

Vector and Code Enforcement Advisory Committee

SE Health Center, January 23, 2007, 1-3 PM

Facilitator: Kari Lyons, Multnomah County Environmental Health

Voting Members Present: Bill Ballinger, Charlotte Matthews, Elaine Stewart, Leon Tiger, Sue Ruonala, Sue Peterson, Ruth Jones

Absent: Marianne Perrin

Others Present: Lila Wickham, Program Manager, Mult. Co. Environmental Health; Chris Wirth, Program Manager, Mult. Co. Vector & Code Enforcement; Carl Pierce, Vector Control Specialist, Mult. Co. Vector & Code Enforcement; Gerhard Matheis, Environmental Health Specialist, Mult. Co. Environmental Health

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Chris Wirth introduced Carl Pierce as the new Vector Entomologist.
- Lila Wickham introduced Gerhard Matheis as a new technical advisor to the Committee. Mr. Matheis has expertise in horses and environmental health.
- Lila Wickham presented mugs to Committee members in appreciation for their participation.

11-21-06 MINUTES

MOTION:

Sue Ruonala motioned that 11-21-06 minutes be approved.

SECOND: Bill Ballinger

IN FAVOR: Bill Ballinger, Charlotte Matthews, Leon Tiger, Sue Ruonala, Sue Peterson, Ruth Jones

OPPOSED: none

MOTION PASSED

FOLLOW-UP: 11/21/06 ACTION ITEMS

- Sue Peterson presented email correspondence from Marianne Perrin detailing her discussion with Ted Wheeler. The email stressed the following points:
 - Communication is important.
 - Chair Wheeler's office can help with public service announcements, and he would like to keep the public informed.
 - Chair Wheeler is in agreement with the importance of the activities of vector control.
 - Chair Wheeler cannot make funding promises because of the state of the present budget. He hopes to be back to normal budgeting in a year.

Marianne left Chair Wheeler with the thought that vector-borne diseases should be monitored and the emphasis should be on prevention and not emergency response.

- Sue Peterson presented a draft of the letter to be sent to the Board of County Commissioners and requested feedback from Committee members. Discussion included the following points:
 - The letter should end with a short fact regarding the cost of the vector control services, for example: *The department costs each resident of Multnomah County 14 cents per month to operate.*
 - Lila Wickham will research and confirm budget and population information used to determine cost per capita.

MOTION:

Sue Ruonala motioned that the following steps take place for completion and distribution of the letter:

1. Sue Peterson will have revisions completed by 01-24-07.
2. Ruth Jones will have signed copies to hand-deliver to County Commissioners no later than 02-02-07.

SECOND: Charlotte Matthews

IN FAVOR: Bill Ballinger, Charlotte Matthews, Leon Tiger, Sue Ruonala, Sue Peterson, Ruth Jones

OPPOSED: none

MOTION PASSED

- Sue Peterson posed the question to the Committee as to how to get an audience with the Board of County Commissioners. Lila Wickham will provide Ms. Peterson with contact information for Board members scheduling staff.

MOTION:

Following discussion, Sue Ruonala motioned that the following actions take place:

- Sue Peterson will first connect with Commissioners on an individual basis.
- Sue Peterson suggested a Sauvie Island community member to accompany her. If the community member is not available, Charlotte Matthews member will accompany Ms. Peterson.
- An informal group meeting with the Commissioners will be arranged for February or March 2007.

SECOND: Charlotte Matthews

IN FAVOR: Ballinger, Charlotte Matthews, Leon Tiger, Sue Ruonala, Sue Peterson, Ruth Jones

OPPOSED: none

MOTION PASSED

UPDATE ON COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- Katharine Diack's position still remains open on the Advisory Board and Sue Peterson and Marianne Perrin will end spring 2007; however, they may remain members through mid-summer to carry the Committee through the start of the new fiscal year.

- Four Committee positions will need to be filled in the next several months.
- Kari Lyons, Lila Wickham and Charlotte Matthews have attempted one-on-one recruitment in the following areas:
 - Professors at PSU and OHSU
 - Committee to End Homelessness
 - Hands on Portland, Civic Leaders
 - Sisters of the Road
 - Street Roots
 - Gerhard Matheis, horse community
- Committee members offered their own reasons for joining, and brainstormed the following areas to recruit from:
 - Horse community
 - Portland Farmers' Markets
 - Zoo
 - Newspaper
 - Multnomah County Sheriff's Posse
 - Xerces/Audobon Society
 - Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
 - Willamette River Keepers

EDUCATION UPDATE

- Chris Wirth presented the following five concepts for an upcoming West Nile Virus media release:
 1. Gearing up: provide reminders about window and door screens etc. Target schools. Provide calendar of events to include Metro Solid Waste Neighborhood Clean-up day.
 2. Gearing up: provide reminders about source reduction and personal protection.
 3. Northwest mosquito control: how WNV statistics in Oregon compare to other regions.
 4. WNV forecast: what we can expect in the coming year.
 5. Community involvement: focus on urban areas and provide hanging traps.
- Committee members agreed upon the following concepts:
 - "Gearing up" and "Community involvement"
 - developing a catchphrase
 - staging a public event
- Kari Lyons presented and Committee members brainstormed the following ideas for disseminating these concepts:
 - Newsletter
 - Trainings
 - Mainstream media
 - Childcare providers
 - Tri-met ads
 - 4-H
 - Intramural clubs
 - Oregon Farm workers Assn.

- Gardening section of local papers
 - Feed stores
 - Street Roots
 - Elder community
 - Mosquito Awareness Week in June
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- Chris Wirth presented abstract for EPA Grant and included the following points:
 - The grant focuses on providing Integrated Pest Management to the elderly
 - Metro has agreed to dispose of household rodenticides for free
 - Charlotte Matthews will provide contact information for Project Linkage, a local nonprofit that provides services to the elderly.

IPM SUBCOMMITTEE

- Elaine Stewart provided an update and will be presenting at the next VCEAC meeting.

OPEN MIC

- Metro IGA meeting will be Tuesday, 01-30-07.
- University of Portland will begin an internship with Vector in the coming months.
- Elaine Stewart attended an Urban Ecosystem Consortium which included a presentation on the hantavirus by Laurie Dizney. Ms. Stewart found the presentation very informative.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 03-20-07. Arrive at 12pm if you would like to watch an episode of “Dirty Jobs” that focuses on mosquito and rat control, provided by Chris Wirth

Sue Peterson adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm. Committee members agreed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.