

**OMARIN COUNTY
WEST NILE VIRUS TASK FORCE MEETING**

MINUTES

Monday, July 17, 2006

10:00 AM – 12 Noon

555 Northgate Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903

Attendees: Fred Schwartz MD (Chair), Andrew Horvath, Shanna Cronan, Nancy Barnard, Marty Castro, Bobbi Kimball, Ronald Keith, Cindy Machado, Lynn Murrin, Scott Tye, Linda Ferguson, Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Members of the Public: Ed Schulze (MSMVCD trustee), Stacey Henderson

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes of June 19, 2006 WNV Task Force Meeting, 7/17/06 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. • Announced that Dr. Anju Goel would not be present today as she was attending another meeting. <p>All attendees introduced themselves and identified their agencies.</p>	None.
+	<p>Andrew Horvath:</p> <p><u>National:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still not too many human cases. We had our first one in California 	None.

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	<p><u>California:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California's first human infection was in Kern County. • The first horse infection of the year was detected in Tulare County. • 96 positive dead birds have been detected. • 62 positive mosquito pools so far this year. • Similar to last year, the WNV activity seems focused on the Central Valley. Activity in California is far behind what it was in 2004 and 2005. I'm passing around a graph showing this clearly. <p><u>Marin:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far this year, no positive tests have come back for humans, animals or mosquitoes. <p>Scott Tye:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there any guess as to why there has been a drop in reported dead birds? Could it be public apathy? <p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One reason would be that we are restricting to corvids; however, apathy could also be a factor. <p>Linda Ferguson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avian Influenza is now more important in the public mind than WNV which seems to be dropping off the radar. <p>Marty Castro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are still in the early stages of this season. Human cases will make the calls go up. • I just saw a report on calls to the State hotline which stated that by July 11 of last year, they had received 36,000 calls. As of July 11, 2006, they have received 25,000 calls. It may be that because of the late spring rains, the season is behind a little. • I think in terms of equine and human cases we aren't that far behind last year. 	

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	<p>Nancy Barnard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DYCAST (state surveillance program) is based on calls. So calls are pretty important. <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The peak in human cases is generally in August. • I note on the Marin graphic that the areas where the most dead birds are reported are also the most populous areas. So, as with other rural areas around the state, these rural areas may have more dead birds per square acre but they are not reported because there are fewer people to find them. • I think that Linda is right that there is less concern right now, but that would probably change with the first human case. 	
Late Breakers / Round Table	<p>Marty Castro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claudia Erickson (Health Education) sent out a couple of emails, advising that updated WNV pamphlets are now online on the State web site. Each county can get 250 copies free. Who is the contact person for this in Marin County? I will pass around the information. • There is also a new calendar on the State web site. <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Anju Goel would be the main contact for Marin County. <p>Linda Ferguson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I contacted Claudia, asking to be added to the list of Marin County contacts, but I received no response so far. 	None.
Late Breakers / Round Table	<p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have processed 97 dead birds, 70 from Sonoma and 27 from Marin. All were negative. • We have been spraying (BTi) for salt marsh mosquitoes (larval stage control) in West Marin, Petaluma marsh, etc. This is very effective. • Our new RTP-CR machine was delivered so we can now test on site. • We are expanding our pooling with gravid traps in various locations 	None.

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Late Breakers / Round Table	<p>in the County.</p> <p>Shanna Cronan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had one positive IgG result which is probably a false positive. The woman has an extensive travel history. The positive may have been the result of yellow fever vaccine or exposure to other WNV related illness. • Call volume is very low. <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This result could also indicate past flavivirus infection. The report is an example of the reporting mechanism that we have in place. That report came in to our Communicable Disease unit and we reviewed it within HHS. This is not a current case. 	None.
Late Breakers / Round Table	<p>Lynn Murrin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call volume is also low. 	None.
Late Breakers / Round Table	<p>Cindy Machado:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's slow all across the board, on all fronts. 	None.
Late Breakers / Round Table	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We just posted on the web page the updated guidelines about specimen collection and testing. This comes out every year. There were a few minor updates. If a clinician were reporting to us a positive WNV IGM, which could indicate an infection, and it was from a commercial lab, we would seek first to get verification of those results through the State VRDL lab. • These are guidelines mainly for clinicians to guide them as to the interpretation of test results and which type of testing to do under what circumstances. • We have all the forms, etc. on our web site. 	None.

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<p>Risk Communication</p>	<p>Linda Ferguson (Dr. Anju Goel is at another meeting today):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sub-committee met again, focusing on outreach to workers who are most at risk of exposure to WNV. • The four agencies involved have agreed to contribute \$250 each to offset the loss in wages to trainees due to attendance at the training. • We hope to have the first training next Monday. • The training will be done in Spanish. We also have two translators for the Mayan dialect. <p>Scott Tye:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are lots of workers in West Marin who are not involved in agriculture but are at risk of exposure, such as those in construction. Have you made provisions for contacting these people? <p>Linda Ferguson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agriculture Commissioner’s office is doing out-reach to backyard and commercial poultry owners. So this is an opportunity to integrate WNV and Avian flu educational efforts. • The web site is continually updated. • What about the Public Service Announcements? <p>Loretta Rogers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have faxed an English transcription of the State’s WNV PSA to Kay Clemens at KWMR. I have not heard back from her. • I have also contacted the representative of three of the major Spanish-language stations broadcasting in Marin. I have not heard back yet. I will continue to follow up. • Also, I am working with Lance Lowrie in IST to make CD copies of the PSA on the State web site to send out to radio stations. 	

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Risk Communication	<p>Scott Tye:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested we use the MCSP calendar. Liz Lewis is the contact. • Also MCSP has “type” books available for use. He will provide Linda Ferguson with the telephone number and more information. <p>Fred Schwartz: The July page has WNV info.</p>	Scott Tye will provide Linda Ferguson with MCSP contact name, telephone number.
Risk Communication	<p>Fred Schwartz;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recent media coverage, there was an article on WNV in the Marin IJ about a week ago. I sent you all a copy via email. • We did our own press release to the Marin IJ, Novato Advance and Point Reyes Light about today’s meeting. • There was also an article written by Bobbi Kimball in the Marin IJ in May 2006, which I recently discovered and e-mailed to the TF members. It was a good article. Congratulations to Bobbi. 	Members were asked to inform the WNVTF when they or their agencies receive media coverage about WNV.
Approval of the minutes for the May 15, 2006 meeting	<p>Bobbi Kimball motioned to approve the minutes. Ron Keith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously with no changes.</p>	Minutes approved.
Meeting schedule for 2007	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I suggest as an agenda item for next month’s meeting that we discuss moving the first meeting of 2007 to May instead of March. 	Place this item on the agenda for next month’s meeting.
Other Announcements	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marin AIR (Avian Influenza Response) Group had is second meeting. We have clarified the main issues and are now dealing with roles and responsibilities. The State has come up with four scenarios which will lead to the development of protocols at the state level, and which will be useful to our work. Anju and I will be providing review comments. • The next meeting of Marin AIR will be in early August. 	

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Open Time for the Public	<p>Ed Schulze:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complimented the WNV Task Force for holding open meetings where all the major players are clearly committed and involved. Nothing is secret. This is a good thing. <p>Stacey Henderson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed with Mr. Schulze's assessment of the WNVTF. • Heard a report of an asymptomatic infection in a blood donor in Sutter County. Have any members of the WNVTF heard of it? • The system for picking up dead birds, reporting, turning them in, etc. is working well in West Marin. • I have noticed that mosquitoes are drastically reduced this year. Vector Control is doing a good job. • I have been appointed to the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Advisory Council. <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulated Stacey on her appointment. • Suggested Stacey may be interested in the Special Populations working group set up (Disaster Council, HHS, OES) to address the disaster related needs of special populations. 	
Open Time for the Public	<p>Scott Tye:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As this meeting will be shorter and the level of WNV activity is low, should we consider having fewer meetings? <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would be hesitant to cancel the August meeting as next month is usually the month with the peak of human infections. (General agreement). • We can put that on the agenda for next month. 	Put on the agenda for the August 2006 meeting the question of reducing the number of meetings, particularly in 2007.

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Open Time for the Public	<p>Stacey Henderson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It seems that a public meeting was not too disruptive to the workings of the WNVTF. Would you consider having all the meetings open to the public? <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is relatively unusual that we end early. Most of the time we use up every minute of the allotted 1 and ½ hours for TF business. Therefore, public meetings require us to expand the meeting time to two hours which may be difficult for some/many of our members. <p>Scott Tye: Also, public meetings require us to change our location.</p> <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can revisit this issue. 	
Adjournment	<p><i>The next WNVTF meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 21, 2006, from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon, at 899 Northgate Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903, 4th floor conference room. Dr. Fred Schwartz will chair the July 2006 meeting.</i></p>	Adjourned meeting at 10:57 AM.