

## **Vector and Code Enforcement Advisory Committee**

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Horsetail Falls Room 380

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

**Voting Members Present:** Marianne Perrin, Sue Peterson, Charlotte Matthews, Sue Ruonala, Ruth Jones, Bill Belanger, Elaine Stewart

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

**Absent:** Emilio DeBess, Vic Bangoy

**Others Present:** Lila Wickham, Program Director, Mult. Co. Environmental Health; Mark Wilson, Ecologist Portland Parks and Recreation; Debby Schwartz, Community Member.

### **Introductions and Welcome**

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The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by Chair Bill Belanger. Committee members reviewed the June 14<sup>th</sup> minutes. Marianne Perrin motioned to pass the minutes and Sue Ruonala seconded.

Kari stated that Gordon Hilesland had corresponded that he would no longer be able to serve on the committee due to employment conflicts with the designated times.

### **Evaluating Summer Sessions**

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Committee members said they were overall happy with the summer informational sessions and field trips, commenting that there needed to be second sessions for those that missed the first sessions of Rats and Code Enforcement. They said the trips were informative, helpful to “get on board” with vector issues and understand the work and mission of Vector more comprehensively. Leon Tiger gave high recognition to Nate McConnell for his skill and knowledge of mosquitoes and disease surveillance.

### **Agenda Topics Generated Summer Sessions**

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Committee members expressed an interest in learning about Avian Bird Flu, as well as learning more about West Nile virus and its prevalence now and in the future and an update on community outreach.

### **Environmental Health Visioning Presentation**

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Lila Wickham presented on Multnomah County’s mission, vision, values and goals. She presented four maps that looked at the geographic locations of people of color, people in poverty, exposure to multiple environmental problems, such as concentrations of diesel particulate matter, and asthma levels in children under six. She commented that all of these maps have similar components, which demonstrate that most often people of color

and people in poverty are exposure to multiple environmental problems and health concerns. Lila suggested that the mapping exercise is important because it identifies patterns of disparity, and as diversity increase in Multnomah County we become more and more aware of our need to approach community health problems and concerns on an individual level but are also aware of the constraints in achieving such a goal.

Leon Tiger commented that coping with public health issues with the County encountering such major financial constraints year after year must be challenging. Charlotte Matthews commented that often tough financial times create resourcefulness. Marianne Perrin questioned how the federal government distributes funds, asking if there was a formula for fund distribution. Lila spoke about the County's success at getting grant funding for positions.

### **West Nile Virus Task Force Presentation**

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Committee member Elaine Stewart presented background information and pending issues of the West Nile virus Task Force. The purpose of the task force was to provide recommendations on a comprehensive policy to manage West Nile virus, focusing on public education and vector control options, that would have broad community support. The task force was comprised of a broad base of individuals such as vector staff, health professionals, scientists, advocates and citizens, and was charged with achieving this purpose over a six meetings with an independent facilitator.

The task force generated a policy based on the California scoring system. The task force was informed that they would form an Integrated Pest Management committee that would address issues such as a public notification system, mammal-biting mosquitoes, and creating a hotline for people sensitive to pesticides. The task force met in August to briefly discuss these pending issues, as the IPM group was not formed. Elaine proposed that such a committee now be formed.

Kari Lyons then facilitated a processing session after Elaine's presentation. Leon Tiger wondered the impact of such a committee and the adulticiding policy if West Nile virus may not be prevalent. He brought up whether we need to address the adulticide policy or not. Sue Peterson addressed the Lillian Shirley memo when the committee was first formed, stating that she thought Lillian was clear on the expectations that the policy may not be what the task force members may have wanted.

Katharine Diack stated she was very concerned about the disconnect between Vector and some community or land managers and that communication seems like a real problem. Lila apologized for good intentions that may have gone wrong, stating her concern for how the process was managed. She voiced she had great concerns about forming such a committee that was charged with the task of creating an adulticide policy in only six meetings, stating that perhaps not enough time to build relationships would hinder the process. She said she was happy to facilitate the process of negotiating contracts with land managers so that it may include some educational components and address communication concerns.

Sue Peterson suggested forming the IPM group and volunteered, as well as Charlotte Matthews, to be on the committee. Lila suggested working with experts and the Oregon Health Sciences to review the existing IPM plan at Vector Control, as they are responsible for signing off on the IPM plans. Kari said she would contact Elaine, Sue and Charlotte for an initial meeting. Marianne Perrin.

### **Proposed Agenda – November 15, 2005**

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Members proposed have a report out on West Nile virus and its prevalence; community outreach over the summer; and from the newly formed IPM Committee. The agenda will also address the vacant voting position. The committee decided to address Civil Penalties in January and learn more about Avian Bird flu in March.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM by Chairmen Bill Belanger.**