

The Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County, Arizona convened in Special Session at 1:30 p.m., March 2, 2005 in the Board of Supervisors' Conference Room, 301 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Max W. Wilson, Chairman, District 4; Fulton Brock, District 1;; Andrew Kunasek, District 3; and Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5. Absent: Don Stapley, District 2. Also present: Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board; Monica Farine, Minutes Coordinator; David Smith, County Manager; and Paul Golab, Deputy County Attorney.

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order. He welcomed all speakers and those from the Public Health Department. He indicated that he knew a number of people because he had served on the Board of Health for several years.

WEST NILE VIRUS PRESENTATION

Dr. Suzanne Cook, President, Board of Health, said the West Nile Virus Action Plan is the result of months of meetings between County staff, the West Nile Virus Ad Hoc Committee, and the Board of Health. The plan concentrates on educating the public regarding the dangers of West Nile Virus, what individuals can do to protect themselves, and the need to eliminate standing water in backyards. Other components of the plan include involving cities, towns, educational institutions and community organizations in the education and outreach efforts. Increased concentration will be placed on larvaeciding and surveillance with the hope that fogging can be minimized. The medical community will be enlisted to help educate their patients and assist in identifying cases of West Nile Virus.

Joy Rich, Chief Regional Development Services Officer, provided a more detailed overview of the Action Plan and said the County will address the West Nile Virus in a combined effort with several partners, the components being:

- Citizen education on risks of West Nile Virus;
- Citizen education on prevention in their community and own backyard;
- Comprehensive breeding site identification, elimination and treatment;
- Surveillance and testing; and
- Fogging only under strict protocol with community notice given in advance.

Most importantly, Ms. Rich pointed out that this year, the plan is a coordinated effort among the following departments:

- Maricopa County Attorney's Office
- Environmental Services Department
- Flood Control District of Maricopa County
- Office of Communications
- Public Health Department

Al Macias, Chief Information Officer, Office of Communication reported on the efforts planned for the Communications portion of the Plan. He stated everyone is susceptible, and the goal is to "reduce human cases of West Nile Virus by educating the community on what they can do to eradicate mosquito breeding sites on their property. The strategy is comprised of three components: 1) Grassroots, 2) Public Relations, and 3) Advertising.

The Grassroots portion will including partnering with both governmental and private partners. The governmental side will include Fire Departments and School Districts in addition to larger jurisdictions.

Potential private partners may include Home Owners Associations and other Associations such as Homebuilders, Realtors, and Contractors as well as reaching out to the Utility Companies. In an effort to more effectively reach the greatest number of people the County will also contact and enlist the help of grocery stores, home improvement stores, nurseries, landscapers and other retail outlets pertinent to the issue. The message they will relay is the public can protect themselves and serve as eyes and ears to alert problem areas in the community to eliminate standing water because mosquitoes can breed in vessels as small as a water glass.

To further spread the word, Maricopa County has contracted with a public relations firm to effectively partner and advertise through any group that can help distribute 200,000 printed brochures in Spanish and English, door hangers, informational videos on DVD that include one phone number – (602) 506-0700 – which is available this year to assist with information in English or Spanish. They will disseminate information to the public about free Gambusia fish for stagnant waters to be distributed through the Office of Environmental Services. Messaging on grocery bags, printings, and billing statements will contain Maricopa County websites listed for prevention tips, surveillance, abatement efforts, where to report mosquito problems and a kid's page for teachers to use. The website will contain links to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and to insect repellent sites. In addition, a news conference is planned. Assigned County staff will interact with MAG (Maricopa Associations of Governments) and Chairman Wilson will be meeting with senior city staff, the County Manager, David Smith, and Dr. Cook from the Board of Health as part of an outreach effort. Broadcasts of information throughout the summer include having booths at Chandler Ostrich Festival, Sunday on Central, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day, Fourth of July to Labor Day events. A specialist in Environmental Services will make presentations to the media and groups. Letters will be sent to 58 school districts into fall when football and soccer games are scheduled including some businesses. The closure list of suspect pools will be reviewed. Buying time in the media, cable, theatres as well as space in newspapers will also be utilized. Finally the enlistment of 15,000 Maricopa County employees to aid the effort via newsletters or the website will be requested since 15 deaths were attributed to West Nile Virus last year, and many are still suffering residual debilitating effects.

John Townsend, Vector Control Manager, for Environmental Services Department reported on the surveillance, testing, adulticiding part of the plan including changes for 2005 that have been added. Compared to last year, he said monitoring began early to launch a comprehensive mosquito surveillance network with placement of Co2 traps for weekly monitoring of the mosquito population and infection rate. Larvaeciding was increased over the winter by additional temporary staff, and 4,000 sites will be treated monthly. In-house or on-site testing of mosquitoes and bird samples will be made with a new methodology called RAMP (Rapid Analyte Measurement Platform) with results in 24-48 hours which is an increased response over last year by 10-14 days.

Adulticiding protocol will follow CDC guidelines. The data collected will be the focus for activities with 24-hour responses in priority cases. Co2 traps will be placed in areas as complaints rise regarding green pools. At the end of last year, 1600 green pools were identified and request for treatment made. A winter check of those pools showed 60 percent still have not complied and the involvement of the County Attorney was requested. Pumps, timers and filters should come on once a day even while on vacation. Chlorine doesn't inhibit a mosquito's life cycle and a green pool will provide food for mosquito larva. Mosquitoes lay eggs near the filter basket. When the pump comes on, they are eliminated.

Alisa Diggs, Vector-Borne Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist for Maricopa County reported on the Public Health Human Surveillance aspect of the plan. She said surveillance began in 2005 and has changed as the State and County now exchange information up to several times daily. Laboratories, hospitals, providers, blood banks, and other states by statute report West Nile Virus cases of Arizona residents directly to the Arizona. The CDC will confirm samples of St. Louis Encephalitis (arbovirus) and West Nile Virus. Mortality surveillance set last year from the vital records (birth and death) and epidemiology (communicable

disease) database will provide the causal relationship using a computer program. Even suspicious cases will be added to the communicable disease database and investigated. From the list of chemically sensitive individuals, only one had a doctor's confirming diagnosis. A new plan to better educate physicians to report cases of pesticide illness (even though statute requires them to do so) will be in place for those chemically sensitive to pyrethroids. They are streamlining the process by which death certificates are amended to reflect death from West Nile Virus. Quicker mosquito information will impact human case surveillance, and collected information can be published to change the management of the virus.

Tim Phillips, Acting General Manager, Flood Control District reported on the Flood Control District mosquito management side of the program. He said because their facilities are used as recreational corridors, mosquito abatement (initiated in 1998) was always directed toward both the culex and floodwater mosquitoes. Their methodologies include getting rid of standing water, introducing Gambusia fish, engineering solutions providing positive drainage with low flow outlets in channels, and chemical solutions used last. The additional winter rains posed a challenge. They monitor, survey and treat areas that include 70 structures including municipalities, 22 dams, flood facilities, flood conveyance channels, basins and flood retarding structures that impound water. A good example of an applied engineering solution is the Tempe Town Lake, which has vertical sides that are not conducive to mosquito breeding. A dedicated ecology branch monitors and maintains their program year-round. Prevention of standing water is the best methodology, and if they pump or drain structures, breeding grounds are eliminated.

Phil McDonald, Chief Deputy County Attorney, reported on the enforcement part of the plan and reflected Andrew Thomas' enthusiasm for this program in his absence. A request for treatment of 1600 green pools went out last year, but a winter recheck of those showed 60 percent did not comply. He indicated the County Attorney's involvement brings the enforcement factor to the entire program. Inspectors identify green pools, notify the owner of the danger and duty to abate, and leave materials to educate them. The person is given 48 hours to take steps to eliminate the danger. The site is revisited with a report submitted if compliance is not met. The County Attorney's office determines if criminal charges should be filed, with possible jail time of 30 days and fines to \$500. Environmental Services will have authority to treat pools in non-compliance so they do not remain a danger while a criminal case is pending.

Supervisor Brock thanked everyone for a superb presentation including the citizens who had worked with the Board of Health. He still questioned neurotoxins sprayed on a million acres and said attempts to obtain the contents of ingredients from the manufacturer failed, despite the EPA's assistance using the Freedom of Information Act. The public is demanding answers. Experts have made determinations to the Board and doctors have testified before the Board. There are some claims of increased eye problems, but there is no direct documentation yet. Before continuing the proactive spraying, time should be sought with the County Attorney and Health Department to find out the components and at what percentages they are used.

Supervisor Wilcox complimented the presentation and inquired if a team might be put together to abate a green pool for the owner and then a fee charged. She was advised there are hardship cases, and vector control will help individuals stock a pool with fish, making it a pond. Fish are given to anyone with the recommendation that they be placed in any water area that does not dry up such as a pool, pond, decorative fountain or horse trough. They do not want these fish distributed into any waterway with access to a river. Larvaeciding is done in a few different ways. Mineral oil lightly placed over the surface of puddle will kill everything in the puddle in 15 minutes. There are no residual or long-term effects. Juvenile growth hormones inhibit the life cycle and development system and provide 30 to 150 days of coverage. A bacterial agent placed into water will kill mosquitoes when they eat it. That agent does not work that well here due to the heat.

MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE BOOK

**SPECIAL SESSION
March 2, 2005**

Supervisor Kunasek said last year responses were done as quickly as possible when the West Nile Virus appeared with various departments contributed toward the operational plan after various meetings with the Board of Health and the Ad Hoc Committee.

Chairman Wilson said although it sometimes is not easy to present before the Board, he was impressed with the depth of research and the comprehensive nature of this plan. He indicated each time he hears about West Nile Virus he learns of more ways to be protected outdoors. (ADM2350)

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Max W. Wilson, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board