

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

**MINUTES**

**Monday, June 18, 2007**  
**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**899 Northgate Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903**

*Attendees: Fred Schwartz MD (Chair), Nancy Barnard, Marty Castro, Bobbi Kimball, Cindy Machado, Bruce Badzik, Stacy Carlsen, Ron Keith, David Escobar, Marilyn Jordan, Loretta Rogers (Secretary)*

*Handouts: Agenda, WNV Surveillance Update, as of 6/12/07 for U.S. data and as of 6/15/07 for California data.*

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	<b>Fred Schwartz</b> opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.	None.
WNV Surveillance Update	<p>As Andrew Horvath was unable to attend the meeting, <b>Fred Schwartz</b> presented the WNV Surveillance Update, as follows:</p> <p><u>National:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2007, there have been three human cases in the U.S., one each in South Dakota, Iowa and Mississippi. Bird, animal or mosquito infections have been detected in eight states.</li> </ul> <p><u>California:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The table shows no human infections in California in 2007; however, one asymptomatic infection in an adult has been detected in Kern County through blood bank screening.</li> <li>• So far, there has been one positive horse, 33 positive dead birds, four positive mosquito pools and two positive sentinel chickens.</li> <li>• In California, WNV activity is mostly concentrated in the southern</li> </ul>	None.

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	<p>counties, with only four northern counties reporting activity.</p> <p><u>Bay Area:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been one positive horse in Sonoma County and eight positive dead birds in Santa Clara County.</li> </ul> <p><u>Marin:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No WNV activity has been detected so far in 2007.</li> </ul>	
<p>Mosquito Surveillance and Control Update</p>	<p><b>Ron Keith</b> reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Mosquito control:</u> Because the rain ended early this year, there has been less water and therefore less need for pesticide application. Overall, less acreage has been treated to date compared to last year. However, less water also means increased problems with stagnant water producing more mosquitoes. For example, <i>Culex pipiens</i>, a night-biting mosquito that prefers water with heavy organic content, is more numerous this year. MSMVCD is using gravid traps effectively against this pest.</li> <li>• <u>Dead birds:</u> Last year, MSMVCD processed only corvids. As of this date in 2006, MSMVCD had processed 20 birds in Marin and 54 birds in Sonoma. This year, MSMVCD is processing all species. So far, 59 birds from Marin have been processed and 103 birds from Sonoma. All were negative.</li> <li>• <u>Testing:</u> MSMVCD is doing testing in-house which is working well.</li> <li>• <u>Proficiency Panel:</u> MSMVCD is working on its second proficiency panel from DHS for PCR. Last year, MSMVCD did very well on its first proficiency panel. MSMVCD uses the same protocols as the State.</li> <li>• <u>West Marin:</u> MSMVCD is presently negotiating with West Marin Mosquito Control Council on the agreement. The current issue is the use of a product that is a monomolecular film, used to suffocate mosquito pupae. Jim Wandersheid will meet with the Council today at 3:00 PM.</li> </ul>	<p>None.</p>

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<p>Mosquito Surveillance and Control Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Red Tail Hawk</u>: Last year, a red tail hawk kept at Walker Creek Ranch died. Testing showed the hawk had West Nile Virus. MSMVCD recently trapped at five locations at Walker Creek and found two species of mosquito but none tested positive. MSMVCD will go back in July and August 2007 to do more trapping.</li> <li>• MSMVCD has a new piece of equipment, a large excavator, which will help move water, etc. It helps in efforts at source reduction.</li> <li>• <u>Open House</u>: MSMVCD recently had an open house which was a great success. About 400 people attended.</li> <li>• <u>Fairs</u>: MSMVCD will have booths at the Sonoma and Marin fairs.</li> </ul> <p><b>David Escobar</b> asked about the dangers involved in handling dead birds. He stated that Native Americans frequently collect dead hawks and eagles to use the feathers in religious and healing ceremonies. Some are immersed in salt water.</p> <p><b>Ron Keith</b> advised that if the birds are infected, the virus would be found in the saliva, organs and bodily fluids. Human handlers could potentially be infected through cuts and open wounds. Refrigerating / freezing the bird carcasses or immersing them in salt water would reduce the chance of infection. It is highly recommended that the bird carcasses be tested by MSMVCD. Testing involves just an oral swab. Routine precautions include not handling dead birds, using gloves, and double bagging.</p>	<p>MSMVCD to notify Fred Schwartz and MCOE (Luke McCann) of results of Walker Creek Mosquito trapping and testing.</p>
<p>WNV education and Public Information</p>	<p>As Shanna Cronan was unable to attend, <b>David Escobar</b> reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last year, outreach was done to the Spanish-speaking and Maya community through the farmer's market and day laborers in the Canal, San Rafael and Novato. There was lots of interest.</li> <li>• This year, the effort will be expanded. This effort will be hampered somewhat because two of our Maya outreach workers will be unavailable. However, WNV information will be presented on a local radio show in Spanish and Maya.</li> </ul>	<p>None.</p>

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WNV education and Public Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A partnership with the First Five Commission has been established. Our budget for this year is about \$1,400. The First Five Commission will match that amount to fund our outreach. This increased support will allow us to expand our outreach this year. We will cover Novato, the Canal, West Marin, and San Geronimo Valley.</li> <li>• We will train “health promoters,” i.e. leaders in the community already in place who facilitate the dissemination of information in their communities.</li> </ul>	
Approval of Minutes of the April 16, 2007 WNVTF Meeting	<p>The minutes of the April 16, 2007, West Nile Virus Task Force Meeting were presented for approval.</p> <p>No corrections or additions were offered. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.</p>	Minutes of the April 16, 2007 WNVTF Meeting were approved.
Round Table	<p><b>Marty Castro</b> reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the current issue of the weekly California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin, there is a table on WNV activity. The table shows YTD WNV Comparison numbers for 2006 and 2007. It shows the number of hot line calls, dead bird reports, positive mosquito pools, etc. The current numbers for 2007 are slightly larger than those for last year at this time. However, it is still early in the season and overall the numbers for 2007 may not be that much different from 2006. Marty will send Andrew Horvath a link to the bulletin.</li> </ul>	<p>Marty Castro will send Andrew Horvath a link to the weekly California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin.</p> <p>Andrew is asked to include year to date comparisons in the Epi updates at WNVTF meetings.</p>
Adjournment	<p><i>The next WNVTF meeting will be open to the public and is scheduled for Monday, August 20, 2007, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The location has yet to be determined. Dr. Fred Schwartz will chair the meeting. A July 16 meeting will be held if circumstances warrant it, but is not scheduled.</i></p>	Adjourned at 11:30 AM.