

**MARIN COUNTY
WEST NILE VIRUS TASK FORCE**

MINUTES

Monday, April 17, 2006

10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

555 Northgate – 1st Floor Conference Room

Attendees: Fred Schwartz (Chair), Ron Keith, Bruce Badzik, Phil Smith, Marci McEwen, Nancy Barnard, Marilyn Jordan, Bobbi Kimball, Linda Ferguson, Marty Castro, Andrew Horvath, Anju Goel, Stacy Carlsen, Shanna Cronan, Loretta Rogers

Members of the Public Attending: Stacy Henderson, Frank E. Eger

Handouts: Agenda; Minutes of March 20, 2006 meeting; 4/17/06 WNV Surveillance Update, WNV 2005 Epidemiology Review, sample Mosquito calendar.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Schwartz welcomed attendees, including members of the public who were invited to this meeting. • Dr. Schwartz introduced Dr. Anju Goel, Deputy Public Health Officer, who took over from Dr. Nathalie Bera who resigned in January. Also, Dr. Celia Golden is now on maternity leave. Dr. Goel will fill both those half-time positions as a full-time DPHO until Dr. Golden's return which is expected in mid-October. <p>Phil Smith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced Marci McEwen, a new staff member at Environmental Health. She is in a newly-created position, Senior Inspector for Program Innovation and Implementation. She will be a regular attendee at the WNV Task Force Meetings. Previously, she was with San Francisco Environmental Health for 10 years. 	None.

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WNV 2005 Epidemiology Review	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of the WNV 2005 Epidemiology Review are available to all WNVTF members and members of the public (attending today’s meeting) who want them. 	None.
WNV Surveillance Update	<p>Andrew Horvath:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed out the WNV surveillance Update for 4/17/06 • <u>California</u>: So far in 2006 only four counties have shown WNV activity: Orange, Sacramento, San Diego and Santa Clara. There have been 11 positive dead birds. There have been no human infections, no horses, no mosquito pools, no sentinel chickens. • <u>Marin</u>: No positive dead birds have been found this year. We have tested one bird so far out of 34 reported. The dead birds that were not tested were reported too late for testing. Birds must be tested within 24 hours of death. 	None
WNV Awareness Week	<p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Announcements (PSA) are starting. Media will be provided with the PSAs we produced last year. • Comcast ads will start again. One of the drawbacks is that satellite TV users will not see these ads. • It’s a pretty comprehensive campaign, focusing on people 50 years old and over. • I have no information yet on when WNV Awareness Week is this year. There will be an acknowledgement by the Board of Supervisors. 	Post an announcement of “West Nile Virus Awareness Week” at the top of the WNV web page on the County’s public site.

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WNV Awareness Week	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year the resolution was presented to the Board of Supervisors as a WNV Task Force resolution. This year, the process seems to be accelerated and the District presented their proclamation directly to the Board of Supervisors without going through the WNV Task Force. I believe it will be presented at tomorrow's meeting. • We will post it at the top of the WNV web page. • I believe it will be the last week of this month. 	None.
WNV Awareness Week	<p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The resolution was synchronized with the Assembly concurrent resolution presented at the State level. I think it was triggered more by that process which happened after the WNV Task Force meeting. • Frank Eger provided the dates of the WNV Awareness Week, April 24 – 30, 2006. 	None.

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<p>Risk Communication Committee Update</p>	<p>Anju Goel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We participated in the WNV teleconference about educational strategies for the 2006 season. • We have recently ordered a bundle from the State Department of Health Services, called “Fight the Bite” which includes brochures in English and Spanish. The only difference between this bundle and last year’s is that there is now a brochure for seniors. The seniors brochure in English is already posted on the web site. We are still awaiting the senior brochure in Spanish. We should have it very soon. • State is also providing us with a Mosquito Calendar. It is offered electronically and it is up to us whether we want to print it out and distribute it. It’s mainly for children. • We need to reach hard-to-reach populations like migrant farm workers, non-English speakers. Other counties have PSAs in Spanish and other languages on radio and TV, also slides put up in local movie theatres as part of the previews. • Other counties have had success working with faith-based organizations. • The State will not be putting out any radio or TV ads this year. It is up to the individual counties to do this which we will do. The State has scripts available on their web site. 	<p>The Risk Communication Committee (Anju Goel and Linda Ferguson) will work with MCVD to run PSAs on Spanish language radio and TV.</p>

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Risk Communication Committee Update	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These and other informational brochures, including those for outdoor workers, are posted on the web site in .pdf version. They are available for reproduction as long as it is for non-profit purposes. • We don't have funding set aside for funding PSAs. The Committee can work with Ron's organization to piggy-back on their efforts. • One last item: It was an action item at the last meeting that we would send out a press release regarding this public meeting. The press release was composed and sent out to the Marin IJ, the Novato Advance and the Point Reyes Light. It was also posted on our web site. 	None.
Risk Communication Committee Update	<p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a regular practice, our organization hands out an informational packet which includes information on West Nile Virus, whenever we make a visit to ranches, farms, business organizations, etc. 	None.
Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Marty Castro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The southern section of the State will start bleeding sentinel chicken flocks this week. The northern section will start next week. • We (CDHS) are working on a protocol for when Avian Influenza does reach California. It will likely be detected in Alaska first. State Food & Agriculture will be testing commercial flocks once a month for H5N1. Our agency will probably not be involved in testing for H5N1. • We are working on how it will impact the dead bird program once it is here. That is not yet finalized. 	None.

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Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm convening a meeting in the next two weeks or so of agencies which would have a role when Avian flu arrives in birds in Marin / California. I will report back at the next meeting. I will invite Dr. Sun. It's not WNV but it has implications for our agencies. • The arrival of H5N1 in birds will probably prompt changes in the protocol for picking up dead birds, for example. 	Fred Schwartz will report on out come of meeting regarding response to Avian flu in birds in Marin / California.
Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Bobbi Kimball:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next BCPUD meeting will be on April 19th when the agreement (with MSMVCD) will be reviewed. • We had a very successful Americorps visit. The team installed screens at 140 septic tank properties. The owners themselves installed screens at 60 for a total of 200. The Americorps team dug drainage ditches and other tasks. • BCPUD sent an acknowledgement letter to Americorps, an acknowledgement was placed in the local paper and in the BCPUD newsletter and web site plus information on how to contact Americorps. <p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can place a link to the Americorps information on the BCPUD web site on our web site. 	Anju Goel and Loretta Rogers: Place a link in the Marin County WNV site to the Americorps information on the BCPUD web site.
Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Shanna Cronan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had a few more calls regarding dead birds. We refer them to the hotline and web site. The State does the pick-up. 	None.
Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are testing only raptors and corvids this year as they are the most susceptible. This tends to cause concern in callers who report dead birds, so the public needs to be educated about this. • We know that WNV is in the area but the only way to find out where it is is by testing mosquito pools. 	Ron Keith will email information to Anju Goel so that the Marin County web site page about reporting dead birds can be updated to clarify this, but also to emphasize the importance of continuing to report dead birds.

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Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are right at the season where there will be a lot of flying insects around, especially after these heavy rains. The public’s perception of what’s out there is a little different from what’s really happening. When temperatures rise, then mosquitoes will be prevalent. • We will do truck-mounted fogging in northern Marin, but none south of the Civic Center. We have operators who can use hand-held foggers for more targeted treatments. • We will be taking a base-line reading on blood samples from our sentinel chickens and field workers. • We will focus heavily on mosquito pooling. Last year, we processed over 1,000 pools and came up with nothing. That was a lot of time, money and effort for what was basically a needle in the haystack approach. • The best approach is to obtain gravid mosquitoes using traps. Our colleagues in the northern part of California are having a hard time trapping them. Our colleagues in the south are not having as much trouble. We will spend a lot of time on that. • We have an internship arrangement with Sonoma State University (SSU) and they will locate their new PCR machine at our facility. So we have the ability to do PCR in our district. • At the next MSMVCD Board meeting on Wednesday, we will adopt our arbovirus response plan. This plan was provided to this group over a year ago. The present plan has some modifications. • We have expanded our catch-basin treatment plan. The extensive aerial spraying in Sacramento last year was a direct result of not having a larval control plan. • We use dead bird collection to help target gravid mosquito trapping. The radius of the trapping depends on the range of the bird collected. Corvids and raptors can have quite extensive ranges. 	None.

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Late Breakers / Roundtable	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will send out a public health update to medical providers in early May. It will be pretty much the same as last year. We have all the forms, etc. in place. This will be just a reminder. • We will also include in the update new information that came out of the latest National WNV conference in SF (2/06), e.g., that West Nile fever may not be as benign as originally thought. 	Anju Goel: will draft a PH Update for clinicians.
Approval of Minutes of the March 20, 2006 meeting	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All attendees reviewed the minutes. • Bobbi Kimball pointed out three small errors. These will be changed. • A motion was made and seconded that the minutes be approved with Bobbi Kimball's corrections. • The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. 	Minutes approved. A pdf copy of the corrected and approved minutes will be sent to the WNVTF members.
Open Time for Public (30 Minutes)	<p>Frank Eger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed concern about information regarding use of DEET in children. • Mentioned that the Sonoma Valley horse WNV case last year might have been infected in Davis. • Expressed concern about study which indicated that residues of pyrethrins in the river in Sacramento were not breaking down and therefore could have a negative environmental impact. 	None.
Open Time for Public (30 Minutes)	<p>Fred Schwartz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at WNV web site for information regarding alternatives to DEET plus recommendations for parents. The site also links to the American Academy of Pediatrics statement about use of DEET in children over two months of age. <p>Marty Castro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The horse mentioned by Mr. Eger came from Holland and was held in Davis and then went to Sonoma. 	None.

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Open Time for Public (30 Minutes)	<p>Stacey Henderson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are squirrels and rabbits being tested? • Expressed concern that there were a lot of chickens in private homes in West Marin. • Encouraged agencies to work together more frequently. 	None.
Open Time for Public (30 Minutes)	<p>Ron Keith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage the public to report these, but we do not want the public to touch them. Ground squirrels can have plague. The hotline has those specifics. WNV occurs less frequently in squirrels than in birds. • Regarding chickens in private homes, we need direction from the State so that we can have a uniform approach. 	None.
Adjournment	<p><i>The next WNVTF meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 15, 2006, from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon, at 899 Northgate Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903, 4th floor conference room. Dr. Fred Schwartz will chair the May 2006 meeting.</i></p>	Adjourned meeting at noon.