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It's not a surprise, we received a lot of rain in the last few months (even snow in December) but it is still too early to know what kind of impact those precipitations will have on our next mosquito season. After the year we had in 2022, a small break from Mother Nature would be appreciated in 2023...

Below, please find a general report on our different departments/activities.

- **Administration:**

- **CCMCD future expansion / lease renewal**

- **County**

- Since January 11<sup>th</sup>, Public Works has a new Director. I am expecting him to be very busy in the first months at the helm of Public Works but also hoping he will find time to look at our current situation regarding a new draft of a lease that will also include the addition of the old Mosquito District building.

- **Relationship to Clark County Public Health (CCPH)**

- Our new website (<http://www.ccmcd.org>) was launched the last week of December. Everything that was hosted by the County has been transferred to our new website. People who will try to get access to our old website will be redirected to the new one.
- Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, TDJ CPA Incorporated is officially providing bookkeeping and accounting services to our Mosquito District. The transition with Public Health went very well. CCPH is still available to answer any questions we might have.

- **Contracts with the County Treasurer**

- A few things I learned in 2022 regarding our relationship with the County Treasurer are that we had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with them and an agreement on Investment Services. I was not aware of those agreements and never seen copies of those before. I asked them to send me copies of those agreements.
- We signed a new MOU with them in December. We are also working on a new agreement for Investment Services. I had a few questions about it and am waiting for their answers and hopefully to be able to sign the agreement soon.

- **State Auditor Office**

- This year the State Auditor Office ran their accountability audit for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021. During that audit, they examined many areas such as account payables, payroll, open public meetings, etc.
- Their results show that, "***in the selected areas, District operations complied, in all respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources***".

- They provided us some exit recommendations for management's consideration. Those are not referenced in the audit report.
  - Open Public Meeting compliance - executive sessions
  - EFT - changes to direct deposits information
  - Credit cards - segregation of duties
  - Payroll – overtime and independent review

- **Budget 2022:**

- As of 1/26/2023 (I submitted the Board report), I did not receive the final 2022 Revenue and Expenditure Report yet.
- It is hard to tell at this point what will be the final numbers especially since many expenses were processed in 2023 and there was still more than \$420,000 to come in our Revenues.
- Based on my numbers, if we receive 100% of the budget voted (\$1,047,777), we should be below budget by about \$150K for 2022; meaning that we spent 85% of the budget. Numbers are to be confirmed.

- **Operations**

- On January 1<sup>st</sup>, we were pleased to welcome Madison Azevedo, our first permanent full-time Vector Control Technician with the Mosquito District. Madison did a great job as a seasonal technician last summer and learned a lot about the different tasks of the position. She is eager to learn more, and we are sure that she will become a great asset for the District.
- In early January, we ordered two foggers to replace the old ones. We had many issues last summer with our foggers that prevented us from spraying on multiple occasions. We should receive the new ones soon and an employee from Clarke Mosquito will come later this spring to help us calibrate them and get ready for the next season. We still need to buy one more fogger (a smaller one) that will be installed on the back of an Argo or an ATV.
- We also received our drone that will be used to make treatments in specific areas where treatments by ground are too difficult. Jesse is making sure that all the papers to fly this drone have been completed and will soon calibrate the drone that will perform treatments with granular products. Valent BioSciences proposed to send one of their technicians to help calibrate the drone. We will also get a two-day training from Frontier, the company from whom we purchased the drone.

- On January 17 to 19, Madison, Jesse and I went to a roundtable meeting in Pasco, WA for drone operations. We learned a lot of things on how to operate a drone, deal with different types of drones, legislations, etc. We also had the chance to make valuable contacts with other mosquito districts using drones like the ones we used (surveillance and treatments).
- Jesse and I are planning to attend the American Mosquito Control Association meeting that will be held in Reno, NV from February 27 to March 3. Many sessions (operations, adulticiding, larviciding, resistance, legislation, etc.) are presented at this meeting. It is also a chance to create new contacts, learn about other districts' operations and talk with vendors about new products.
- We already posted for positions available for this summer. One position, approved recently by the Board, is the Vector Control Technician who will work 9 months with 3 months of furlough. This is the position we proposed as an incentive for the new employee to return the next year. We will also have our regular Seasonal Control Technician positions that are offered. This year, we are posting on our website, Indeed, LinkedIn and social medias. Hopefully, this will help us to recruit good candidates that will fit our needs. If everything goes as planned, we should have a total of 15 people on the payroll this summer.
- I contacted the people at the Refuge (administrator and the technicians) to schedule a meeting in February. We sent the Annual Report and the Fall Research Project Report (flooding for duck hunting) last November. We would like to discuss what can be done to avoid a situation similar to 2022. The high-water level of the Columbia River in 2022 flooded many acres especially in the Refuge area to create a huge mosquito nuisance that affected many of our citizens last summer. We would like to discuss options that could be available in 2023 (sampling, treatments, etc.) at the Ridgefield Refuge. We would also like to address the situation with the Stiegerwald Lake Refuge (Camas-Washougal areas) where no permit has ever been issued to the District to manage the mosquito population over there.
- We are working on better training for our new employees. So far, it looks very promising with a lot of new powerpoint presentations, videos, cheat sheets, etc. We were also able to register on-line to get free training videos offered by Clarke Mosquito Control.
- Remember in my last Board report I talked about the presence of *Culex* larvae of all different stages (1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> instar) and pupae in catch basins during the fall. I was personally surprised that our *Culex* were behaving differently than other *Culex* populations on the east coast (based on the longitude). They usually don't survive that long in catch basins and overwinter as adults. I talked to a few experts, and they did not know how to interpret that behavior. We decided to send some samples to Rutgers University in New Jersey to have our *Culex* tested. They found out that we had a hybrid species of *Culex*. We will see if we will go further with a more robust research project to investigate more on that finding.

- **Lab**

- A new PCR machine at a very reasonable cost is now on the market to test our mosquitoes for West Nile virus (and other viruses). At the Northwest fall meeting and at the drone meeting in January, I was able to talk with people currently using that new equipment and they are very satisfied with the equipment and how easy it is to use. This type of equipment could replace our RAMP technology in the future.