

## Vector and Code Enforcement Advisory Committee

June 14, 2005

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Horsetail Falls Room 380

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**Facilitator:** Kari Lyons, Multnomah County Environmental Health

**Voting Members Present:** Mariane Perrin, Sue Peterson, Charlotte Matthews, Emilio DeBess, Gordon Hillesland, Elaine Stewart

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Leon Tiger, Katharine Diack

**Absent:** Bill Belanger, Ruth Jones, Sue Ruonala

**Others Present:** Chris Wirth, Supervisor, Vector and Nuisance Control, Mult. Co.; Lila Wickham, Program Director, Mult. Co. Environmental Health, Roselyn Meier, Independent Facilitator

### Introductions and Welcome

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Kari Lyons convened the meeting at 10:00 AM and welcomed those present. Minutes from the June 14, 2005 meeting were approved with a motion by Mariane Perrin, and a second by Charlotte Matthews.

### Meeting Frequency and Times

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Chris Wirth, Supervisor of Multnomah County Vector and Nuisance Control, presented the Vector and Nuisance Control strategic plan. Committee members asked for the following clarifications:

1. Leon Tiger requested information on the budget for Vector. Chris responded that the budget is 1.2 million with 60 percent allocated to personnel.
2. Lila Wickham stated that with diseases such as Avian flu and West Nile virus, the role of Vector and Nuisance Control is becoming increasingly important. She stated that we hold a unique role as the only vector unit in the state to be placed within the Health Department.
3. Mariane Perrin stated her support for Vector and Nuisance Control because of her experience in working with Vector on a rat abatement issue on her personal property. She introduced educational materials to the committee as support documents on the importance of a Vector unit and the committee itself.
4. Kari Lyons encouraged members to review the website (<http://www.mchealthinspect.org>) to find further information about vector issues.

### Civil Penalties Overview

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Chris Wirth reviewed the existing civil penalties process and discussed the need for an ordinance to give Vector and Nuisance Control enforcement capability using a civil

penalty process. He explained that the civil penalty process is the enforcement component of an integrated pest management program (a multiple step approach of best practices) to educate, consult, provide options, and effectively negotiate with landowners to reduce or eliminate vector breeding habitats such as standing water to assure local public health is considered.

He explained that we need it because:

- Vector control is a community issue; effective vector control requires property owner responsibility to reduce or eliminate vectors and their habitats (e.g. pools or tires).
- Multnomah County is comprised of seven cities with no or varied enforcement authority, vector-related codes; or infrastructure directed to code enforcement programs.
- Current code enforcement activities by other partners do not consider public health perspective and priority.

The committee was asked to answer the following questions:

1. What methods could be used for getting community input? Responses included: focus groups, local drainage districts, SOLV, Project Linkage, Neighborhood Associations, Garden Clubs, Street Fairs and Farmers Markets, Bird Feeder Stores, METRO, City of Portland, and School districts and local newspapers.
2. What are the objections we might encounter on getting approval? Responses included: Private landowners who are breaking the law, city partners, multi-complex landowners, undeveloped landowners, wetlands management, privately owned properties, and commercial landlords.

### **Proposed Agenda – June 14, 2005**

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The Meeting agenda was approved for June 14, 2005 as follows:

- Identify strategic plan objectives for further discussion
- Identify perceived gaps in the Strategic plan
- Confirm best meeting times, and breaks.
- Schedule summer field trips.

The committee was asked to do the following tasks for the next meeting:

1. Identify topics for further discussion
2. Identify gaps in the strategic plan
3. Identify topics that they need more information on.
4. Review the website.
5. Identify potential meeting times.

The agenda was set for the next meeting on June 14, 2005 at the Hawthorne Building, Horsetail Falls Room 380. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM by Roselyn Meier.

