

MARIN COUNTY
WEST NILE VIRUS TASK FORCE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, April 21, 2008
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Room 1018, 10 N. San Pedro Road
San Rafael, CA 94903

Attendees: Fred Schwartz MD (Chair), Anju Goel MD, Andrew Horvath, Dr. Sandy Ross (Guest), Bruce Badzik, Nancy Barnard, Marty Castro, Linda Ferguson, Ed Schulze, Stacy Carlson, Rob Ruiz, David Smail, Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: Agenda, WNV Task Force Surveillance Update

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Fred Schwartz opened the meeting at 10:44 am and welcomed all attendees.</p> <p>All attendees introduced themselves.</p>	None.
WNV Task Force Surveillance Update	<p>Andrew Horvath presented the WNV Surveillance Update:</p> <p><u>National:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national tables for 2006, 2007 and 2008 were reviewed and compared. As of April 8, 2008, there has been one human case each in Arizona, Mississippi, and Tennessee with avian, animal or mosquito infections in California and Alabama only. <p><u>California:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WNV activity in California in 2007, updated as of 3/7/08, was reviewed. There were 380 human cases, 140 of which were in Kern County. 	None.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A table was presented showing WNV activity in California from 2003 to 2007, showing the highest level of human cases in 2005 (880). WNV cases increased from 278 in 2006 to 380 in 2007. There were 20 WNV-related human fatalities in 2007. • In 2008, WNV activity in birds, animal or mosquitoes has been detected in only six counties so far. No human cases have been reported. Year-to-date numbers are similar, but slightly below levels from last 2007. <p><u>Marin:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marin had 4 positive dead birds in 2007, the lowest total since 2003. No other surveillance parameters detected WNV activity. • As of this date, no WNV activity has been detected in Marin County in 2008. 	
MSMVCD Update	<p>There was no representative from MSMVCD present so Ed Schulze, who sits on the board, agreed to provide a short report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSMVCD is cutting back on the sentinel chicken program. • The mosquito / fish program will start up again. <p>Sandy Ross reported that MSMVCD is doing an excellent job. Their staff appears to like to find problem areas and address them. Also, the public in Marin County is fairly well educated on this issue. A weak spot in the County is the Canal District where pipes are old and the absentee landlords are reluctant to undertake the necessary repairs. The City of San Rafael has had to pressure these landlords to repair these pipes.</p> <p>Dave Smail of county Environmental Health Services mentioned that they have worked with the City of San Rafael on these enforcement issues.</p> <p>Fred Schwartz reported that he had sent out via email to all members of the task force a copy of the <i>2008 California Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance and Response Plan</i>. It is also posted on the State web site. There are separate mosquito species based risk criteria for urban and rural areas. As Dr. Ross did not receive a copy of the Plan, Loretta Rogers will send it to her via email after the meeting.</p>	Loretta Rogers will send Dr. Sandy Ross a copy of the <i>2008 California Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance and Response Plan</i> via email.

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<p>Approval of Minutes of the October 22, 2007 WNVTF Meeting</p>	<p>Fred Schwartz introduced the minutes of the October 22, 2007 meeting which were emailed to all WNV Task Force members, asking if any changes need to be made. None were offered.</p> <p>Stacy Carlson moved that the minutes be approved as is. Nancy Barnard seconded the motion.</p> <p>The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.</p>	<p>The minutes of the October 22, 2007 meeting were approved.</p>
<p>Risk Communication Committee Update</p>	<p>Linda Ferguson reviewed the status of Risk Communications efforts for 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Escobar will be contacting the outreach workers trained last year to see if they can work on outreach this year. Until Dave makes these contacts, we will not know the scope of our efforts for 2008. Also, if all the previous outreach workers do not return, we will need to decide if we can train new ones. Training is expensive. • We have run out of copies of the Marin-specific brochure which was last updated in 2005. We have a lot of the State brochures. We can either print more of the Marin-specific brochures or use the State brochures with a label giving Marin information. It was decided to put Marin labels on the State brochures. • We also have some DEET wipes to give away • We need to know which agencies will contribute funds so that the outreach workers can be paid. The total needed is less than \$1,000. The workers are paid \$15.00 per hour and must be paid one time only as contractors. If we need to train new outreach workers the amount will increase. • The outreach effort includes booths at the County Fair and the farmers' market as well as presentations at various churches. <p>Sandy Ross suggested coordinating outreach efforts with MSMVCD's.</p> <p>Linda Ferguson will call a meeting of the Risk Communication group to discuss funding and other outstanding issues.</p> <p>Fred Schwartz reported that at this time of year Public Health generally</p>	<p>Linda Ferguson will send copies of the State brochure to Loretta Rogers. Loretta will create a label of suitable size for the brochure with the Marin information and then print off a couple hundred of these labels.</p> <p>Linda Ferguson will call Jim Wanderscheid regarding funding and coordinating outreach efforts.</p> <p>The Risk Communication group will meet to resolve outstanding issues of funding, and other outstanding issues.</p> <p>HHS will send out a public health update to Marin's health care providers and facilities, regarding West Nile Virus reporting, testing, and clinical guidelines.</p>

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	<p>sends out a Public Health Advisory to all providers regarding West Nile Virus, advising them that it is a reportable condition, how to report it, laboratory services available, how to interpret results, etc This will be done in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Marty Castro reported that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His department has a new handout on horses in Spanish and English. • Chicken testing will be done by his section. • Also referenced the new <i>2008 California Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance and Response Plan</i>. 	
<p>ASTHO Mosquito Collaborative Report</p>	<p>Dr. Sandy Ross reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has her degree in holistic health. She is a longtime member of the Health Council of Marin, a charter member of the Integrated Pest Management Commission and a member of MSMVCD. She has also been a field associate of the California Academy of Sciences for 40 years. • She was invited by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) to represent environmental organizations at their Mosquito Collaborative in Washington, DC in October 2007. This collaborative was funded by the Centers for Disease Control. • At the meeting were 30 “top scientists and public officials from around the country.” • The goal of the collaborative is to produce a booklet on developing sustainable state and local mosquito control programs and to decide how and to whom to distribute the booklet for effective results. The emphasis was on swarms of mosquitoes hampering emergency workers during a disaster. • Dr. Ross’s message to the collaborative was to practice transparency in all aspects, e.g. revelation of all ingredients of sprays, including inerts, • In her presentation, she introduced the book <u>Explaining Unexplained Illnesses</u> by Martin Pall which provides back-up science for using IPM and maintaining No Spray lists. 	<p>Dr. Ross will report again at the August 2008 WNVTF meeting.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She also introduced EcoEXEMPT IC2 (mint oil) by Eco-Smart Technologies as an alternative to chemical pesticides. It kills on contact and works as a repellent for 3 weeks. • She emphasized the need to repair wastewater and sewer pipes. Some jurisdictions have Public Works as the focus of the mosquito programs which we may want to do here in Marin. • A main problem is that there is no central jurisdiction or protocol for mosquito abatement. This collaborative was to be a start on addressing this problem. • Being able to reach large numbers of people quickly is important; hence the need for reverse 911 or similar systems. • The booklet is not yet finished, but should be by the end of the summer. • Marin County is at the top of the heap in mosquito control. 	
Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Anju Goel reported that there is one case being investigated as a possible but unlikely WNV human case.</p> <p>Nancy Barnard reported that the lab had not yet ordered the reagents for WNV testing and may not do so. No testing was done last year. They can be ordered and received in one day if the need for them arises.</p> <p>David Smail reported that he reminds staff to look for standing water when they are in the field as well as odor complaints, etc. We are focusing on repair of pipes rather than just maintenance.</p>	None.
The Next WNVTF Meeting	<p>Fred Schwartz stated that the next WNVTF meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2008 and will be open to the public.</p> <p>In view of the small number of attendees from the general public at the public meetings of the last two years, Dr. Schwartz proposed that the June meeting be of regular length (1.5 hours) and that it take place in Room 1018, if available.</p>	The June 2008 WNV Task Force meeting will be one and one-half hour long and will take place in Room 1018, if available.

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	Dr. Schwartz' proposal was unanimously accepted by the members of the task force.	
Adjournment	<i>The next WNVTF meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2008, from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. The location will be Room 1018 at 10 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael, CA 94903. Dr. Fred Schwartz will chair the meeting.</i>	Adjourned at 11:30 AM.