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Remember in the last Board report: “*Snowpacks in some areas are more than 100% of the annual averages meaning that we can expect a lot of water this spring.*” Well, if you consider all the water released from Bonneville dams one month earlier than last year (and again causing water to rise up to 13’) plus adding breaking record temperatures in mid-May (85-92°F), we had all the ingredients for another long mosquito season.

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

- **Administration:**

- **CCMCD future expansion / lease renewal**

- **County**

- We finally heard back from Public Works. They are working on a new contract. They have appraisals for the two parcels we are currently occupying at Public Works (new and old buildings). The annual lease rates for both parcels are quite high and they are working on annual rental rates that would be more appropriate.
      - I don't know yet if we will have a final agreement before the end of the year. We want to review the contract before final approval. I am not sure if we can get a final amount to include in our annual budget that will be proposed and approved in November.

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

- Nothing to report.

- **Contracts with the County Treasurer**

- Nothing to report.

- **Budget 2022:**

- The Pesticides ledger will be over budget this year. We already spent \$145K compared to the \$127K originally budgeted. If we must have a fourth round of larviciding in our catch basins this fall, another \$28K will be added to the current amount. With the high number of mosquitoes everywhere in the County we had to purchase more adulticides (+ 100 gallons) that was originally planned.
  - Overall, we should be under budget (all ledgers combined) at the end of the year. However, the Board already approved that some money could be used from the Emergency fund if necessary to compensate for the extra pesticide spendings.

- **Operations**

- Even though it was difficult to fill all the positions we have, we were able to start the season with a full crew. We currently have 16 people on the payroll but five of them are only working two days per week.
- As mentioned in the last Board report, this year, the Refuge administration allowed us to take samples in areas we were not allowed in the past (Campbell Lake area), but we were still not allowed to treat, even if thresholds for treatment were met.

As expected, with this year's conditions, we had a lot of larvae that hatched off from eggs present in that area. All this translated into thousands of adult mosquitoes in our traps. All those numbers were reported weekly to the Refuge administration.

With a second bad year in a row and hundreds of complaints again this year from residents, this probably convinced the Refuge administration that something had to be done to fix the problem. We met with the local Refuge administration and employees from another department of National Wildlife Refuges on July 17, 2023.

We had a very productive meeting. We had a chance to present how we have been responding to the last year and this year's problematic mosquito situations and what solutions we are proposing to help solve the problem. We just learned that the Refuge administration needed their own Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) Plan to manage mosquitoes in the refuge; a plan that they never had.

Their IMM process must go through "a compatibility determination for mosquito control" on the refuge. They must describe the monitoring, control, anticipated impacts of the use, effects on non-target organisms, risks / toxicity, threatened and endangered species, etc. Once this is all done, the data must go to a public review and comments to finally determine the compatibility (or not) of the project.

This compatibility determination will also be done at the same time for the Steigerwald Lake Refuge in Washougal. We asked if it was possible to get an agreement with the Refuge before April 2024 (if the "compatibility determination" is approved) to avoid another season without treatments. They said they would do their best to get a document ready for next spring even though it usually takes a year to go through the whole process.

This is a very good news since I have been asking for three years now, how can we collaborate to solve the problem. However, there are two sides of a coin. Being allowed to treat the refuge means hundreds of acres never treated before. This also means thousands of dollars of more products needed to treat and more helicopter time.

- All this year's variables led to another bad year for mosquitoes. We received close to 1200 service requests (and counting) for mosquito nuisance everywhere in the county. After a few weeks, we had to purchase more adulticides to continue to service the high demand

of treatments in the county. So far, our trucks went out more than 100 times to fog. We were able to fog about 75% of the time. Some treatments (25%) had to be postponed because of “inclement” weather conditions.

- In June, we sprayed every day of the month; sometimes in three different locations per day (2 trucks in the morning and one in the evening). We were fogging even on the weekends to try to give some relief to our residents. One of our employees worked on an evening shift for more than a month to accommodate our needs for fogging.
- On top of all that, our crew also had to treat the head boxes in May and started to treat the first round of catch basins (out of four) in June. With all that early “frenzy”, we were a little bit behind schedule with our catch basin treatments, but we are catching up now.
- With so many employees working only a few days a week, we will have to reevaluate our employee’s structure and needs in 2024. More supervisory activities and training will be needed in the future to support the new crew.

- **Lab**

- We tested a dead crow this year for West Nile virus (WNV). We know that corvids (crows, ravens, magpies, etc.) are very susceptible to WNV. A dead crow is often a red flag for the presence of WNV in an area.
- We learned a few things with that crow :
  - We learned that Washington State is no longer running a program to collect and test corvids. You must do it at your own expenses if you want to test birds.
  - RAMP testing is not the best technology to test birds. WA State Department of Health (DoH) cannot even confirm your RAMP results.
  - Because of “unclear/unconclusive” results from RAMP testing, the crow and supernatants from the RAMP testing were sent to Oregon State University (Veterinary Diagnostics Lab) to run a PCR test.
  - Results came back as “No detection” for WNV.
- We are still testing our mosquito samples with RAMP, which is fine based on email communications with DoH. They can confirm positive results for mosquitoes if we need to.
- As of 7/26/2026, we already tested close to 400 mosquito samples for WNV and they are all negative.
- We recently learned that it will no longer be possible to order from our vendor the extra buffer solution we needed to test mosquito samples by combining more than one sample at a time. Consequently, we will have to buy more RAMP kits to continue testing our

samples until this fall and this means an extra \$9,000 that was not budgeted. The lab operation ledger will be over budget because of that, but again the overall total budget should be fine (I will cut expenses in other ledgers – mainly in the capital outlay ledger).

- Based on these new costs (11 RAMP kits per year @ \$2,300 per kit), a switch to the PCR technology in a near future must be considered. With these new annual costs for RAMP testing, switching to PCR will be cheaper to operate after only a few years. Results from PCR will also be more accurate, we will have the possibility to test three viruses at the same time (West Nile virus, Western Equine Encephalitis and St. Louis Encephalitis) and test birds if we desire.