

Vector and Code Enforcement Advisory Committee Minutes
SE Health Center, November 18th, 1-3 p.m.

09/16/08 MINUTES

MOTION: A motion was made to approve 09/16/08 minutes.

SECOND: The motion was seconded.

MOTION PASSED The 09/16/08 minutes were approved.

Introductions:

Lynn George introduced Jim Stafford from Vector Control to the Committee Members.

Old Business Updates:

- Animal Services Recommendations: Lila Wickham reported on the status of the Animal Services Initiative. The recommendations are currently in draft form. Animal Control Services will continue to be managed under Multnomah County. There will be enhancements to the program; one of which includes restoration of responses to citizen barking dog complaints. Goals will be to obtain fees from owners of animals to support the program – while encouraging accountability. There will be a two model program; 1. Multnomah County level which will be fee driven model and; 2. City of Portland will adopt an enhanced user fee for additional services.

The advisory committee recommends a new animal services facility be built near I-205. The full recommendations will be presented to Multnomah County Chair Ted Wheeler and Portland City Commissioner Randy Leonard will finalize and put forth recommendations.

New Business Updates:

- West Nile Virus (WNV) Update: Chris Wirth presented a PowerPoint presentation on WNV. He provided a map of Oregon that detailed the counties in Eastern and Southern Oregon that were affected. Of the seven counties, 16 people, two corvids and 18 mosquito samples tested positive for WNV. Multnomah County did not have any positive cases and do not expect any cases of WNV in Multnomah County to be detected for the remainder of the year.

Chris presented a map of positive cases in Washington State: Grant, Yakima and Benton counties all had WNV activity. 15 cases that were horse or other mammal related, four corvids and 22 mosquito samples tested positive. Washington had a higher number of horses infected than Oregon. Some theories for explanation include climatic temperatures have an effect on this differential and possible lapse or less vaccinations administered to equines.

Observations conclude that Eastern Oregon is a hot spot and vaccinations for horses work. Testing procedures include returning to cold chain method for mosquito identification in Oregon and Washington. Mult. Co. Vector Control will continue with their integrated mosquito management plan.

Committee Members discussed the upcoming budget submittal process. Budget will be finalized in June 2009. The draft budget in early Spring 2009 can be an indicator of the final budget. Lila Wickham reported that there is an anticipated reduction up to 15% from the General Fund monies. Precise instructions on how, when and what amount reductions will be implemented has not yet been determined.

Committee Members expressed an interest in meeting in January 2009 to discuss budget issues and to commence a special subcommittee within the group to prepare a letter of support for the Chair's Office as when VCEAC Members have come together as a citizen committee and carried the important message of retention of the Vector Control and Code Enforcement programs to the Chair's Office.

- Vector Presentations

1. *Climate change and vector-borne diseases*: Chris attended the 40th Annual Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE), <http://www.sove.org/Home.html> meeting in December 2008 in Ft. Collins, Colorado. SOVE is a professional organization involved in vector biology and control programs. Current membership represent a merger of research and operational and extension personnel from all over the world. SOVE is committed to solving many problems encountered in the field of vector biology and control including but not limited to the suppression of nuisance organisms and disease vectors through integration of control elements, such as environ-mental management, biological control, and public education.

Chris discussed climate change and environmental health while presenting slides of “time scales of climate variability” and “warming greatest at northern latitudes which looked at heat anomalies”. Chris discussed climate change predictions for the Pacific Northwest – wetter winters; drier summers along with warmer winters west of the Cascades.

2. *Are we ready for this change?* Chris presented a timeline of events that the Mult. Co. Health Dept. (MCHD) is involved in. He discussed what MCHD is currently doing and what we know. All components are effected by temperature.
3. *Ochlerotatus japonicus*: Chris presented on the history and status of *Ochlerotatus japonicus* in Oregon and Washington. The presentation

included larval identification and the adult identification related to exotic mosquitoes such as *Aedes aegypti*, *Ochlerotatus japonicus*, *Aedes albopictus* and *Ochlerotatus triseriatus*. Chris discussed the science of the relationships between organisms and their environments along with their emergence as exotics. Theories of invasion of exotics include Lucky Bamboo. Surveillance methods include carbon dioxide traps. Next steps include coordination of information on the findings of *Oc. japonicus* in the PNW region and completion of the systematics to determine country of origin.

In March 2008 Carl Pierce and Seth Irish published an article in the Journal of Mosquito Control, titled *Update on the Distribution of Ochlerotatus Japonicus*.. Their article is a scientific note that describes the first findings of *Oc. japonicus* in Cowlitz County, WA and Multnomah County, OR. It illustrates the mosquito's expanding range from the Seattle area to Southern Washington and Northern Oregon. It also serves to note that this is the first *Oc. japonicus* found in the state of Oregon.

- Vector Education/Outreach Priorities: Chris emphasized that outreach would return to a “back to the basics” approach which meant more direct interactions with communities and clients through direct educational outreach. Because we have a market brand, slogan and tools we have the ability to go out into our communities (fairs, neighborhood associations) and ultimately have more success. Committee Members suggested having a campaign and while providing outreach provide community members a token (e.g., pen, pencils).

In 2008 MCVNC created the www.fightthebiteoregon.com website in conjunction to a project with Washington and Clackamas counties as well as the State of Oregon for National Mosquito Awareness Week. The website tracked the number of hits it received, they were far and few in between. An ad campaign commenced and signage was placed on Trimet buses.

Ideas for continued outreach include “outdoor schools,” through the public school system, using real estate connections and PSA's – preference of Oregonians to receive their information via TV per the State of Oregon BRFSS study.

- Animal Services and Emergency Response: Sharon Harmon from the Oregon Humane Society (OHS), www.oregonhumane.org presented on OHS services. OHS receives no tax money or government support. OHS is funded by voluntary contribution of individuals and businesses in the community. Sharon reported how and why OHS became a humane animal welfare organization dating back to 1881 Initially OHS focused on livestock animals but within a few years advocated for the protection of children as well.

Sharon shared a video of the abandoned animal rescue efforts along the Gulf Coast during the wake of Hurricane Katrina. OHS staff and volunteers assisted

alongside other agencies in New Orleans. Thousands and thousands of animals were left behind after the storms because no pet evacuation plan existed. Also thousands of residents refused to leave their homes because they did not want to leave their pets behind.

Rescuers had a lot of ground to cover during the animal rescue operation. Pets were left stranded by the storm's destruction. Owners expected to return a few days – this did not happen -- animals struggled for survival without their owners for weeks.

Rescue workers ventured into polluted floodwaters and would break into abandoned homes to rescue animals while Vets worked to provide medical treatment to the rescued animals. Many animals had no prior healthcare/vaccines. Prior to Katrina New Orleans already had a large street dog population. This event only exacerbated the problem as pets went native and traveled in packs placing many people at risk.

OHS coordinated the rental of a Continental Airlines jet for one day flying abandoned pets to Portland. Freightliner donated a truck to assist with the transportation of the animals to OHS. The animals were evaluated and so far are healthy and happy. Those people working to save the lives of animals must work swiftly. When prepared, they work well within their state.

One achievement since Katrina was the passage of legislation to help prevent animals from being left behind in disasters. Congress approved and the President signed into law the Federal Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act. This ensures that State and local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency. For more information on disaster preparedness for pets please visit http://www.oregonhumane.org/services/disaster_preparedness.asp.

Sharon also shared written material which included a printout of a PowerPoint presentation titled "Household Pets Service Animals Issues," the Fall 08 issue of the Oregon Humane Society magazine and a publication from the Oregon Department of Agriculture on *Oregon's Response Plan for Animals in Disaster* <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/news/080319animal.shtml>. Sharon will work with Multnomah County Emergency Planning staff to assure that Multnomah County considers and implements PETS in their planning and response activities.

Next Meeting:

January 13, 2009, 1-3 p.m. at Columbia Wastewater Treatment Plant, Mt. Hood Room.

Suggested Agenda Topics:

1. Discuss Budget – Chris to prepare budget shortfalls.

2. Educational Priorities
3. Campaign – give incentives, outdoor school pps, real estate connection, radio PSA, TV and school age children.