

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

MINUTES

**Monday, June 1, 2009
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

**1st Floor Conference Room
899 Northgate Drive, Suite 104
San Rafael, CA 94903**

Attendees: Fred Schwartz MD (Chair), Anju Goel MD (via phone), Lisa Gelling, Bobbi Kimball, Marty Castro, Ron Keith, Bruce Badzik, Cindy Machado, Stacy Carlsen, Rebecca Ng, Lynn Murrin, Shanna Cronan, Linda Ferguson, Rob Ruiz, Sandy Ross, Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: Agenda, WNV 2009 Epidemiology Update, Minutes of August 18, 2008 WNVTF meeting

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	Fred Schwartz opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Then, all attendees introduced themselves.	None.
WNV Epidemiology Update	<p>Lisa Gelling distributed the WNV Surveillance Update handout and reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>First slide</u>: The final 2008 WNV activity report from the CDC showed that Alaska, Hawaii, Maine and part of Puerto Rico had no WNV activity at all last year. New Hampshire and Vermont reported only bird, animal or mosquito infections. The other states all reported human cases, with California having the largest number at 445. • <u>Second slide</u>: This showed the distribution of WNV activity in 2008 as reported by state and local health departments. • <u>Third slide</u>: There is no CDC report on WNV activity in the United States available as of this date. 	None.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Fourth slide</u>: This chart compares reported WNV activity in California from 2003 to 2008. The highest rate of infection was in 2004 and 2005, with significant decline since. Last year, California had 445 human cases with 15 deaths. • <u>Fifth slide</u>: This chart shows the distribution of WNV activity in California. Marin had no human cases. • <u>Sixth slide</u>: This chart shows the “epi curve” of WNV activity in California in 2008 by week, the greatest level of activity being in the summer and early autumn months, from June to October. • <u>Seventh slide</u>: This chart shows WNV activity in California in 2009 as of May 31, 2009. So far, there is activity in 8 counties, but no human cases anywhere. Marin has reported no WNV activity at all. • <u>Eighth slide</u>: This shows WNV activity in Marin County from 2004 to 2009. The last year Marin had a human case was in 2006. • <u>Ninth slide</u>: This shows WNV detections in Marin County from 2004 to 2007, showing reported infections to be concentrated in east Marin. 	
<p>Adult Mosquito Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSMVCD Notifications • No Spray list • NPDES Permit Update 	<p>Ron Keith reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSMVCD has stopped processing dead birds as they assume the virus is here. Instead, MSMVCD has greatly expanded their processing of mosquito pools. This is where MSMVCD’s effort is directed now, setting live traps, testing, etc. (Marty Castro reported that the State is still tracking dead bird calls.) • Ron Keith is not sure if MSMVCD is still testing dead squirrels. He will find out and report back to the members. • A number of years ago, MSMVCD adopted a “No Spray” list which was a list of people in the County with chemical sensitivity or other health problems that made them not want any adult mosquito control spraying done anywhere around their property. The policy stated that MSMVCD would honor that request by not applying any pesticide within a 300 ft. diameter of such a person’s property. • The district board met May 13, 2009 to clarify what the district will do for adult mosquito control. Of particular concern was a mosquito called the Treehole Mosquito which is not a vector of WNV but an 	<p>Ron Keith will email Fred Schwartz a paragraph or more, explaining that MSMVCD is no longer processing dead birds, but is putting its efforts into processing mosquito pools. The paragraph will explain why this change was made and will still encourage the public to report dead birds to the Dead Bird Hotline and explain why. This paragraph will be reviewed by Fred Schwartz and the other members of the task force and then the approved version will be uploaded onto the WNV web page.</p> <p>Ron Keith will find out if MSMVCD is still testing dead squirrels and</p>

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	<p>onerous biter and a carrier of canine heartworm. The board decided to maintain the “No Spray” list and to implement a notification program. This Notification List is still problematic as it has not yet been determined how far away from a spray area a “No Spray” list person needs to be notified. This is still in development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vectors for WNV are <i>Culex pipiens</i>, <i>Culex tarsalis</i> and <i>Culex eurythorax</i> and we generally treat them with larvicide. If they reach a certain level at the adult stage, then in an emergency situation MSMVCD may need to treat with adult control products, all pyrethrin-based products, not pyrethroids. The dosage is less than an ounce of a 5% product per acre which is low but is enough to kill the mosquitoes. • There will be mosquito control available to those who request it. If there is someone on the “No Spray” list in the immediate area, this could be problematic, requiring notifications and possible negotiations. <p>Sandy Ross, PhD.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewed how the option to be on the “No Spray” list is communicated to the public via newspaper, radio, etc. and how the notification system works. <p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPDES stands for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, a permitting system designed under the Clean Water Act to not allow pollutants into U.S. waters. For the last 4 - 5 years, vector control districts/health departments throughout the State have enjoyed an exemption from that permitting process for adult mosquito and larval control. Pesticides are regulated under FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act), which deals with the question of when a pesticide stops being a pesticide and becomes a pollutant. Recently, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Ohio reversed that exemption. Now, pesticides are considered pollutants. MSMVCD has been meeting with a regulatory committee in Sacramento along with the Water Board and other agencies. The most recent news is that there are two items on the docket for the Sixth Circuit Court to 	<p>will report back to the members.</p> <p>Marty Castro will find out what other California counties have adopted the same policy with regarding to not processing dead birds.</p> <p>Ron Keith will confirm that squirrels are still being processed.</p> <p>Marty Castro will check with the State to assure that data tables reporting WNV infections contain an asterisk which states that dead birds are not being processed in Marin as of 2009.</p>

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	<p>consider: 1) a Stay, or 2) Open up the process again for a complete review. MSMVCD feels that there will be a stay and we will have two years to evaluate the 80 to 100 different products available, seeking to determine if they are pollutants or not. The regulatory committee in Sacramento has determined that 11 out of 30 products present no visible environmental concern regarding the active ingredient although the inerts may be a problem. MSMVCD is trying to get a short list of products that could be used without causing a problem with this permitting process. There will be further meetings coming up in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Anju Goel asked if the decision not to process dead birds was temporary. Ron Keith advised that it was the policy going forward and explained the rationale for the decision which was that resources were better used by focusing on mosquitoes.</p> <p>Marty Castro stated that he will find out if other counties in California have adopted this policy.</p> <p>Ron Keith says that some counties have stopped using sentinel chickens. MSMVCD continues to use sentinel chicken flocks although there have been no positives in four or five years.</p> <p>There was general discussion regarding the advisability of the public's continuing to report dead birds. It was determined that the public should be informed that testing is not being done of dead birds along with an explanation as to why, but that the public should still pick up and report dead birds, as there is surveillance value to this information. This will be included in the paragraph Ron Keith will compose and the finalized version will be posted on the web site.</p> <p>Also, data tables here and at the State should show that dead birds are not being tested as of 2009. Fred and Marty Castro will follow up.</p> <p>There was general discussion of when MSMVCD would resume processing of dead birds. An example of an event which would trigger a</p>	

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	resumption of processing would be a large die-off of birds.	
Approval of Minutes of the August 18, 2008 WNVTF Meeting	<p>Fred Schwartz introduced the minutes of the August 18, 2008 meeting which had been emailed to all WNV Task Force members, asking if any changes need to be made. The attendees reviewed the minutes.</p> <p>The minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.</p>	The minutes of the August 18, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously with no changes.
Report on ASTHO Mosquito Control Collaborative – “Before The Swarm”	<p>Sandy Ross, Ph.D. introduced the final report on the ASTHO (American Association of State and Territorial Health Officers) Mosquito Control Collaborative – “Before The Swarm.”</p> <p><u>Conclusion:</u> Health officials are urged to make a good pre-disaster mitigation plan and practice for emergency management of mosquito-borne disease outbreaks.</p> <p>California is better prepared than some states but has a “disconnect” because the mosquito control district setup is essentially autonomous in its actions. These districts have communication with the health officers but collaboration with local public works is missing. This is critical</p> <p>The final ASTHO report is on their website at the following link: http://www.astho.org/pubs/BeforetheSwarm-PDF.pdf</p>	None.
Risk Communication Committee Update	<p>Shanna Cronan reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the last conference call with the State regarding risk communication, various strategies used by different counties were reviewed. Among these were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Tag Line” radio spots – These are 15 second slots tied to the end of other commercials. It less expensive and more radio stations can be reached by using them. ○ CNN is doing a story in Lake County about aerial surveillance of abandoned swimming pools. ○ One district distributed educational packets to hospitals, 	Shanna Cronan will contact Nizza Sequeira at MSMCVD to tell her about the “tag line” radio spots as something MSMCVD may want to use in their outreach.

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	<p>medical officers, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vector control, animal control and PH Nursing outreaches to the public. ○ Los Angeles County held an open house with State legislators ○ Advertising on buses about abandoned swimming pools. ○ Advertising on gas pumps. ○ Efforts to increase waste management and recycling in the catch basins ○ There is also an outreach between Kaiser and the MSMVCD. They did additional education on Lyme Disease. ○ There have been no calls at all about WNV. <p>Linda Ferguson reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At the Marin County Fair there will be one shift on Thursday of PH nurses manning a booth and distributing WNV information along with other ● There was no targeted outreach last year as we did not have any outreach workers. ● There has been no risk communication committee meeting yet this year. Anju Goel is the chairperson for that committee. Linda will talk to her to see if there is a need to convene a meeting. <p>Shanna Cronan will contact Nizza Sequeira at MSMCVD to tell her about the “tag line” radio spots as something MSMCVD may want to use in their outreach.</p>	
Late Breakers / Roundtable	Lynn Murrin reported that the Clinician forms and guidance are the same so they can remain unchanged on the website.	No.
Late Breakers / Roundtable	Ron Keith clarified that the adulticides used by MSMVCD are pyrethrins and the NPDES is really concerned with pyrethyroids which are synthetic forms of pyrethrin.	
Late Breakers / Roundtable	Bobbi Kimball reported that the contract between West Marin and MSMVCD has been renewed for a period of five years.	

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Adjournment	<i>The next WNVTF meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2009, from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. The location will be the EOC conference room in Room 266 of the Civic Center, San Rafael, CA 94903. It is open to the public. Dr. Fred Schwartz will chair the meeting.</i>	Adjourned.