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Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

Documenter name: Yoga Prakasa

Date: March 12, 2024

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Summary

- The Administration, Operations, and Budget Committee approved:
 - Setting public hearings on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 1:30 PM on:
 - Issuing debt under the county's 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program; and
 - The Hennepin County Consortium 2024 HUD Annual Action Plan.
 - The issuance and sale of tax-exempt multifamily housing revenue bond(s) by the HCHRA for an affordable housing project at 505, 507, 525, 527, 560 Humboldt Ave, and 1315 Olson Memorial Highway in Minneapolis.
 - Amending the 2024 Capital Budget to include a \$5 million budget appropriation from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund for a study on a Reuse and Recycling Recovery Facility, which would be intended to replace HERC (note: Documenter's related coverage is available [here](#)).

- The Health and Human Services Committee approved:
 - Authorizing the allocation of \$9.6 million in additional funding (for the rest of 2024) to provide family emergency shelter and services. As of the date, the county was at 362% capacity (nearly 400 private rooms).

- The Public Works Committee approved:
 - Amending the agreement with the City of Minneapolis for organics processing, extending the term to 3/31/2025 and increasing the annual rate by up to 3%, with an estimated annual expenditure of \$181,500.
 - Negotiation of grant agreements for Good Steward natural resource projects (total NTE of \$147k) and an amendment to grant for Chicago Ave

Fire Arts Center (increased NTE to \$20k).

- The Resident Services Committee approved:
 - Authorizing the negotiation of a 5-year agreement with BlueCrest for absentee ballot mailing system software, equipment, and services with an NTE of \$1.6 million to improve efficiency and reduce human error. The expected cost savings over a 4-year election cycle is \$630k. The system is expected to be ready for absentee voting beginning September 2024.

- The Housing and Redevelopment Authority approved:
 - The final authorization to issue tax-exempt multifamily housing revenue bonds for an affordable housing project at 505, 507, 525, 527, 560 Humboldt Ave, and 1305 Olson Memorial Highway, Mpls. (note: Documenters [covered](#) the February public hearing).
 - Modifying AHIF grant/loan agreements on public housing projects:
 - Transfer ownership of Park Plaza to Olson Court Park Plaza Limited Partnership, forgiving accrued interest, and extending the item to 12/31/2066 (an additional 42 years of affordability).
 - Terminating and forgiving the AHIF grant agreement with Hope Community, Inc. for Dundry House Apartments in Minneapolis as the facility was condemned and residents evacuated.
 - Terminating and forgiving the AHIF grant agreement with the Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center for 2300 15th Ave South in Minneapolis. MIWRC will relaunch the project post-capital improvement with 24 units and extend its affordability for another 50 years.

Documenter’s Notebook:

- It is worth listening to Alex Carlson’s presentation on mosquitoes. Chair Goettel even said it was “really entertaining and informative.” It is not often to hear a presentation at a public meeting that is “entertaining.” If Alex can shorten it a bit, it might even be included in a TED Talk.

Attendance

Present: Commissioners Kevin Anderson, Angela Conley, Irene Fernando, Debbie

Goettel, Marion Greene, and Jeff Lunde

Absent: -

The meeting was convened at 1:30 PM.

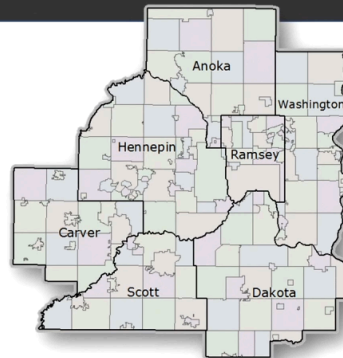
Administration, Operations, and Budget Committee

Presentation

- Item # 2 - Received a presentation from the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District from Alex Carlson and Kyle Beadle.

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District

- Established in state statutes in 1958
- Governed by a board of 18 elected County Commissioners
 - Commissioner Kevin Anderson
 - Commissioner Angela Conley
 - Commissioner Marion Greene
- 2,900 square mile service area
- Population 3,050,000+
- 80,000 wetland habitats
- 30,000 woodland habitats



15:59

MMCD Services

- Comprehensive mosquito control
- Mosquito-borne disease suppression
- Tick-borne disease surveillance
- Public education about mosquitoes and mosquito- and tick-borne disease
- Black fly (biting gnat) control



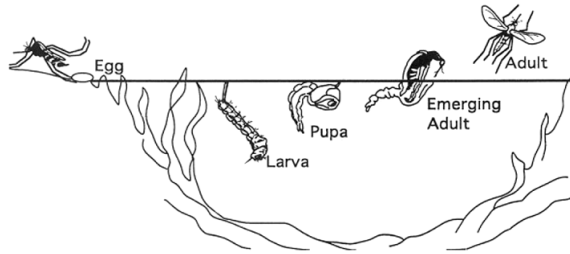
More at mmcd.org

29:42



Mosquitoes in Minnesota

- Over 3,000 species worldwide.
- 52 species found in Minnesota.
- About 20 species are human-biting or considered a public health concern.
- **Mosquito life cycle:**



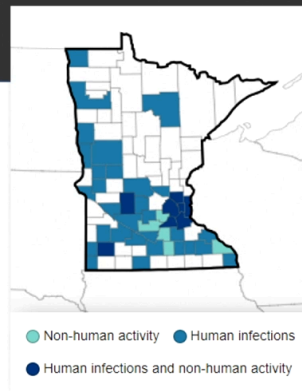
West Nile Virus

West Nile virus in 2023:

- 27 cases in Minnesota, 1 fatality
- 129 sample pools of mosquitoes collected in the District tested positive for WNV, which was a new record high infection rate.

What was different about 2021-23?

- Despite record drought and low mosquito numbers overall, WNV infections were higher than the preceding, high-precipitation years.
- People were likely less cautious, not wearing bug spray because of fewer annoyance mosquitoes.
- Catch basins were holding water and containers were plentiful.



SOURCE: Arbonet at CDC.gov



Other Diseases

Jamestown Canyon virus

- Found in spring mosquito species.

La Crosse encephalitis

- Found in treehole mosquitoes and impacts young children.

Eastern equine encephalitis

- Rare, but highly deadly mosquito-borne disease.

Dog Heartworm

- Transmitted by summer floodwater mosquito.



Integrated Pest Management

- Mosquito control decisions should be driven by surveillance – identify species, abundance, and location.
- A Technical Advisory Board (TAB) reviews MMCD practices annually. TAB members include representatives from the U of M, state agencies like the Department of Health and DNR, and federal agencies like U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and EPA.
- Read full TAB Reports on our website.



Monitor / Surveillance

- Monitor wetlands for presence of mosquito larvae.
- Use mosquito traps and sweep net collections for adult mosquitoes.

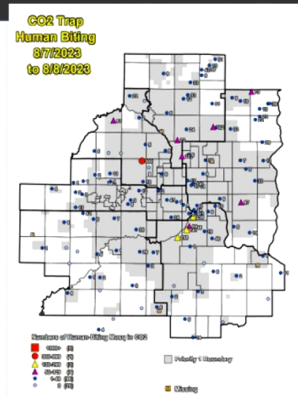
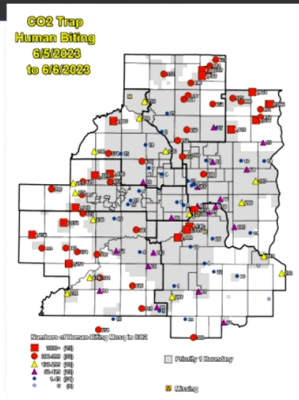


Identify

- MMCD Entomology lab in St. Paul works with the field to identify larval and adult mosquito samples brought in.
- Larval samples are identified to determine if they are species that merits treatment.
- Adult samples are identified in part to determine if there are disease vectors present in an area.
- Some species are tested for disease at MMCD.



Identify – Maps Example



- Maps give an idea of mosquito abundance in parts of the district.
- Maps can also ID by species and show the presence of disease vectors.

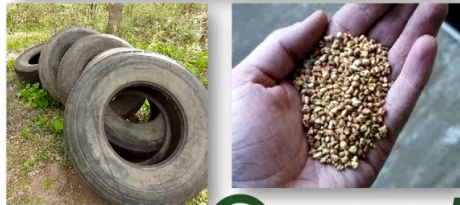
Maps provided by MMCD Assistant Entomologist Scott Larson and the Entomology lab.



Control Methods

3 Primary Methods:

- Larval Control
 - Adult Control
 - Reduce Breeding Habitat
- MMCD prioritizes larval control because control materials are specifically designed for mosquitoes.
 - Larvae are concentrated in a breeding site vs. adult insects.
 - Minimal non-target effects.
 - Geographical advantage (we have a larger service area).



2023 Season Overview

- Summer of 2023 brought a third consecutive year of below average precipitation with much of the state under drought conditions.
- Near record snowfall in the winter of 2022-23 brought excessive standing water in the spring which led to above average adult mosquitoes in May and early June. Mosquitoes were below average for the rest of the summer.
- There were 13 cases of West Nile virus 1 case of La Crosse encephalitis in the District.
- Deer ticks were once again collected in every county in the Metro.
- Average black flies collected per sweep were higher than 2022, but below the 15-year average.



Table 4.1 Number of acres treated and number of seasonal technicians hired, 2018-2023

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Acres larval control	187,727	212,172	194,911	150,299	129,497	144,856
Acres adult control	38,479	22,325	6,450	2,573	1,696	1,863
Seasonal technicians	229	229	184	187	179	194

Source: MMCD TAB Report 2023



Hennepin County 2023

	2022	2023
Total Larval Inspections	15,984	15,283
Acres of Larval Treatment	36,413.56	38,721.33
Acres of Adult Mosquito Treatment	140.40	437.69
Catch Basin Treatments	54,161	54,821
Tires Removed and Recycled	1,489	1,071
Resident Inquiries (Calls/Emails)	326	680



Plans for 2024

- Expand service area for mosquito, black fly, and tick surveillance and treatment based on weather, population changes, and other factors.
- Increase acres treated by UAS with North, Plymouth, and Maple Grove facilities all planning to use drones in 2024.
- Increase educational outreach throughout the year at schools, summer camps, and public events.
- Create more opportunities for staff to learn and share ideas within the industry



MMCD staff preparing for a drone treatment.



First Mosquito Prediction for 2024

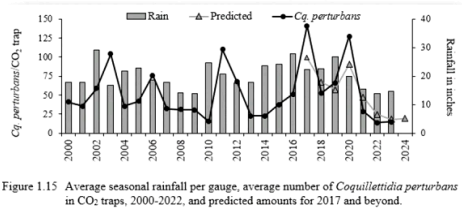
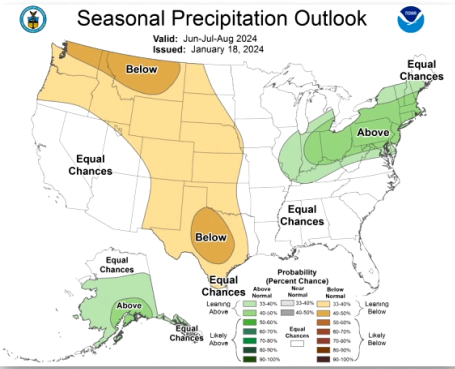
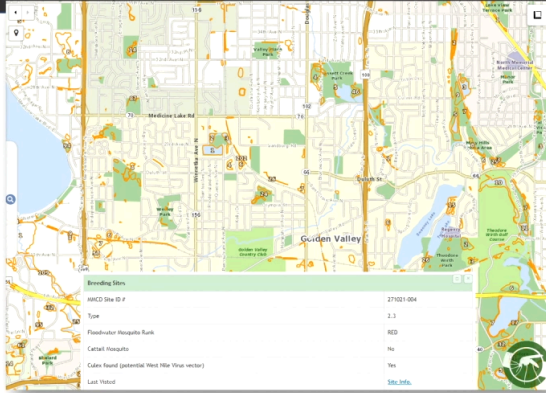


Figure 1.15 Average seasonal rainfall per gauge, average number of *Coquillettidia perturbans* in CO₂ traps, 2000-2022, and predicted amounts for 2017 and beyond.

- Average precipitation is predicted by NOAA.
- Cattail mosquitoes are predicted to remain low.
- Lack of snowfall this winter means the spring spike may not be as significant in 2024.



MMCD Maps



- Public maps to view larval surveillance and treatment can be found at MMCD.org
- Enter an address to zoom in and see wetland sites (outlined in orange) that are being monitored.
- Click on a site to view surveillance and treatment history.
- Residents can request that MMCD not treat private property.



E-mail Alerts

- Sign up for e-mail alerts to be notified about adult mosquito control activity.
- Scheduled treatments are also found on the MMCD website.
- Contact MMCD if you have concerns about anything related to our programs or to report a breeding site or high mosquito annoyance.
- Website: MMCD.org

Email Updates

To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below.

Email Address *

Your contact information is used to deliver requested updates or to access your subscriber preferences.

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24:12



Questions/Comments?

Alex Carlson

Public Affairs Manager

acarlson@mmcd.org

(651) 643-8342

Kyle Beadle

District Operations Manager

Plymouth Facility

kbeadle@mmcd.org

Daniel Huff

Executive Director

dhuff@mmcd.org

Lucas Griemann

District Operations Manager

Maple Grove Facility

lgriemann@mmcd.org

MMCD.org



New Business: Routine Items

- Items # 3.A through 3.H were approved.
 - Item # 3.A was establishing a public hearing on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 1:30 PM for the purpose of issuing debt under the county's 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program
 - Item # 3.B was establishing a public hearing on the Hennepin County Consortium 2024 HUD Annual Action Plan on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 1:30 PM.
 - Item # 3.C was authorizing the issuance and sale of one or more tax-exempt multifamily housing revenue bonds by the HCHRA for an affordable housing project at 505, 507, 525, 527, 560 Humboldt Ave, and 1315 Olson Memorial Highway in Minneapolis. The item was progressed.

New Business: Items for Discussion and Action

- Item # 3.I was authorizing agreements with Avivo and HIRED for the provision of services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Program, for the period 4/1/2024 - 3/31/2027, with a combined NTE of \$820,000.
 - The item was approved.

Addendum

- [31:35] Item # 3.J was amending the 2024 Capital Budget to include a Reuse and Recycling Recovery Facility with a supplemental budget appropriation of \$5 million from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund balance, and directing the Administrator to include additional funding in the 2025 Capital Budget.
 - County Administrator David Hough provided background. Following up on the Board's resolution in October 2023 for a closure plan for the HERC facility, the Administration has advanced forward starting on the briefing on the reinvention of the County's solid waste system in January 2024. Due to its geographic size of 612 square miles, the County will need several "reuse and recycling recovery facility," which the first one will be located at the city of Brooklyn Park. The cost of those facilities are estimated between \$300-500 million which would accomplish the closure of HERC's incineration portion. The Administration is working through the Legislature to seek funding support. The \$5 million requested is for the study (consultative and design services) to retrofit and repurpose the Brooklyn Park facility.
 - Greene inquired about the connection between the request and the proposed redirection for the AD (anaerobic digester) facility. Hough

explained that the \$5 million was already secured by the County but a \$24 million fund has conditions precedent put by the Legislature before the County can receive it. Fernando added that the \$5 million appropriation would show clarity and commitment to the Legislature while also solidify partnership with suburban cities.

- Lunde inquired on the total amount of \$500 million required and how the funding situation look. Hough responded that the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund will not be able to service \$500 million debt. Consequently all funding sources available should be utilized, such as property tax, state bonding support, federal monies, TIF and contract fees.
- Conley highlighted that 60% of what HERC's input can be recycled, reused, or organics. The new facility, such as the one which will be in Brooklyn Park, will be able to sort and separate those from the trash stream.
- On Goettel's inquiry on timeline, Hough did not have them. They plan to have the consultants to provide those along with the study. The Administration will come back to Committee in the Fall to present along with the capital improvement program.
- The item was approved.

Health and Human Services Committee

New Business

- Items # 2.A through 2.E were approved.

Addendum

- Item # 2.F was authorizing the allocation of \$9.6 million additional funding for the provision of family emergency shelter and services, for the period 4/1/2024 - 12/31/2024, with supplemental appropriation of \$9.6 million to the 2024 HSPH department budget along with authorization of 14 FTEs.
 - Housing Stability Director David Hewitt provided background. Since 2005, Hennepin County has operated under a “shelter for all policy for families with children as a matter of board direction.” Hewitt summed it as a “no child sleeps outside” policy. As the eviction moratorium ended and the winding up of federal emergency rental assistance in 2022, there was an immediate increase in demand for family shelter. Since summer 2022, the County has been expanding the system beyond its normal capacity. Starting in November 2022, there has been an increase in new immigrant arrivals without housing access. As of the end of 2023, the system

comprised 491 private rooms, which was 410% of normal capacity. Parallel efforts by other departments reduced the time families had to stay in the shelter and lowered the rate of evictions. There has been an encouraging pattern of reduction in requests for shelter and an increase in outflow from shelter in the last few months. As of the date, the County was at 362% capacity (below 400 private rooms).

- Fernando reiterated the need for systemic statewide regional solutions and praised the Board for believing that “housing is a human right.”
- Goettel inquired about other funding. Hewitt said there are four investments around the family shelter in Hennepin County totaling \$34 million, from state and federal funds, including the proposed \$9.6 million.
- The item was approved.

Law, Safety, and Justice Committee

- Item 2.A was approved.

Public Works Committee

- Items # 2.A through 2.H were approved.
 - Item 2.C was amending the agreement with the City of Minneapolis for organics processing, extending to 3/31/2025 and increasing the rate by up to 3% annually, with an estimated annual expenditure of \$181,500.
 - Item 2.H was negotiation of grants agreements for Good Steward natural resource projects with a total combined NTE of \$147k and amendment to grant for Chicago Ave Fire Arts Center with an increased NTE to \$20k.

Resident Services Committee

Addendum

- Item # 2.A was approved.

Items for Discussion and Action

- Item # 2.B authorized the negotiation of a 5-year agreement with DMT Solutions Global Corporation d/b/a BlueCrest for absentee ballot mailing system software, equipment, and services with an NTE of \$1.6 million.

- Elections Director Ginny Gelms provided background. The equipment provision will automate the part of the process that is currently being done manually. The process of mailing absentee ballots (selection of the correct ballot, address labeling, and material type) will be done more efficiently with error reduction. The ballot printout will also be on demand as needed. As the method gained popularity along with an expected increase in demand due to automatic mailing (instead of request) regulation, the expected volume increase can be addressed by the system while at the same time reducing human errors.
- Anderson inquired whether the system will be available for the 2024 election. Gelms responded that they intend to make it available for the General Election and will work under a tight schedule in light of September absentee voting. The expected cost savings is about \$630,000 over a 4-year election cycle.
- The item was approved.

Housing and Redevelopment Authority

New Business

- Item # 4.A was the approval of final authorization to issue tax-exempt multifamily housing revenue bonds for an affordable housing project at 505, 507, 525, 527, 560 Humboldt Ave, and 1305 Olson Memorial Highway, Mpls.
 - Abbie Loosen from Housing & Economic Development provided an update that the project had not changed since public hearing in February (note: Documenter coverage is available [here](#)). The request was the final action required by HRA, before a final resolution brought to the full Board later in March.
 - The item was approved.
- Item \$ 4.B was amending an agreement to transfer ownership of Park Plaza to Olson Court Park Plaza Limited Partnership, forgiving accrued interest, and extending the item to 12/31/2066 with no change to NTE.
 - Loosen provided background. The loan on the property was awarded in 2008, AHIF's inaugural year. It was expected that there would be more requests to modify existing loans as the AHIF program matures and early-funded properties age. The request would allow the project “to close on its bonds and other financing, and begin construction and renovation later this spring.” The developer and property manager, Trellis, has

provided affordable housing at Park Plaza for over 20 years. The requested action would add an additional 42 years.

- The item was approved.

Addendum

- Item # 4.C was terminating and forgiving the AHIF grant agreement with Hope Community, Inc. for Dundry House Apartments in Minneapolis.
 - Julia Welle-Ayers from the Housing & Economic Development provided background. The HRA provided a \$325k loan for Dundry, which has enabled Dundry to provide for people exiting homelessness since 2007. During the pandemic, increased crime and vandalism eventually brought condemnation to the property and evacuation orders. As the project is no longer viable, staff recommended loan forgiveness as Hope continues to seek a buyer for the lot.
- Item # 4.D was terminating and forgiving the AHIF grant agreement with the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center for 2300 15th Ave South in Minneapolis.
 - Welle-Ayers provided background. Like Hope, MIWRC has provided affordable housing since 2007 through a loan from the HRA. Presently, the project needs significant capital improvements, including fire suppression. Post-improvement, the project will relaunch with 24 units for people exiting homelessness. Because of its impact since 2007, and MIWRC's commitment to extend the affordability period for another 50 years, staff recommended forgiveness of the original loan.
- Both items were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.

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