

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District

Executive Committee

March 22, 2023

9:15 AM

Information Packet

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

COMMITTEE: **Executive Committee Meeting**
LOCATION: **Metropolitan Mosquito Control District**
2099 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55104
DATE: **Wednesday, March 22, 2023**
TIME: **9:15 AM**

A G E N D A

1. Approval of Minutes January 25, 2023 Meeting*
2. Legislative Update – RCS Consulting (Peg Larsen, Kim Scott)
3. June Executive Committee Meeting Date Change*
4. Executive Director’s Report
5. Other Issues
6. Adjournment

* Action Requested

Commissioner Mike Gamache	Anoka County
Commissioner Tom Workman	Carver County
Commissioner Liz Workman	Dakota County
Commissioner Kevin Anderson	Hennepin County
Commissioner Rena Moran	Ramsey County
Commissioner David Beer	Scott County
Commissioner Fran Miron	Washington County

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

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 9:15 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 to 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. It 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

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 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

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 District

March 22, 2023

Requested by:

Arleen Schacht

Action requested:

Change date of the June 28, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting

Background:

The regular June Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for June 28. It appears that a new Executive Director will not be in place yet at that time and Interim Executive Director Schacht will be on vacation.

The Committee should determine whether it is necessary to change the regularly scheduled meeting in Ms. Schacht's absence. The options are to cancel the meeting, hold it without Ms. Schacht, or reschedule it as a special meeting when Interim Executive Director Schacht is available.

If the meeting date is changed or the meeting is canceled, it should be done by motion of the Executive Committee.

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

1. DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES

We are nearing completion of the fieldwork for the annual audit which is planned for the week of March 27, 2023. We are still waiting for a report from one county, based on when we receive the report, it could set the audit completion date back a bit. Since COVID-19, our audits have been online through a portal provided by the Redpath. The portal provides us the opportunity to upload items as they are completed, allowing the auditors to audit information as often as their time allows. This process works out very nicely.

March 16, 2023, the Operations and Technical Services departments had their annual spring planning meeting. Staff are busy getting equipment ready, ordering supplies, hiring staff, and having discussions about the treatment plans for the season, including discussions about expanding services into P2 areas.

In November, MMCD purchased a second treatment drone, which will be used primarily at the Maple Grove facility; the first treatment drone is currently used at the Plymouth facility. Field Operations will continue to review treatment information and to assess the program and the possibility of expansion in the future.

2. MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES-OPERATIONS

The seven-county metro is under abnormally dry conditions, according to the US drought monitor for March 7 (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 today, we have received over 157 applications, and have hired 81. 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 staffing 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.

3. TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Preparing for an all-staff spring District Operations Services meeting on March 16, 2023.
- Hiring seasonal technicians for technical services roles.
- Developing protocols and identifying equipment needs for 2023 product evaluations.
- Preparing for educational tour for graduate students from the U MN Entomology Department.

- Preparing for the North Central Mosquito Control Association meeting on April 5, 2023.

Mosquito-borne Disease

- LAC prevention will begin as soon as snow melts and seasonal staff begin work in the field.
- JCV risk reduction is accomplished with spring *Aedes* larval control beginning in April.
- We are coordinating cooperative WNV risk reduction with our municipal partners.
- We are preparing mosquito-borne disease prevention training for new seasonal staff.

Entomology Lab

- Hiring is complete: 3 returning lab technicians and 3 new lab technicians are hired.
- Preparing a presentation (Field Conditions and Lab Updates) for our District-wide pre-season meeting.
- Subsampling nontarget impact study samples for the black fly program that were collected in 2022.
- Writing “A Checklist of the Mosquito Fauna of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Area” to be published in the next year.
- Assisting with the Annual Meeting of the North-Central Mosquito Control Association

Tick-borne Disease

- 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 being considered for publication by the Journal of Medical Entomology is being revised.
- Be on the lookout for deer ticks! When temperatures stay consistently above freezing, *Ixodes scapularis* will start questing.
 - Whether the high numbers of larval *I. scapularis* found by MMCD in 2022 will translate into higher Lyme disease risk (as evidenced by yearly Minnesota Lyme case totals) next year (2024) is difficult to assess due to various factors.

4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- MMCD is continuing to deliver presentations for upcoming County Commission meetings to provide a recap on the 2022 season and plans for 2023. If any commissioners would like copies of the presentations or any supplementary materials, please contact Alex Carlson.
- MMCD staff have been participating at high school events that showcase careers at MMCD. Recently we have visited Como Park High School and we have upcoming events this month at Creative Arts High School in St. Paul and Robbinsdale Cooper High School.

Other Items

Adjournment