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West Nile Virus Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Nix Farm Natural Areas Office 1745 Hoffman Mill Road

Date: March 28, 2018

Time: 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Darrick Turner, Chet Moore, Greg McMaster, Eric Levine, Liz Pruessner, Amy Kafka

City staff present: David Young, Tyler Marr, Matt Parker, Broox Boze (Contractor), Katie O'Donnell (Larimer County)

Review of City Council Work Session

- Questions staff posed to Council:
 - Any further info needed?
 - Is there a desire to change the adulticiding thresholds?
- Council was ultimately split 3-3 on changing the thresholds (Mayor Pro Tem Horak attended via phone but did not participate in the discussion).
- Next steps for staff as directed by Council:
 - Bring forward a resolution with option to lower adulticiding threshold. Tentatively scheduled for May 15th Council meeting and is a single reading because it's a resolution.
 - Explore a vector control with regional partners
 - Direction from Council to extend an invitation for a seat on the TAC to someone who has been impacted by WNV.
 - TAC discussed that a medical professional with patients affected by WNV, Dr. Jackie Fields, previously sat on this committee.
 - The point was made by a few committee members that it is unclear what benefit this brings. It may bring an emotional aspect to the conversations at the TAC.
 - Tyler reported that the invitation for applications to join this committee will be dispersed this summer.
- Concern was expressed by a committee member for the timing of the Council Work Session the day before the final TAC meeting. Ideally, the work session should have taken place after the TAC meeting.
- Points that TAC members suggested that need to be made in staff discussions with Council:
 - The average vector index numbers, if provided to Council, may have altered the discussion.

- It needs to be stressed to Council that it is not possible to achieve 0 instances of infection and that if we were going to seek to reach 0 infections, it would change the entire approach of the TAC.
- Regressive relationship between the vector index and human cases of infection, but the variability and degrees of uncertainty need to be highlighted.
- Areas to spray:
 - Spraying is currently done on a quadrant basis. This is also used as an outreach tool to help people identify risk levels.
 - The City receives recommendations from the County on which sub-quadrant areas should be sprayed.
 - Suggestion was made to go toward using GIS tools to identify the hot zones to spray, rather than the quadrant method.
 - It is still unclear, though, if the practice of targeting areas to spray is more effective than a broad treatment. More data is needed to determine this to show that targeted spraying does reduce human cases.
 - The opt-out program is a concern if the targeted approach is taken.
 - Additionally, the targeted approach will lead to more frequent sprayings.
 - Ideal outcome: spraying less and still driving the vector index down
- Discussion took place regarding the impact that zoning into 4 districts had, if any, on frequency of spraying.
 - Pre- and post-trap tests can help to determine if the spraying is effective or not. However, more resources are needed if pre- and post-trap tests are going to be utilized more frequently.

Vector Control District

- The TAC discussed the feasibility of forming a vector control district. It was mentioned that this can be difficult to form if it were to include multiple counties.
- It was mentioned that it was done successfully in California and in Minnesota. The primary issues for these examples were political in nature.
- This concept was discussed years ago in Fort Collins and would entail a popular vote by a significant margin. The Larimer County attorney's office reviewed this and determined it would be extremely difficult to create.

Federal Funding

- Federal law passed in 2002 to provide state funding, but funds were never actually dispersed.
- Unlikely for federal funding to be available under the current administration.

Next Steps for continual improvement

- Vector control and minimizing the use of the active ingredient is the agreed upon goal.
- Suggestion was made to provide funds for doing pre- and post-tests with respect to spraying on the day before and the day after, not week(s) after.
 - Matt committed to writing a BFO enhancement offer to fund the study.
 - A committee member will touch base with CDC and other agencies to determine if this type of study has already been done. Depends on what post-trap timeframe is.
 - The TAC will still consider larger, longer-term study options to have a control area and a spray area in a non-budget cycle.
- What more will we learn with what we can capture? A lot of uncertainties and variabilities exist with this subject.