



There is plenty of snow in the Cascades and the Rockies and we received a lot of rain this winter. Temperatures have been colder than average for over a week. We don't know if all that water will affect our mosquito population this spring or how those unusually cold temperatures have affected our overwintering population of adult mosquitoes. One thing is certain, we are preparing for what is to come this spring with the rise of the river water levels and hoping for a dry summer.

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

- **Administration:**

- **CCMCD future expansion / lease renewal**

- **County**

- As of January 31st, 2024, we are very close to a new agreement with Public Works. We are discussing a contract of 10 years plus the possibility of extensions. As soon as the contract is signed, we will be able to start the process of purchasing a new trailer for our operations.

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

- Nothing to report.

- **Contracts with the County Treasurer**

- Nothing to report.

- **Contracts with TDJ**

- We are still working on the transition from Workday (county) to the Quickbooks software that will be managed by TDJ. The software has been purchased and we are working on the set up for the transition (new spend codes, cutting our own checks, authorizations in our Bank of America account, etc.). Catrina from TDJ has been working on creating/modifying different policies to properly process our payables based off existing policies and providing recommendations for missing policies.

- **Budget 2023:**

- We will get the final numbers for 2023 in February, but, in a nutshell, this is what the final numbers should look like. The good news is that we will finish the year close to \$110,000 below our approved budget for 2023.
 - Extra revenues of more than \$17,000 (mainly investment interest).
 - Salaries and benefits : more than \$39,000 under budget.
 - Pesticides : more than \$30,000 over budget. The purchase of more products needed for adulticiding explains that overage.

- Fuel : Over budget by \$6,000. The cost of the fuel was higher than expected with a lot more mileage on our vehicles when we went out more than 100 times to spray adulticides.
- Professional Services : Over budget by \$12,000. Mainly because of the payment of the contract with CCPH (\$20K) that was supposed to be paid in 2022 but was invoiced too late.
- Insurance : Over budget by \$3,300. Higher costs for drone coverage and we also had to add “chemical” coverage.
- \$83K that were not spent in the Equipment < \$5K and Capital Outlay.
- Overall, we were able to stay within our approved budget mainly because of the extra revenues, money saved on salaries and purchases that we did not make but that were planned in the Equipment < \$5K and Capital Outlay ledgers.

- **Operations**

- Since January 4th, we also have the pleasure of having Ms. Tarsis Jimenez on board as our new Administrative Assistant. Tarsis is new to the mosquito control business, but she is a very quick learner and she is very structured in her work. Her priorities for now are to learn the different steps in preparing for a Board meeting and to become familiar with the Open Public Meeting Act.
- On January 18th, we hired our new permanent full-time Field Supervisor. His name is Douglas Nelson. Douglas has worked mainly in mosquito districts in the east coast for the last 14 years (Georgia and Florida). He was involved in the maintenance of vehicles and buildings and field operations while he was in Georgia. He was Manager of the District in Florida where he oversaw all administrative tasks and was also the one training and supervising the new employees in field operations. Douglas’ background and experience are very important additions that will help improve our operations.
- On January 22 to 24, Abby, Madison and Jesse attended a roundtable meeting in Pasco, WA for drone operations. They came back with a lot of information on new technologies, regulations, and valuable contacts with other mosquito districts.
- I am planning to attend the American Mosquito Control Association meeting that will be held in Dallas, TX from March 4 to 8. Many sessions (operations, adulticiding, larviciding, resistance, legislation, etc.) are presented at this meeting. There are new symposiums this year on topics such as cryptic mosquitoes, innovative and operational non-chemical approaches to mosquito control and drone operations. It is also a chance to create new contacts, learn about other districts’ operations and talk with vendors about new products.
- The Refuge is still working on its Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) plan. After our meeting last fall, they mentioned they had to review their approach and the different thresholds that would allow us to treat in both refuges. Unfortunately, we have not heard from them since. We don’t yet know to what extent we will be able to have authorization

to apply larvicides in both refuges this spring since we are already at the end of January and still have many steps to go through before we can get approval.

- We made some additions to our website. The “Mosquito life cycle” and the “Mosquitoes and Stormwater Systems” in the Education section are worth a visit. Many more updates are coming soon.
- We will be posting for our seasonal employees by mid-February for a start date for some in April and others in May.

- **Lab**

- We sent larvae and adults of *Culex pipiens* to Rutgers University in New Jersey this year again to confirm the presence of the hybrid population identified last year. Results of last year were presented by Rennie Kubik, one of our Board members, during a meeting in Montana in January. He got many comments and questions regarding our findings. With results from a second year, data could be presented in a mosquito meeting in 2024.
- As we mentioned in a previous report, 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). With the new office trailer, we will get more space to operate this technology to test our mosquitoes. We are looking to implement this probably next year in 2025.
- In 2024, we are planning to purchase a fourth BG counter. The 4 BG counters will be in Camas, Vancouver, Refuge and Ridgefield.