



In my previous Board report I mentioned that the forecasts for the amount of water that would be released from the Bonneville dam should be similar to last year. However, it seems like the water released was a lot less than predicted and the Columbia River did not rise very high (around 9' max for a short period of time). Those conditions are reflected in the rather quiet summer we are experiencing so far.

Please find a general report below on our different departments/activities.

- **Administration:**

- **CCMCD future expansion / lease renewal**

- **County**

- There have been a lot of miscommunications with the County Permit and Building Departments regarding the installation of a new trailer. Such as misunderstandings about our needs, the documentation requested and where to send it, and delays in responses to our questions, etc. At this point, I am reviewing other options for extra office spaces.

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

- Nothing to report.

- **Contract with the County Treasurer**

- Nothing to report.

- **Contract with TDJ CPA**

- We had a virtual meeting with Ms. Teresa Johnson and her associate, Christine Smith, from TDJ CPA on July 25th, 2024, where we discussed establishing an accounting procedure and fiscal policy for CCMCD. We discussed the general direction we wanted to head and determined what we wanted to see as "policies" versus "procedures" in the future; terms that were often interchanged and creating confusion. Christine will work on a draft of a high-level fiscal policy for CCMCD to be presented at the Board meeting.

- **Budget 2024:**

- So far, nothing special to mention except for the pesticides and professional services ledgers. Since we did not have to treat both wildlife refuges, we saved a lot of money on pesticides and helicopter services. Extra pesticide products were purchased due to some efficacy issues with 2 different products (with the same active ingredient). Further details are included under the Operations section.
 - A draft of the 2025 budget will be presented at the Board meeting. Some options will be presented regarding new technologies, office spaces, etc. There are a lot of uncertainties

at this point about the possibility of treating both National Wildlife Refuges in 2025, which corresponds to a huge part of the pesticides budget.

- **Operations**

- Jesse Maritz, our biologist, is leaving CCMCD on August 2nd. We wish him the best of luck at law school and all of his future endeavors. We appreciate Jesse for his time with us at CCMCD and for putting together our drone program.
- We also just recently added our administrative assistant, Ms. Tarsis Jimenez, to the mosquito district payroll. Although Tarsis has been part of our team since January of this year, she was reporting to and paid by the staff agency. After 520 hours with the district, we were able to extend an offer to Tarsis to have her on our payroll. Tarsis is working “officially” for the district since July 16th. Congratulations to Tarsis.
- We are working on finalizing a procedure for workers who are injured on the job as we do not currently have anything in place to guide supervisors or employees in the event of an accident. We had meetings consulting with a Return-to-Work Program Specialist and a Risk Management Specialist from Washington Labor and Industries (L&I) about this subject, both of whom provided us with the tools we needed to get this project started. One of the items we created is a Grab & Go Packet for Injured Employees - which includes a checklist, incident report form, letter to the attending provider, as well as a list of potential medical providers employees can attend in the Clark County area. All of the forms and letters that have been created are based off of L&I's templates and guidelines and have been customized for the needs of our district.
- We started to treat our catch basins on June 3rd. Since we had more employees this year, we implemented a follow-up program on our treatments. Unfortunately, after a few days we found out that the treatments in many catch basins had failed. The Bacillus sphaericus-based product we used did not work.

We thought that the problem might have been with the formulation and not necessarily with the active ingredient (Bacillus sphaericus). We stopped using that product and started to use a different product with the same active ingredient. This second product was scheduled to be on our rotation of products in our third round of treatments. However, our follow-up showed that the treatments with the second product were still failing.

We decided to stop using the second product immediately and began using a Methoprene-based product to complete the first round of treatments and any further treatments for the remaining of the season. We have also been sampling after each treatment of this product and so far, the results show that it is working fine.

We are investigating what could have happened with the two Bacillus sphaericus-based products. We will run bioassays to test the active ingredient and assess if there is a potential resistance from our larvae to this active ingredient. We also asked the producers of the products to verify if there was a possibility that the formulations themselves could be the problem.

- Because the Columbia River did not cause major problems this summer (height of about 9' versus 13' and 16' in the past two years), we are not observing major outbreaks of adult mosquitoes in the county. We've only had to treat with adulticides a few times this year. The area of concern was mainly around Vancouver Lake.
- Good news. After many trials, we finally got our Congested Area Plans (CAPs) that authorize us to fly in certain areas for our mosquito treatments. We received our CAP for adulticiding treatments on June 18th and for the larviciding treatments on July 22nd.

It was a long and tedious process to get to this point but moving forward we have an understanding with the Flight Standard District Office (FSDO) that will allow us to get the future CAPs approved in a timely manner.

- We have not heard much about the status of the IMM from the wildlife refuges administrators since our last meetings with them in July and December of last year. I reached out to them recently with a lengthy email to try and find out the status and expressing my concerns over the length of the process. Trudy Linson was CC'd on the second email. In a nutshell, it seems like they don't have control over the timeline due to other agencies working on their request, but it still remains a priority.

- **Lab**

- We received the results of the DNA testing for Culex larvae sampled in our catch basins in 2023 and the results once again showed that there is mix of Culex pipiens pipiens and Culex pipiens molestus in our samples. Similar results to what we found in 2022. We will continue to collect samples in 2024 and send them for testing at the end of the year.
- We are testing an EVS trap built with a 3-D printer. This is a new design that was printed by a colleague from San Joaquin County, CA. So far, results are showing that the trap is working very well, even catching more mosquitoes than the regular EVS trap we have.
- We also began testing a new mycelium (fungi) system that generates CO₂ to attract mosquitoes. The bags of mycelium were provided by the Washington Department of Health. We designed a new protocol to assess if the bags were producing any CO₂ and found out that they were not releasing any. We contacted the producer, and he sent us new bags to test, which we have not yet received.
- We are continuing to test our mosquitoes for West Nile virus (WNV) with our RAMP technology. We have tested more than 350 samples so far this summer and all the samples were negative for WNV. In Washington state, as of July 26, 2024, only three pools of mosquitoes have tested positive for WNV and they are all in the Yakima – Benton County area, east of the Cascades.

- As mentioned in the last report, we purchased a fourth BG counter. In 2024, we now have 1 BG counter in the Washougal/Camas area, 2 in Vancouver and 1 in Ridgefield. Important data is being collected every day from those 4 counters, as opposed to once a week with our regular traps. We are learning a lot about the time of activity of the different species (see graphs below).

Consistency of the peak of activity of mosquitoes over three consecutive nights

