

**MARIN COUNTY
WEST NILE VIRUS TASK FORCE**

MINUTES

Monday, March 20, 2006

10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

899 Northgate – 4th Floor Conference Room

Attendees: Fred Schwartz (Chair), Randy Saxe, Linda Ferguson, Andrew Horvath, Shanna Cronan, Chris Bramham, Nancy Barnard, Jim Wanderscheid, Marty Castro, Bruce Badzik, Bobbi Kimball, Lynn Murrin, Bob Sotelo, Celia Golden, Scott Tye, Phil Smith, Stacy Carlsen, Loretta Rogers

Handouts: Agenda; Minutes of November 21, 2005 meeting; 3/20/06 WNV Surveillance Update; WNV Surveillance Brochure order forms

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
WNV 2005 Epidemiology Review	Andrew Horvath: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passed out the WNV surveillance Update for 3/20/06• <u>Nation:</u> The U.S. map shown in the first slide is as of 2/14/06. The numbers have not changed much since November and are pretty close to final. California was the epicenter, particularly northern California.• <u>California:</u> So far in 2006 we have had 7 positive dead birds. The human cases shown include asymptomatic cases. The third slide shows geographic distribution.• <u>Marin:</u> No positive dead birds have been found this year.	None

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National WNV Conference, San Francisco	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have all received an email on this conference. It includes a link where you can find the PowerPoint presentations given at the conference. They are in PowerPoint or .pdf format. Try not to open the PowerPoint files directly from the site; I recommend that you save the file first to your home drive then open it. 	None.
Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Jim Wanderscheid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An agreement was reached with West Marin a week and a half ago. It should be long-lasting. The agreement centers around four different aspects: education, source reduction, community involvement and treatment, if necessary. BTI program will be used. The agreement is for one year, after which it will be reviewed. We will do our job and the West Marin Community pledges that they will do their job. <p>Bobbi Kimball:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan is that Jim's board will review this agreement and hopefully approve it at their April meeting. BCPUD, the organization that sponsored the committee that represented West Marin, will look at it at their next meeting. The West Marin community wants to work with the district to use physical, mechanical, and non-toxic methods to try to prevent mosquito breeding in all of West Marin. We are now in Phase II, which means we have invited other special districts and agencies to appoint representatives to a council to assure that West Marin holds up its end of the partnership, to work with the district in educating the public and to launch community efforts. 	None.

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Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Bobbi Kimball (new item):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCPUD has been awarded an <i>Americorps</i> team of 11 young people, aged 18 to 24, consisting of 8 women and 3 men. • The team is coming to Bolinas on March 23 and will be with us for 2 weeks. • Our obligation is to provide them with housing, cultural and educational experiences, and work. • On sunny days, they will be screening the plumbing of the 380 houses that are on septic systems. • On rainy days, they will be ditching, helping to open up water ways on the big mesa where we have standing water and working on paper roads which have become overgrown. • <i>Americorps</i> is a 10-month commitment for college credit. The typical person who joins is a white college-age female, so it is not unusual that our team has so many women. • The team has their own equipment and they are fully insured through the Federal Government. • We have contacted local papers to get publicity. • We have sent out notices to all owners of homes on septic systems to get consent to enter their property. • If any other communities are interested in availing themselves of <i>Americorps'</i> help, I would be happy to help them apply. • 	<p>Following Fred Schwartz' suggestion, will post information on the BCPUD (Bolin Community Public Utility District) web site, www.bcpud.org.</p>

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Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Scott Tye:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bolinas Lagoon Technical Advisory Committee is going through its 4 year study to see what the lagoon will look like in 50 years. It's a snap-shot study. • The prediction is a 60% to 200% increase in the salt marshes. • It's part of the gulf of the Farallones, so it is a protected zone. • The body of the report says that the mouth of the lagoon could close every 10 years. But the administrative report at the beginning, they say that they cannot predict closure for 50 years. • Also, the National Park Service with the USGS did a coastal vulnerability to sea level rise study. They predict 16 – 18 inches of sea level rise in the next 100 years. In the previous century it was 7 inches. That will have an impact on wetlands and more inundated areas. • The report is on www.openspace.org. 	None.
Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Linda Ferguson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We still have boxes of brochures in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. • I suggest we have the <i>Americorps</i> volunteers distribute brochures. 	Bobbi Kimball will pick up brochures at Linda Ferguson's office for <i>Americorps</i> volunteers to distribute.
Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Shanna Cronan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have received about a half dozen calls about dead birds since the last meeting. Callers were inquiring about who to contact about testing dead birds for WNV. I referred them to the State hotline. • No positive tests. 	None.
Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Jim Wanderscheid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are testing all birds now, sending them to the State. • Using data from last year, we are trying to get in earlier to areas which have pockets of water and which last year produced a lot of mosquitoes. We are trying to eliminate them in the larval stage. • When we get a positive dead bird, we put together a surveillance program for that area (10 block radius) to find out what's going on. 	None.

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Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Marty Castro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hotline remained active since our last meeting. It did not close for the winter. • On the hotline, data is going directly into the database and the Dycast model is being used to make forecasts. • Some agencies are only testing corvids. It is up to each agency to determine if they will test all dead birds or only corvids. 	None.
Approval of Minutes of the November 21, 2005 meeting	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All attendees reviewed the minutes. • Linda Ferguson pointed out that her name was misspelled. This will be changed. • Bobbi Kimball made a motion that the minutes be approved. • Linda Ferguson seconded the motion. • The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. 	Minutes approved.
Format change for minutes	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All attendees agreed to a table format for the minutes. 	Table format will be used in writing up minutes of WNV Task Force meetings.
Risk Communication – additional funds	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State has additional funds budgeted for Risk Communications to spend. We have two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Obtain and distribute more “Bite to Bite” brochures. We are already getting 1,500. ○ Obtain and distribute a version of the mosquito calendar. 	<p>Participants are to review options for the remaining Risk Communications funds and be ready to make a decision at the next meeting.</p> <p>“WNV Information for Seniors” will be posted on the WNV web site in pdf format.</p>

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Pandemic Alert	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal authorities are predicting the arrival of Avian Influenza in Alaska and California or lower US states some time in the next few months to six month. • A multi-sector approach is needed for planning for a pandemic. A pandemic could mean up to 30% absence of staff. Business continuity plans are needed. Some of the WNVTF members are also involved in pandemic planning. For example the County Ag Commissioner needs to prepare for the arrival of H5N1 in case poultry are infected. See the www.pandemicflu.gov website. 	None.
Next Meeting 4/17/06 open to public	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As agreed upon by the WNVTF, the April and July meetings will be open to the public (see previous minutes). • We need to determine a meeting location large enough. • Discussion about a press release to announce the meeting. 	<p>Loretta Rogers will locate an appropriate room.</p> <p>Fred Schwartz will arrange a press release to announce the meeting and that it is open to the public.</p>
Adjournment	<p><i>The next WNVTF meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2006, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, at the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership, 1st floor Community Conference Room, 555 Northgate Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903. Dr. Fred Schwartz will chair the April 2006 meeting.</i></p>	Adjourned meeting at noon.