negotiation Strategy

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland moved that we close the meeting. Commissioner Kevin Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was closed at 6:20 p.m. and reopened at 7:31 p.m.

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland offered the following motion.

That non-represented, regular full-time staff wages and benefits, beginning January 1, 2023, be as follows: an hourly wage increase of \$2.50 and the health, dental and vision benefits shall be as reflected in the chart previously provided to all employees for open enrollment.

Commissioner Kevin Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Intergovernmental Issues

Kim Scott and Peg Larsen reported that the Legislature returns on January 3, 2023. According to statute, the Legislature must meet the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each

odd-numbered year, which is also “the budget session.” Minnesota Management and Budget released the November economic forecast, and the surplus is estimated to be \$17.6 billion.

Having a surplus does not mean that there will not be battles over how to spend the state’s revenue as everyone has an idea for what would be the best use of the dollars. Thus far, education, health care and paid parental leave are getting the most discussion as the highest spending priorities. There is also a push to eliminate the tax on social security, which, if passed, may include a cap. Eliminating the tax on social security was included in last session’s tax bill, but did not make it into the final omnibus version (no tax bill was ultimately passed last session). If the tax on social security is eliminated, it will reduce the state’s revenue going forward.

Both the Senate and House have named their committee chairs. MMCD has worked with several of the chairs whose committee jurisdictions have the potential to impact MMCD’s work.

In the Senate:

Sen. Founj Hawj will be the presumed Chair of the Environment Finance and Policy committee. Sen. Hawj represents the east side of St. Paul and has been a leader in his caucus on environment issues. This will be his first chairmanship.

Sen. Aric Putnam, of St. Cloud, will be the Chair of the Agriculture committee. Sen. Putnam is a communications professor at the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s, he has expressed interest in taking a bipartisan approach to his committee. This will be the first chairmanship for Sen. Putnam.

In the House:

Rep. Rick Hansen, of south St. Paul, will again chair the Environment Finance and Policy committee. Rep. Hansen holds degrees in biology and soil management, he is passionate about protecting pollinators, and he has been receptive to addressing MMCD’s concerns in the past.

Rep. Samantha Vang, of Brooklyn Center, will be the Chair of the Agriculture Finance committee. Rep. Vang is a housing advocate. We have productively worked with Rep. Vang in the past and she came to MMCD’s offices for a presentation from the Director. This will be the first chairmanship for Rep. Vang.

Executive Committee Report

Stephen Manweiler reported that, at their November 17, 2022 meeting, the Executive Committee approved removing from the fund balance \$1 million committed to pay off the Anoka lease bond because that bond will be paid in full by February 2023. The Executive Committee also approved updating the MMCD purchasing policy to align with increased values requiring closed bids, quotes, etc., in current statutes.

Executive Director’s Report

Stephen Manweiler reported that he, Arleen Schacht, and Jennifer Macchia (HR) met with Pat Melvin (DDA Human Resources) on December 13 to prepare for the search for the next Executive Director. Pat will interview other top managerial staff on December 19 to get more feedback about what MMCD desires in its next Executive Director. After the Organizational meeting on January 5, 2023, Pat will contact the Commission Chair to assemble Commissioners who will interview finalists for the Executive Director position.

Also, on December 8, we celebrated employee recognition with trivia games (two truths and a lie, entomology bingo) and a potluck.

Operations Report

Jon Peterson reported that last year, he described the 2021 season as one word, “Dry”. For the 2022 season, he repeated himself when describing the season, “Dry: Part 2”. Staff still did very important work controlling annoyance and disease vector mosquitoes and working to eliminate and to treat structures that could potentially provide larval habitat for disease vector mosquitoes.

The cold, snow, and ice have arrived in Minnesota. The wetlands, if they had water in them, are now frozen over and covered in snow. The current US drought monitor indicates that most of the metro is in the severe to extreme drought range. We will need a large snowfall this winter to help the area get back to normal water levels.

Field staff are continuing to review the 2022 data and update their field maps. They are also attending meetings, doing maintenance on equipment, and starting to prepare for the 2023 field season. The winter will go by fast with all that we plan to work on and accomplish.

Kirk Johnson stated, to date this year, the Minnesota Department of Health has reported twelve WNV illnesses to the CDC including two District residents (one each in Hennepin and Ramsey counties). Six additional potential cases in Minnesota are being investigated.

Three La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) cases have been confirmed in Minnesota this year (one each in Olmstead, Wright, and Hennepin counties). Lengthy drought conditions impacted the *Aedes triseriatus* population in the District which remained below average most of the season. District crews responded in neighborhoods where *Ae. triseriatus* were found by inspecting properties for larval habitats and at times with adult mosquito treatments. Over the course of the 2022 season, MMCD employees removed 11,753 tires from the field for recycling and eliminated 1,087 container habitats and filled 92 tree holes.

The Minnesota Department of Health has confirmed one Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) illness in Minnesota this year. The case is in a resident of Ramsey County who was likely exposed to the virus in another Minnesota county outside of the District.

No eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) activity has been reported in Minnesota in 2022.

Public Affairs Report

Alex Carlson reported that overall calls were up from 1,173 in 2021 to 1,460 in 2022, mainly due to an increase in annoyance calls which more than doubled the 2021 total.

- Report Mosquito Annoyance: 856 in 2022; 410 in 2021
- Request Tire Pickup: 377 in 2022; 374 in 2021
- Restricted Access: 76 in 2022; 73 in 2021
- Request Treatment for Public Event: 61 in 2022; 43 in 2021
- Helicopter or Employee Concern: 23 in 2022; 23 in 2021

The most calls came from Anoka County which had 546 calls and e-mails followed by Hennepin County which had 324.

Community events were strong in 2022 with the biggest being the Minnesota State Fair where we interacted with about 7,900 people and where 29 MMCD staff members worked shifts. We also delivered presentations at rotary clubs, city environmental commissions, and 21 elementary, middle, and high schools around the District.

MMCD was featured in statewide and local news stories 29 times in 2022 including some new, unique experiences like an interview with Dr. Nancy Read on the Three Rivers Park District's podcast "The Wandering Naturalist" and a live appearance on Fox 9 Morning for World Mosquito Day.

We also made numerous improvements to our website and expanded our social media presence in 2022. We look forward to continuing to expand our public interactions in 2023 including, by popular demand, more appearances by Vectoria.

Other Items

Chair Angela Conley thanked Stephen Manweiler for his years of service to the District and congratulated him on his retirement on December 23, 2022. Stephen thanked the Commission for working with him and all District staff to provide the District with guidance and support enabling it to provide the best possible service to District residents.

Adjournment

Commissioner Angela Conley adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

**METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
ORGANIZATION MEETING**

**MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2023
9:15 AM**

Commission meeting began at 9:40 a.m. This meeting was conducted in person.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Mike Gamache	Anoka County
Commissioner Julie Jeppson	Anoka County
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Dakota County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong	Ramsey County
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Ramsey County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

Staff:

Arleen Schacht, Interim Executive Director

Visitors:

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

Swearing in of Commissioners

Joe Langel, MMCD Legal Counsel, asked Arleen Schacht to administer the oath of office to Commissioners participating in the meeting today orally in one group.

Appointment of Temporary Chair

Commissioners and Commissioner Liz Workman asked Arleen Schacht to serve as temporary chair of the meeting until officers can be elected and moved approval by this Commission.

Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows:

Commissioner Mike Gamache	Yes
Commissioner Julie Jeppson	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes
Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Fran Miron	Yes

Election of Officers

Arleen Schacht referred the Commissioners to the recap of the rotation of the Commission officers. Officers serve for two years. The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary in 2022 all were in their second year serving as these officers. The rotation would have new Commissioners serve as Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary in 2023 which would be their first year. The rotation indicates that a Commissioner from Washington County would become the Chair, a Commissioner from Ramsey County would become the Vice Chair, and a Commissioner from Carver County would become the Secretary. Arleen Schacht asked if anyone would like to make a motion to nominate Commissioners as officers in 2023.

Commissioner Gary Kriesel moved to nominate Commissioner Fran Miron as Chair;
Commissioner Nicole Frethem seconded the motion.
Commissioner Nicole Frethem moved to nominate Commissioner Rena Moran as Vice-Chair,
Commissioner Kevin Anderson seconded the motion.
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland moved to nominate Commissioner Tom Workman as Secretary, Commissioner Julie Jeppson seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows:

Commissioner Mike Gamache	Yes
Commissioner Julie Jeppson	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes
Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Fran Miron	Yes

Arleen Schacht passed the gavel to Commissioner Fran Miron to serve as the Chair for the duration of the Organizational Meeting.

Appointment of Executive Committee

Chair Fran Miron reviewed the composition of the Executive Committee in 2022. Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland moved that Commissioners Fran Miron, Rena Moran, Tom Workman, Liz Workman, Mike Gamache, Kevin Anderson, and David Beer be Executive Committee members in 2023.

Commissioner Kevin Anderson seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows:

Commissioner Mike Gamache	Yes
Commissioner Julie Jeppson	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes
Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Fran Miron	Yes

Meeting Schedule – Day and Time

The Commission reviewed the proposed 2023 meeting schedule. Commissioner Laurie Halverson moved that the proposed 2023 Commission and Executive Committee meeting schedule be adopted.

Commissioner Nicole Frethem seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted as follows:

Commissioner Mike Gamache	Yes
Commissioner Julie Jeppson	Yes
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Laurie Halverson	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes
Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong	Yes
Commissioner Nicole Frethem	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Fran Miron	Yes

Legislative Update

The 2023 Minnesota Legislative session commenced on Tuesday, January 3. It took most of the following day for the Senate to formally organize its committees after several rounds of resolutions and amendments regarding remote voting and committee membership. The first day of bill introductions in the House produced 55 bills and 34 bills in the Senate. The Legislature often uses the first bill numbers to signal their top priorities. Both House File and Senate File number 1 are bills to establish a fundamental right to reproductive health with the bill scheduled for its first House hearing today.

There are copious requests for how to spend the estimated \$17.6 billion revenue surplus. The amount of the surplus is unusual, but numerous requests for how to spend the dollars are not at all unusual. Throughout the session, legislators will grapple with pent up demand from local units of government, spending for education, paid family leave, and social security tax relief.

As the session progresses, we will familiarize freshman legislators with MMCD’s mission with a particular focus on members of the environment and agriculture committees where policies relating to pesticides and pollinators are taken up.

The last day of session will be May 22, 2023.

Other Issues

Gary Kriesel asked how the search for the new Executive Director was going. Arleen Schacht stated that the process is in the early stages. The recruiter has had conversations with some staff, with the next steps being to establish a hiring committee, made up of four Commissioners, who will meet with the recruiter to establish timelines.

Adjournment

Chair Fran Miron asked if there was any additional business. No Commissioners brought up any additional business. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2023
9:15 AM

The Executive Committee had a quorum, but no officers were in attendance, so Arleen Schacht, Interim Executive Director called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Mike Gamache	Anoka County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Washington County

Staff:

Arleen Schacht, Interim Executive Director
Cassie Sweeney-Truitt, Administrative Assistant

Visitors:

Peg Larsen, RCS Consulting
Joe Langel, MMCD Legal Counsel

Chair Fran Miron welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Approval of Minutes for November 17, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting

Commissioner Kevin Anderson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 1:

Resolved, that the November 17, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Commissioner Liz Workman seconded the motion. Arleen Schacht asked all in favor to say “Aye” and those opposed to say “Nay.” The resolution was approved unanimously.

Intergovernmental Issues

Our proposal to change the statute will go the State Government committee. That means that we need to educate the committee members as to the purpose of Metropolitan Mosquito, Control District. Chair Hanson is on that committee and Kim has had a casual conversation with him, he is open to carrying the bill.

We are moving into spending proposals for this session. They are considering two bonding bills. The governor has put his budget proposals out there for discussion.

The pace of the session so far has been intense, and the revision's office has 5,000 bills to still put together. That means we are going to have another record number of bills for introduction. As I said, in the last meeting, everybody has an idea as to how to spend a \$17 billion surplus. Some of which must go into the rainy-day fund but that leaves a huge amount of money. Education seems to be a priority for the governor as well as Walz checks.

Budget and Levy Development Schedule

Arleen Schacht explained that pages 7-9 of the information packet summarize a calendar of different steps in the 2023 levy and budget development process. The dates have been updated to reflect 2023 but otherwise steps have not been changed. Also includes a legal explanation of why the Commission needs to approve a preliminary levy at its July meeting, a requirement that is a bit different than for other agencies.

Tom Workman, Secretary joined the meeting and Arleen Schacht handed over the running of the meeting at this point.

Insurance Liability Waiver

Arleen Schacht reported that the District and Commission have not waived the statutory limits in the past. Arleen recommended that the statutory limits again not be waived, keeping the limits at \$500,000/\$1,500,000.

Commissioner Liz Workman offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 2:

Resolved, that District does not waive the statutory insurance liability limits.

Commissioner Mike Gamache seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes

Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Change Statutory Language

At the January 5, 2023, Board meeting, the Commissioners discussed the Director recruitment efforts and the existing statutory requirement that the Director be an entomologist. The consensus was that an entomology background should no longer be a required condition of employment. Changing the requirement requires a statutory amendment by the Legislature.

The current statutory language (Minn. Stat. § 473.704, subd. 3) is as follows:

“Subd. 3. **Director; to be entomologist.** It may employ and fix the duties and compensation of a director who shall develop the control programs of the district and shall supervise its execution; such director shall be an entomologist.”

The proposal is to remove the phrase, “; to be an entomologist” in the title, and to remove the phrase, “; such director shall be an entomologist” in the body of the subdivision.

Staff is seeking authority to work with MMCD lobbyists Peg Larsen and Kim Scott as well as legislative staff to submit a bill for this amendment, or alternative language.

Commissioner Kevin Anderson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolution 3:

Resolved, that the District authorize MMCD lobbyists and other legislative staff submit a bill for change in statutory language.

Commissioner Mike Gamache seconded the motion.

The Commissioners voted as follows.

Commissioner Tom Workman	Yes
Commissioner Liz Workman	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes
Commissioner Mike Gamache	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Yes
Commissioner Gary Kriesel	Yes

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Committee discussed and agreed to put on hold the Executive Director search until more information is available on how the legislative bill, changing the statutory language, is moving along. Arleen and Jennifer Macchia met with Pat Melvin, the recruiter, explaining the situation and he had no issue putting the process on hold and agreed to resume his search when directed by MMCD. The committee understands the importance of the District maintaining a science background and agreed that MMCD will continue, at a minimum to have entomologists on staff as members of the Technical Services Department. When the Executive Director search resumes, a hiring committee will be established to work with the recruiter in the process to select a candidate to fill the position.

Adjournment

Tom Workman, Secretary, asked if there was any other business, with being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

Requested by:

Arleen Schacht

Informational:

Budget and Levy Development Schedule

Background:

During 2015 and 2016 there were questions about when during the season specific decisions about the District’s budget and levy must be made. These questions arose during a time when the MMCC was deciding how to balance District resource and funding needs (levy) relative to service demand and reserves (fund balance). See page 16 for a schedule outlining steps to be taken by staff and the Commission to develop the 2024 levy and budget. Months or specific dates are taken from the 2023 Commission meeting schedule.

An initial review of legislative requirements and deadlines (see page 17) revealed that the MMCC must approve a preliminary tax levy for the following year by August 1 of the current year. The July Commission meeting is the closest meeting before this deadline. In 2022, the MMCC approved a preliminary 2023 levy at its July 27 meeting.

Both the 2023 levy and 2023 budget were approved by the MMCC at its meeting on December 14, 2022.

This information is being presented here both for review and to determine if modifications to the schedule can facilitate the levy and budget development process while satisfying statutory requirements.

MMCD Calendar for Budget Year 2024

Commission and Executive Committee provide direction to develop budget	May / June 2023
Commission approves preliminary 2024 levy and budget direction	July 26, 2023
Approved proposed levy deadline for the District	August 1, 2023
Review 2024 budget and levy proposals	August 23, 2023
Proposed levy certification due	September 10, 2023
Executive Committee reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	September 27, 2023
Commission reviews proposed budget (Subject to change)	October 25, 2023
Executive Committee reviews budget	November 16, 2023
Parcel Specific Property Tax Notice	November 10 – 24, 2023
Commission adopts Final 2024 Levy & Budget (December Commission meeting)	December 20, 2023
Truth in Taxation Hearing (Commission & Staff)	December 20, 2023
Continuation Hearing, if necessary, (Commission & Staff)	December 20, 2023
Certify Adopted Payable 2024 Levy (Staff)	December 21, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: MMCD Board of Commissioners

FROM: Joseph Langel, MMCD Attorney

DATE: August 26, 2016

RE: Tax Levy Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: ARLEEN SCHACHT
RE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
DATE: FEBRUARY 2023

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

I, as the Interim Executive Director with the support of the management team, continue to address and complete duties managed by the Executive Director, to ensure MMCD continues in the right direction coming into the 2023 season. At the same time, I continue to fulfill my regular Business Administrator duties, with a good portion of my time spent on fieldwork and preparation for the 2022 annual audit, year-end reporting, and 2023 budget allocation to prepare for monthly expense reports by department or facility. The annual audit is scheduled for the week of March 27, about three weeks earlier than usual.

On Tuesday February 7, 2023, the Technical Advisory Board (TAB), held their annual meeting. This board is comprised of a diverse group of experts from many different organizations and institutions that review the District's programs, making recommendations for the following service year. The Chair of the TAB will report their evaluation of the program at the April 26, 2023, Commission meeting.

The operations planning meeting is set for March 16. The Operations and Technical Services staff will have discussions and make decisions for the 2023 season. The 2022 operations plan included expanding services but with the drought conditions, many of the sites were dry and treatment would not have been effective. We do plan to continue to look for ways to expand services in 2023, although this depends on weather and the lingering effects of last three years of dry/drought conditions. We will continue look for areas or sites around the District with conditions that warrant treatment this year.

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

The seven-county metro is still in a moderate drought, according to the US drought monitor (droughtmonitor.unl.edu). It will be interesting to see how much water is in the wetlands as the snow starts to melt. Staff are working on the following to prepare for the upcoming field season.

- Job applications for our seasonal positions were posted on February 6. As of February 10, we have received over 50 applications. We plan to hire approximately 190 seasonal staff this season.
- Staff are busy recruiting for the upcoming season. This includes placing online ads, putting up posters, and attending job fairs.
- Staff are updating their maps and the data associated with the wetlands. Seasonal staff will utilize these for inspections and treatments this season.
- District teams and workgroups are meeting to finish planning for the season. Some groups have been tasked with projects dealing with making operations more efficient. Our plan is to treat further out into Priority Zone 2 in 2023.

- The District's drone program is expanding for 2023. We are adding a second treatment drone at another facility. We plan to hire four seasonal staff (two more than 2022) dedicated to treating with these drones.

3. MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE

Planning is underway for vector surveillance and disease prevention in 2023. For the first time in six years, there was a La Crosse encephalitis case in the District late last season. The risk for additional infections in the area of Hennepin County where the case occurred will remain high until our staff are able to thoroughly eliminate the tire and container habitats used by the mosquito vectors of the LAC virus. We are preparing for early spring visits to the area to ensure we reduce the risk significantly prior to the first emergence of *Aedes triseriatus* adults in mid to late May.

The 2022 West Nile virus (WNV) season was an active one. Few human illnesses occurred due to a lack of *Culex tarsalis*, the primary vector for human infections. However, because of high infection rates of other WNV vector species, we can expect elevated numbers of mosquitoes to carry WNV infections through hibernation and into the 2023 season. Larval control applications against WNV vector species will be crucial for mitigating WNV risk. That work will begin in late May and will continue through the summer months. Supplemental WNV risk reduction efforts will include surveillance driven adult mosquito control targeting vector species and numerous public education opportunities.

While it was absent from the state in 2022, eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) has been detected in Minnesota during three of the last four years. Over the past two decades, we have worked to refine our techniques for surveillance and control of the primary EEE vector, *Culiseta melanura*, in the District and we will continue to target the species for control due to the severity of the illness the virus can cause in both humans and horses.

Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) infections have resulted in dozens of illnesses in Minnesota over the past decade. There was one case in a District resident in 2022. That individual was likely exposed to the JC virus outside of the District. Still, there are areas of the District where the virus has been detected, and spring *Aedes* larval control efforts are necessary for reducing risk to human health.

4. TECHNICAL SERVICES LAB

For most of January and February, Entomology Lab staff have been working on writing, editing, and assembling the report to the Technical Advisory Board. Diann Crane made a presentation on environmental conditions and surveillance results from 2022 at the TAB meeting on February 7. Scott Larson made a presentation on how MMCD is using drones in our operations, and Carey La Mere presented on results of the Black Fly program.

Scott Larson attended the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Mosquito Control Association from February 1-2 where he made a presentation titled *Program Highlights and Current Operations at the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District*. Carey La Mere was on the

organizing committee for the North American Black Fly Association which was held February 9-10, 2023. Carey attended the conference and made a presentation titled *Simulium tuberosum-The Newest Biting Gnat Problem in the Greater Minneapolis – Saint Paul Area*.

We have finally finished identifications of our long-term CO₂ trap samples. These samples are a subset of our regular Monday Night Surveillance Network where we do full species identifications (normally, some species groups are lumped together (e.g., floodwater *Aedes* are *Ae. sticticus* and *Ae. trivittatus*). Once that data is summarized and analyzed, it will be added to the TAB report.

Carey LaMere has been working with John Walz to submit the permit application for our Black Fly Control Program. Scott Larson is on the governing board of the North Central Mosquito Control Association, and they are currently developing a program for the upcoming annual meeting in April.

Other winter projects include writing and submitting a manuscript describing the mosquito fauna of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Hosting 10 U of MN Entomology graduate students and their professor and department head in a round table discussion at MMCD about our operations and career opportunities in entomology. Finally, we are starting to review summer technician applications and will begin interviewing shortly.

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Updated Employment Page

The recruitment and communications teams have worked on improving the Employment page on the MMCD website which includes new pages for each job type and facility. The seasonal application is now open, so encourage people to visit our website and learn more: <https://www.mmcd.org/employment/>

County Presentations

We are on the calendar to deliver presentations at upcoming county commission meetings for most counties in the District. Here are the dates currently scheduled:

- Dakota County - February 28
- Anoka County - March 14
- Washington County - March 28
- Scott County - April 4
- Carver County - April 4

These will provide brief updates on 2022 with a look ahead to 2023 and some introductory information about MMCD for newly elected county commissioners. Please contact Alex Carlson if you have comments about what should be featured in the update for your county.

6. TICK-BORNE DISEASE

The tick surveillance field work schedule for 2023 has not yet been created.

Tick surveillance field work for 2022 began April 25 and was completed October 27. Mammal and tick identifications and data entry have been completed; the data is currently being compiled.

Overall, 2022 results. A total of 2,067 ticks were removed from 746 small mammals in 2022. Roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the ticks were *Ixodes scapularis* and there was a new record high tabulation of 2.11 *I. scapularis* collected per mammal. The previous high was 1.68 in 2016. Whether these high numbers of immature *I. scapularis* found by MMCD in 2022 will translate into higher Lyme disease risk (as evidenced by yearly Minnesota Lyme case totals) in 2024, is difficult to assess due to various factors caused by drought conditions in 2022. However, historically, there was a minor increase in the overall tick averages in 1998 and 1999, followed by a larger increase in 2000 to consistently higher yearly averages. Compared to the Minnesota Department of Health's yearly Lyme disease data, it appears that there is a two-year lag until increased human Lyme disease cases after we noticed the original increase in *I. scapularis* numbers.

Technical Advisory Board (TAB) meeting:

Chapter 3 of the TAB report has been updated with the final overall data for 2022 and the TAB was presented with the 2022 overall tick results. Additionally, the TAB was presented with some highlights of the manuscript "Changes to the Minnesota (Twin Cities) *Ixodes scapularis* and *Dermacentor variabilis* Population: 1990-2020 and Confirmation of Their Preferred Small Mammal Host Species" that is currently being reviewed for publication by the Journal of Medical Entomology.

Public Education

Social media, tick alerts. We will inform our Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/Tik Tok followers of items of interest as they occur.

Website tick activity estimates. Our estimate of current deer tick activity levels (low, medium, high) is updated during tick questing periods on our website via the Tick Risk Meter. The meter settings are based on the dynamics of peaks in the general deer tick life cycle bell curve for Minnesota in combination with deer ticks being found on MMCD field staff. Our Tick Risk Meter is currently TURNED OFF.

Informational print media. Distribution and/or re-stocking of brochures, tick cards and posters will begin in a few months.

Signage at Dog Parks and Expansion into New Areas

Signs to remind the public of deer ticks and disease prevention measures will be posted at dog parks and additional locations throughout the metro in a few months. For various reasons some signs remain up year-round.