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West Nile Virus Technical Advisory Committee

February 24, 2021 Meeting Agenda

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94911433896?pwd=dkU5THRoK2FDOWcxmQ4QVM2SG8ydz09>

Meeting ID: 949 1143 3896

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TAC Members Present: Dana Kunze, Will Schlatmann, Greg McMaster, Roxanne Connelly, and Chet Moore.

Public Present: None

Meeting Convened: 4:30 pm

Welcome and Introductions, Review Agenda

Public Comment

None

Discussion on the barriers/opportunities of Merus 3.0

- Merus is a naturally derived permethrin.
- Merus is not currently registered for use in Colorado and not widely used across the United States – California and Michigan are two known areas of use.
- Cost difference is significant, but if the TAC determines the product is better, staff could support the transition.
- Discussion:
 - TAC question on why areas like California and Michigan chose Merus

- More widespread public acceptance and is approved for use on organic crops.
- TAC question on Boulder's strategy and opinion on Merus
 - The City of Boulder does not spray and has significantly cut the larviciding program. However, the County does have a spraying/larviciding program.
 - Staff to follow up with Boulder on their numbers after implementing their new approach.
- TAC question on the cost of the product and whether switching would be an option during budget cuts.
 - Adult mosquito spray applications are not accounted for within the budget and come out of the City Manager's emergency budget.
 - If the TAC recommended switching to Merus, staff would provide an update to both City Council and the community.
- TAC question on how to get Merus approved in Colorado.
 - Clarke would submit registration application to the State of Colorado.
 - Staff consulted with Clarke and they are willing to approve the use of Merus if it is determined to be the choice product for the municipality.
- Other TAC comments
 - Labeling may matter for organic growers. Continued concern about the harm to beneficial species in the ecosystems. Feel like this new product will not have a significant positive impact.
 - Would like to consider the tendency for natural products to be more allergenic than synthetic options.
- Follow up items:
 - Staff to check in with Boulder regarding their mosquito control and inquire into the County spraying policy (do they spray in Boulder's city limits).

Update on 2021 Budget as well as upcoming BFO budget schedule

The 2021 WNV will be down \$40,000 due to a purchased Reduction Offer purchased as a response to anticipated COVID-19 short-falls. Cuts are anticipated in education and outreach as well as 2-3 weeks of trapping and testing data.

Staff has sought a reappropriation for money unspent in 2020 to carry into 2021.

With the 2022 BFO process beginning soon, the WNV will seek to recover the \$40,000 budget cut. 2021 is the final year of our current VDCI contract.

- Staff applied for a reappropriation request for funds not used in 2020 (roughly \$20k).
- City will undergo another 1-year budget process.
- A few key goals
 - Restoring reserves
 - Replenishing accepted reductions
- Anticipate cutting nearly all outreach as well as some trapping. Larviciding will not be cut.

- City Council will have two readings of the budget.
- Going into the 2022 budget, staff will work to advocate for suggested improvements from this group and others.

Strategies and improvements for 2022 and beyond

The WNV Efficacy Study was another COVID related budget reduction. Would it be beneficial to wrap pre- and post-testing into an adult mosquito application event?

As budget constraints continue and COVID related human health concerns put downward pressure on WNV concerns, what are the implications of a shortened data collection season? Trapping and testing currently run from week 24 through week 36. How would anticipated climate changes affect any trapping/testing changes?

Other potential opportunities?

- TAC support for wrapping pre- and post-testing into an adult mosquito application event.
- TAC interest in seeing the connection between application and number of human cases.
- Interest in discussing the trapping season and frequency of sampling.