

MARIN COUNTY
WEST NILE VIRUS TASK FORCE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, May 15, 2006

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

899 Northgate Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903

Attendees: Fred Schwartz MD (Chair), Shanna Cronan, Lynn Murrin, Nancy Barnard, Mary Castro, Bobbi Kimball, Bruce Badzik, Linda Ferguson, Ronald Keith, Randy Saxe, Stacy Carlsen, Andrew Horvath, Phil Smith, Marci McEwen, Scott Tye, Loretta Rogers (Secretary)

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes of April 17, 2006 WNV Task Force Meeting, 5/15/06 WNV Surveillance Update

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action |
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| Welcome and Introductions | <p>Dr. Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. • Asked attendees to review the agenda and add any agenda items that were not listed. There were no additions. <p>All attendees introduced themselves and identified their agencies.</p> | None. |
| 5/15/06 WNV Surveillance Update | <p>Andrew Horvath:</p> <p><u>National:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was one human case in Mississippi. • Avian, animal or mosquito infection has been detected in California, Missouri and Florida. <p><u>California:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 mosquito pools detected in Riverside County. No others. | None. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 positive dead birds have been detected in California in 2006: 10 in Orange County, 2 in Sacramento County, 1 in San Diego County, 1 in San Mateo County, 4 in Santa Clara County and 1 in Ventura County. <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. The same is true for Sonoma County. • Four dead birds have been submitted for testing. All were negative by VecTest. <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 935 human infections detected in California in 2005 include about 55 asymptomatic individuals that were picked up by blood bank screening. There were 19 deaths. | |
| Late Breakers / Round Table | <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WNV Awareness week was April 24 – 30, 2006. The proclamation was posted on the WNV web page. • I saw the “flip it, dump it, drain it” ad broadcast on television the other day. It was a good, eye-catching ad. • The WNV Public Health Update was sent out last Friday to clinicians. | None. |
| Late Breakers / Round Table | <p>Ron Keith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We at Vector Control are already out working. • 85% of the population of California has vector control. It is up to the counties to establish it. 15% of the population does not have county vector control and are covered by the State. | None. |
| Late Breakers / Round Table | <p>Shanna Cronan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had calls about dead birds. We referred them to the DHS web site. • The inquiries were about how to report the birds or get them tested. | None. |

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| Late Breakers / Round Table | <p>Stacy Carlsen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agricultural Commissioners met two weeks ago for their annual gathering. There was discussion of WNV and H5N1. There is a small working group that acts as a liaison between federal and state agencies. It represents the interests of all agricultural commissioners. A state representative gave a briefing about H5N1 Avian Influenza so that all are on the same page about it state-wide. | None. |
| Late Breakers / Round Table | <p>Scott Tye:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a lot of flooding at Stinson Beach, Bolinas and West Marin. A lot of new pools have been established. I have talked to some of technicians from the district and shown them where we have problems, particularly CalTrans colverts. | None. |
| Late Breakers / Round Table | <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question for Marty Castro: Will the WNV bird reporting line also handle dead bird calls for H5N1? <p>Marty Castro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not that we know of. The staff has been trained to answer questions about WNV and refer them elsewhere, as appropriate. The Food & Agriculture website is good for Avian Influenza. Their telephone number is just a general number and callers need to get a live person before they can get questions answered about Avian Influenza. We don't know if they will improve the line. <p>Stacy Carlsen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food & Agriculture has requested in their budget an additional 41 – 42 full-time bio-security staff. The web page will improve. <p>Fred Schwartz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Avian Influenza web page has links to all state agencies, including CDHS, NPS, Food & Agriculture, Fish and Game, USDA, etc. | None. |

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| <p>Approval of the minutes for the April 17, 2006 meeting</p> | <p>Bobbi Kimball motioned to approve the minutes. Scott Tye seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bobbi Kimball requested a change on Page 3. The last bullet point should read, “Frank Eger provided the dates of the WNV Awareness Week ...” • Marty Castro requested two changes on Page 5. The first bullet point under his name should read, “The southern section of the state will start bleeding sentinel chicken flocks this week. The northern section will start next week.” In the second bullet point, the sentence “It will hit Alaska first” should read “It will likely be detected in Alaska first.” • Bobbi Kimball requested a revision on Page 5, the second bullet point under her name. The second sentence should read, “The team installed screens at 140 septic tank properties. The owners installed screens at 60 properties for a total of 200.” • Marty Castro requested a change on Page 8. The sentence under his name should read, “The horse mentioned by Mr. Eger came from Holland and was held in Davis and then went to Sonoma.” | <p>Minutes approved.</p> <p>Changes to minutes approved.</p> <p>The approved changes will be made to the minutes. Then, the approved minutes will be sent to all participants in pdf format by Loretta Rogers.</p> |
| <p>Risk Communications Work Group</p> | <p>Linda Ferguson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our working group consists of Dr. Anju Goel and myself. We would welcome additional members. • The County’s web site is being updated by Dr. Goel. • At this point, we are hoping to not update the “warm line” yet. All the information it provides is still current; we updated it last year. The only thing that needs to be changed is that it has the 2004 figures for WNV cases in California. There is a written script that is easy to modify. However, we try not to update the line unless we have to because the process requires a lot of effort and is time-consuming. Information is given in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. We have to get all three speakers together at the same time to record and the recording must be perfect. | <p>Linda Ferguson will update the recording for the “warm line,” requesting the assistance of OES staff / Ron Keith’s agency.</p> |

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| | <p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recording must be analog. We do our recordings digitally and it is much easier to make changes. You don't have to re-record the entire tape, just the portion you want to change. <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OES is part of this task force, even though they do not often come to the meetings. They may have suggestions to help with this recording. When you re-do it, leave the statistics out, otherwise you will be facing the same problem next year. Try to get it done over the next few weeks and have it ready to go. | |
| Risk Communications Work Group | <p>Linda Ferguson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Brochures – Marin County-specific:</u> We still have them left from last year. We request that all attendees take some before leaving and pass them out. These have been passed out to all hospitals, clinics, school nurses, county fairs, etc. Anju has brochures for seniors in English and Spanish that she has just received that are also available for distribution. However, they are not at this meeting. <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to Ron Keith's question about public satisfaction with brochures and other materials, Fred stated that we have received positive feedback comments. <p>Shanna Cronan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A beta test was done two years ago on the brochures and we got a positive response from the public. | Attendees to take brochures and distribute to their clients, as appropriate. |
| Risk Communications Work Group | <p>Linda Ferguson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSA's: We're looking for the media list in order to set these up. | Linda and Anju to assure PSA's are ordered. |

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| <p>Risk Communications Work Group</p> | <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2006 WNV Public Health Update to clinicians was sent out via email and broadcast fax last Friday. Loretta will be posting it on our WNV web page today. • We included some new information that came out of the WNV Conference. For example, although the frequency of pediatric cases in California is quite low compared to adult cases, the presentation profile is similar (<u>i.e.</u> similar percentages of cases presenting as WNV Fever, Meningitis, Encephalitis, Atypical Flaccid Paralysis). The information was taken from Dr. Glaser’s presentation at the conference. • Also, previously WN fever was presented as a flu-like, self-limited illness, taking about a week to 10 days to resolve. More evidence (studies from Illinois and California) is showing that while most symptoms are gone in 2 weeks, muscle weakness can persist up to 4 weeks. The subjective sense of returning to “normal” can take 4 to 6 weeks. • Avian Influenza working group will address risk communication as well. We will post all of the phone numbers of the state agencies where dead/sick birds can be reported on our Avian Influenza web page. These numbers are in addition to the WNV phone numbers. Dr. Ben Sun put these down in an algorithm. | <p>Loretta to post 2006 WNV Public Health Update on WNV web page.</p> <p>Anju will confirm and Loretta will post all phone numbers of state agencies for reporting dead birds on web site.</p> |
| <p>Risk Communications Work Group</p> | <p>Shanna Cronan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to do special outreach to the Hispanic community, especially outdoor workers. This would include PSAs on Spanish language radio stations. • David Escobar has a radio program and is usually willing to help. Shanna volunteered to help the Risk Communication this item. • Stacy Carlsen and Marci McEwen volunteered to help. Another attendee advised that Carlos Porata could be another resource. <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information for outdoor workers is posted on our WNV website. | <p>Shanna Cronan, Stacy Carlsen and Marci McEwen will work with the Risk Communication Work Group on specific outreach to Hispanic community, particularly outdoor workers.</p> |

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| <p>Discussion of Merger with Avian Influenza Task Force</p> | <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Responding to Avian Influenza in Wild Birds and Poultry in Marin” meeting (Avian Influenza Task Force) was well-attended, with all leading State agencies except for Fish & Game which was represented by Dr. Ben Sun who gave a presentation.. Sam Iverson from USGS also gave a presentation about surveillance in Alaska and California. • We now have a draft algorithm from Dr. Sun – a generic algorithm for all the counties. This task force will be filling in the specific details for Marin County. • They will develop a Marin County-specific plan. • The State agencies should have their Avian Influenza response plans well worked out in about two months, according to Dr. Sun. • Supervisor Cynthia Murray is convening a county-wide Pandemic Influenza Task Force which will have its first meeting in June. She will be the chair; Chris Godley of OES and Fred will be vice-chairs. • Fred posed the question as to whether the Avian Influenza Task Force should be combined with the WNV Task Force. | |
| <p>Discussion of Merger with Avian Influenza Task Force</p> | <p>There was general discussion about the question of whether and when to combine the Avian Influenza Task Force with the WNV Task Force. Considerations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Avian Influenza Task Force will need some time just to get up and running. • The WNV Task Force is not covered by the Brown Act and therefore does not need to be open to the public. Will this status change if the WNV Task Force is combined with the Avian Influenza Task Force? Stacy Carlsen stated that standing meetings (<u>e.g.</u> formally appointed commissions) are covered by the Brown Act while “advisory groups” are not. Fred Schwartz indicated the Pandemic Influenza Task Force is being described as temporary, so it is not clear at this point if the Brown Act will apply, or if it will apply to subcommittees. We will learn more about this in the coming weeks. • Will we need to have two separate meetings or can they combined? Phil Smith stated that if there are two separate meetings, they should | |

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| | <p>be on the same day and be scheduled one right after the other as some group members come from long distances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a combined meeting would WNV become a minor agenda item? • The WNV Task Force only meets from March to November. | |
| <p>Merger with Avian Influenza Task Force</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacy Carlsen made the motion that the WNV and Avian Influenza Task Forces maintain separate meetings through the mosquito season. In spring of 2007, the two groups could possibly be combined. This issue will be reviewed periodically throughout the season, as needed. Those WNVTF member agencies which are also on the Avian Flu Task Force will agree to participate in both. • Scott Tye seconded the motion. • The motion was passed unanimously. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Motion approved:</u> The WNV and Avian Influenza Task Forces maintain separate meetings through the mosquito season. In spring of 2007, the two groups may be combined. This issue will be reviewed periodically throughout the season, as needed. Those WNVTF member agencies which are also on the Avian Flue Task Force will agree to participate in both. |
| <p>Feedback on public attendance at the last WNV Task Force meeting, 4/17/06.</p> | <p>Linda Ferguson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested that in future we have the room set up so that a place for the public to sit is clearly indicated. It was not planned for the public to sit at the table with the task force members. • Suggested that we have a sign-in sheet at the door for these public meetings. | |
| <p>Adjournment</p> | <p><i>The next WNVTF meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 19, 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 June 2006 meeting.</i></p> | <p>Adjourned meeting at noon.</p> |