

Vector and Code Enforcement Advisory Committee

SE Health Center, September 19, 2006 1-3 PM

Voting Members Present: Sue Peterson (Chair), Marianne Perrin (Vice Chair), Bill Ballinger, Leon Tiger, Sue Ruonala, Elaine Stewart, Ruth Lindsay-Jones, Chris Wirth, Lila Wickham, Mark Fulop, Sue Peterson

Absent: Charlotte Matthews

Facilitator: Kari Lyons, MCHD

Meeting Set Up

1. Minutes approved by Bill Ballinger, seconded by Sue Ruonala
2. Introduction of Mark Fulop, new supervisor of MCEH Community Education and Outreach including Healthy Homes

West Nile Virus update

Chris Wirth, Vector Control Supervisor, discussed the two cases of West Nile virus detected in the City of Portland. A crow and Western Scrub Jay were collected as part of routine dead bird testing, and tested for WNV. Locations were SE Buckman and Brooklyn area. One mile and two mile routine mosquito breeding habitat locations were tested as follow-up, concluding that the cases may not have been from mosquitoes living in pools such as stormwater drains or catch basins. Mosquito larval source may have been originated in private properties. Because crows have migration patterns and jays are non-migratory means these cases of WNV are likely locally acquired. Mosquito season is winding down for this season. Historically the 2nd and 3rd year of WNV in a community shows higher activity.

Chris discussed Vector staffing issues, citing the recruitment process for the office assistants and Vector Specialist. The entomologist position was turned down by two candidates; one due to the lengthy interview and recruitment process, the other due to the temporary funding of the position.

Chris added that Vector Control recently hosted health professionals from South Africa and Oman as part of the Cochran Fellowship.

Membership Update

Lila presented the initial recruitment for the VNAC, the membership content areas and the duties reflected in the by-laws. Committee members reinforced the desire to seek a member representative of the homeless population. If this outreach is not successful, other missing content areas will be sought.

Feedback from Committee members: See Attached.

What would make a successful year?

More field trips

More community outreach

Clearly defined objectives consistent with mission

Ways to support better communication

Make well informed recommendations

Re-visit the code enforcement ordinance

Re-visit the purpose of the IPM subcommittee

Enjoy the educational component of meetings.

Providing more meaningful input

Committee members stated they would like:

- Simple agendas with clear desired outcomes and objectives
- Further understanding of county sponsorship for the program and committee
- Open conversation
- Continuity between meetings
- Relationship building
- Clear expectations or framing need to be clear
- The process for decision making has to be agreed upon
- Committee assertion

Focusing on critical issues

Committee members would like to focus on:

- Prevention and Promotion of West Nile virus and Emerging Diseases with more community involvement
- Research on topics such as: “blood meal analysis of two mosquito species” or “climate change effect on vector-borne disease”
- Implementation of the Code Enforcement Ordinance, specifically defining the process and communicating the ordinance to the community.
- Financial Sustainability (determined as urgent priority)
- Continue with the IPM Recommendation Process

Next Steps

Committee Members decided to hold a special October meeting on the 26th from 2-5 pm focused on (1) defining action items for priorities, and (2) creating a workplan to implement action items.

The November 21st meeting will focus on the budget process, looking at the what, where, when, why and who's involved.