

MARIN COUNTY
WEST NILE VIRUS TASK FORCE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, August 21, 2006
10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

4th Floor Conference Room
899 Northgate Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903

Attendees: Fred Schwartz MD (Chair), Anju Goel MD, Mirta Cuevas, Andrew Horvath, Shanna Cronan, Nancy Barnard, Marty Castro, Bobbi Kimball, Ronald Keith, Cindy Machado, Bruce Badzik, Fred Crowder, Marci McEwen, Linda Ferguson, Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes of July 17, 2006 WNV Task Force Meeting, 8/15/06 WNV Surveillance Update

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Dr. Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. 	None.
WNV Surveillance Update	<p>Andrew Horvath:</p> <p><u>National:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a big change since last month with more human infections nationwide. Idaho had the most with 112. In the first slide of the handout, California is shown as having 36 human infections. That number has almost doubled in the last week. <p><u>California:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far in 2006, California has had 68 human infections, 16 horses, 586 positive dead birds, 423 positive mosquito pools, 233 sentinel chickens and 47 counties reporting WNV activity. The “2005” 	None.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
	<p>column in the second slide is wrong. It shows totals for the full year instead of totals as of 8/18/05. (Marty Castro supplied the correct 2005 YTD numbers, as follows: Human Infections: 265; Horses: 209; Dead birds: 1,502; Mosquito pools: 808; Sentinel chickens: 222 and # of counties: 51. The total number of counties for 2005 as shown on the slide is also wrong. The correct total is 54.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The third slide shows infections by county plus a breakdown of the 68 human infections in California. There has been one death. <p>Marin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two positive dead birds have been reported so far. Also a positive grey squirrel was reported which is not indicated in the fourth slide. The fifth slide shows WNV activity by Bay Area county. Santa Clara and Contra Costa have had the most positive dead birds with 53 and 41 respectively. The sixth slide shows the locations where Marin’s two positive dead birds and one squirrel were found. <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the County’s WNV web page, squirrels are not shown in the summary chart at the top of the page. However, the title of the second chart has been changed to “WNV Positive Confirmed Birds and Other Animals in Marin” and the positive dead squirrel is listed there along with its location and test date. Jim Wanderscheid, in an article in the <i>Marin IJ</i>, stated that squirrels are a better indicator of WNV activity in a location than birds as birds are migratory. <p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mosquito trapping is being done in the area where the squirrel was found. The results of the tests are still pending. We should know in 2 – 3 days. 	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Late Breakers / Round Table	<p>Shanna Cronan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised that they have had a few calls about dead birds. • Advised also that the results of the WNV testing on the encephalitis case were negative. One test result on the case is still pending. <p>Bobbi Kimball:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brought to the attention of the group an article she wrote entitled, “WNV at the Gates – A New Mosquito Control Council Emerges.” It appears in the August 17, 2006 issue of the <i>Point Reyes Light</i>, on page 5. • Passed around a copy of the article to the participants. • Will email a copy of the article to all participants if a soft version is available. • Asked a question: Do all California counties have a mosquito / vector control agency? <p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, not every county is served by an agency. For example, Del Norte is not. However, the highly populated areas of California are served. The areas of California that are not served tend to be sparsely populated. 	Bobbi Kimball will email a copy of her <i>Point Reyes Light</i> article to all members, if possible.
Late Breakers / Round Table	<p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSMVCD is mixing up its trapping effort to obtain more mosquitoes for processing. Gravid traps are being used. Also, traps are being placed in the canopy rather than at eye level, resulting in almost double the number of mosquitoes trapped. • MSMVCD is considering a “fly-over,” similar to the ones done by Contra Costa and Santa Clara, to look for non-maintained swimming pools and other sources. The “fly-over” provides a survey of a larger area more quickly. • Among agencies that went through the proficiency panels with MSMVCD PCR equipment, MSMVCD was one of the top participants. 	None.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised that when a badly maintained swimming pool is discovered, the owners are contacted. Almost all owners are cooperative. If they are not cooperative, MSMVCD works with the Sheriff's Office. Under the Health and Safety Code, MSMVCD has broad powers to assure compliance. • Did not have information regarding what triggered adult control in Santa Clara. Generally, anything above 2 MIR i.e. minimum infection rate of two mosquitoes per 1,000, is considered high enough to consider adult control. MSMVCD would discuss with WNVTF. • Advised that MSMVCD would lower the threshold of which birds could be tested in order to determine the circle of WNV activity. <p>Mirta Cuevas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked if the positive squirrel was already sick in Novato? WildCare is in San Rafael. Was it kept outside at WildCare where it could infect other animals? <p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The squirrel was a juvenile and still alive but ill and paralyzed in its back legs, when it was brought to WildCare. It was found in Novato. It died at WildCare. An oral swab was done on it while it was still alive and the swab was sent in for testing. <p>Cindy Machado:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised that not all animals are housed outside at WildCare. WildCare has a hospital wing which is indoors. As the squirrel was paralyzed, it was probably kept in the hospital wing. 	
<p>Minutes of the July 17, 2006 WNV Task Force Meeting</p>	<p>Participants reviewed the minutes.</p> <p>Linda Ferguson requested one change on page 5. The bullet point under her name should read, "We are working with local organizations to try to reach as many people as we can. We are considering working with a local church to set up trainings to be attended after services on a Sunday. I am continuing to follow up."</p>	<p>Minutes of the July 17, 2006, WNV Task Force meeting were approved with one change. Loretta will make this change.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
	<p>The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with Linda Ferguson's change. Approval was unanimous.</p>	
<p>Risk Communication</p>	<p>Anju Goel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised that the State has produced new WNV calendars which they will not print for us. It is on the State web site as a pdf. We can print them ourselves at a cost \$5.20 each. • Proposed that we not print up the calendars for distribution as we already have sufficient materials. The participants agreed. • Provided sample calendars to participants so that they could think about it for next year. • Provided 100 copies of a new brochure regarding WNV surveillance for distribution by the participants. <p>Mirta Cuevas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked for the list of Spanish-language radio stations which are broadcasting the WNV PSA. Loretta will provide her with same via email after the meeting. 	<p>Participants will distribute the WNV Surveillance brochures, as appropriate.</p> <p>Loretta will send Mirta Cuevas via email a list of the Spanish-language radio stations who agreed to broadcast the WNV PSA.</p>
<p>Risk Communication</p>	<p>Linda Ferguson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised that trainings have been given to 3 community workers who are also activists in their community. Two were from San Rafael and one from Novato. One does a local community access TV show and one does a radio show. Both agreed to do a "spot" on WNV. The agreement with these community workers was that on alternate weeks they would do outreach to workers at places where workers congregate in the mornings. On the alternate week they would set up a WNV information booth at the San Rafael Farmers' Market which draws a lot of these workers and their families. One of the brochures they have is in Spanish for low-literacy workers. • Passed around the packet of training materials used during the training. • Brought up the fact that funds for the stipends are running low. This is the stipend paid to workers to compensate them for any wages 	<p>Linda Ferguson to solicit from agencies additional funds to cover stipends.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
	<p>lost due to attending the training. Funds for the stipend had been contributed by the agencies who journal vouchered their contributions to the Agricultural Commissioner to handle. Linda wanted to know if all agencies who had agreed to contribute had already sent their contributions in and if so, would they be willing to contribute more.</p>	
Risk Communication	<p>Stacy Carlsen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complimented and thanked all participants who contributed to and participated in the trainings. • Stated that there were some funds left for the stipends, enough to cover part of September, but not enough for October. • Asked if anyone knew how to obtain DEET donations from suppliers or manufacturers to distribute to workers. 	None.
Risk Communication	<p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated that MSMVCD would probably have funds to contribute to the stipend. • Will provide Stacy Carlsen with the name and contact information of the DEET manufacturer's representative so that Stacy can solicit a donation of DEET. <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested they could also contact a Picaridin manufacturer's representative. 	<p>Ron Keith will follow up on a MSMVCD contribution for the stipend.</p> <p>Ron Keith will provide Stacy Carlsen with the name and contact information of the DEET and Picaridin manufacturers representatives.</p> <p>Stacy Carlsen will contact these representative to solicit a DEET and/or Picaridin containing repellent donation for the training program.</p>
Risk Communication	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised that there has been a lot of press coverage of WNV, mainly about the birds and the squirrel. • Suggested that members of the task force, whenever they are spokespersons to the press, urge reporters to include certain 	Risk Communication Committee will compose two paragraphs, describing the worker training, etc. just completed. These paragraphs are to be emailed to Fred Schwartz

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
	<p>messages in their coverage. One such message would be preventative measures Another would be referral to the websites. A third would be information about the training that has just been done.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked that a member of the Risk Communication Committee compose two paragraphs describing the training just completed. These paragraphs will be available to pass on to the press, when appropriate. 	<p>to be available for reporters to include in their WNV coverage.</p>
<p>Meeting schedule for 2007</p>	<p>Anju Goel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the July meeting's minutes, a suggested agenda item was discussion of whether or not to have a September meeting due to the low level of WNV activity. • Also, it was suggested that the members discuss whether the WNVTF should begin meeting in May 2007 instead of March. <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested this be kept as an open agenda item for each meeting. At present, WNV activity has picked up and is likely to increase in the next month, so a September meeting is justified. • Suggested the WNVTF can consider when to start meeting in 2007 during the last meeting of the season. 	
<p>Time, date and location of next month's meeting</p>	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised that the Pandemic Influenza Task Force is meeting in September at the WNVTF's regular time. Therefore, a new date and time needs to be selected. Loretta is collecting information regarding all members' availability next month and will email to everyone the new date and time for September's meeting in the next few days. 	<p>Loretta will email the date, time and location of the September meeting to all WNVTF members in the next few days.</p>