

AGENDA

COOS COUNTY VECTOR ASSESSMENT & CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Bandon Conference and Community Center (aka Bandon Barn)
1200 W 11th St. SW Bandon OR

MAY 1, 2014

1. Roll Call and approve minutes of 4/17/14 meeting

Roger called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m, with roll call.

Present – Rick, Shigeo, Ken, Christine, Carl, Roger, Dan, Chris, Mark, Roland

Dan did a brief introduction of his history and specialties.

Roger briefly went over the agenda.

The minutes will be recorded from this point forward. With the corrections to the minutes Chris moved and Christine 2nd. Roland Declined.

2. Staff Report – Rick said that there is ongoing monitoring on the marsh. A gentleman from the Contractor and the County are doing this job. Warm weather speeds up mosquito maturation. The Health Dept. has verbal approval to apply BTI to the marsh. They should get documentation of this approval tomorrow. There have been some challenges on getting BTI to the refuge. The county has set up an email account for people to send questions about what the Health Dept is doing if the website does not explain it. The web site is mosquito@co.coos.or.us. The response will not occur immediately. They have a dedicated website to this stuff. If you go to Coos County – Public Health – Environmental Health for the web site. Rick touched on public outreach and he is interested in topics. He got a call from someone about the mosquito and inability to enjoy property. The individual received chemicals legally and applied in an illegal manor. The amount that he used was tons more harmful than what was originally proposed from the County.

Roland asked if the BTI that is being acquired is certified to be used on Organic. Rick is not sure. Second about the website can the board receive the questions and answers.

Christine asked if it was going be applied by hand. Rick said yes but there is a provision that it could be applied by air if deemed needed. The intent is that this is the last option.

Roger talked about the duties of this commission to the public since there are people that have not attended prior meetings. This is not limited to just mosquitoes. If it is determined those other issues arise then they could discuss those at that time.

3. USFWS Presentation to the Coos County Vector Assessment and Control Advisory Committee: *"Process and Status of Bandon Marsh Integrated Mosquito Management Plan"*. Presented by Bill Bridgeland – Refuge Biologist and Madeleine Vander Heyden – Acting Refuge Manager (received power point from Madeleine).

4. Committee Questions for USFWS

Dan mentioned about moving 10k amount of material and where is it going. Bill said that it is going on site. Chris asked the cost. Bill is estimating half a million. Ken asked about the window of opportunity and how long does the hand application take to be done with the contract. Bill said it depends on how much needs treated. At this point Bill knows that there is a large area that needs treated. Bill is getting additional person to help and should happen in a 3 day window. They are going to overlap as soon as possible. Dan Marcouski is doing the application. Chris asked what the shore duration formulation. Is it better to detect before the application. Bill said it has a short life once applied. Mark asked if they are using BTI only and not methoprine. Bill said that methoprine was removed as an option. Bill talked about the difference between the two and application and less targeted chemical. Mark said it is toxic to sand shrimp larvae. Bill agreed. He discussed that it would be severely diluted when it got to other places. He is isolating as much as possible. Chris said that there is a rumor that if you include the BTI to the program that they could get sued. Bill said that they are aware that they are under scrutiny by other people. So they knew that there was some groups looking at this and asked for all correspondence for the past year. The goal is that they cannot let the mosquitoes out of control this year. Christine mentioned that the long- term goal is to get the marsh to where it does not produce mosquitoes at all. Bill agreed and the chemical is a short term basis in the end with the improvements of the marsh. Bill talked about the fact that some larvae will take years to hatch. There is some uncertainty of the long term. Christine asked what type of work/effort is being done for natural predators. Bill said that they are specialized in living in area that nothing else wants to be other than algae or bacteria. Mark mentioned that if we don't build the bat/swallow houses now they won't be out there anymore. Bill said that bats have one egg a year. He went on to discuss the issue that mosquitoes pulse for food. Other animals cannot do this and keep their population up. Mark mentioned that this is a mosquito area regardless of the salt water. Bill said this is correct and none of the predators only eat mosquitoes they eat other things. Roger asked if there are property owners at risk outside the marsh because of this. Bill stated that

this would happen if they go outside of the normal area. If they did that they are at a worse risk of surviving. Roger asked what publicity is going to occur. Bill said that there is a press release that went out yesterday about they are only using BTI. There is another news release to say that they are about ready to begin treatment. There is a steady stream of information on USFWS and Coos County. Dan mentioned that South Slough had a specific survey marker to observe subsidence. Bill said that they are seeing accretion rather than subsidence. Dan asked how many they had. Bill said they have 5. Right now they are seeing accretion. Dan mentioned that if they see secretion they may be back where they started. Bill talked about the depressions and how the marsh naturally created itself.

5. Public Comment

Mr. Ausland – he mentioned that he thinks they had a break out this morning. There were a lot of mosquitoes this morning. He has lived there since 1983. He lives about 8 miles from the marsh. Roger said that he lives right next to the marsh. He walked around 11:30am and did not see much

Don Chance – He is happy with the group. He talked about natural predators and what he has hunted. The houses and barns were full of bats and swallows until the USFWS tore down the buildings. There was a healthy population of predators. He feels that USFWS needs to put habitat back. He talked about political gain and USFWS is not allowing for public comment. He had conversation with some of the groups and some of the groups do not file lawsuits but they give information to the necessary people that do. He mentioned that USFWS said that they cannot return to the original farm land habitat. The discussed about certain expansions that occurred in the County and other people that had to force them to return it.

Ray Murphy – He asked if these mosquitoes are only reproducing in normal water or just salt. Bill stated only in times.

Wayne Miller – How does the committee obtain information from the public. He mentioned the word drastic. He stated that drastic means takes drastic measures. How does the public get on the agenda to speak. Most important he read that they have a preference to pregnant females and Type O blood. A public service announcement should know about the type o threat and being pregnant.

Charles Ruddell – His point is that the committee should have a zero tolerance that the mosquitoes should not leave the marsh. He talked about his farm and the amount of mosquitoes that are on his property and that he cannot sell his property because of the mosquitoes.

Dulce Habill – He wants to thank the people to return the marsh to the original state. Mosquitoes can be annoying but we must try to solve the problem with a method that is least toxic.

Robin Rouch – She resents the fact about the USWFS were available to answer. She talked about issues of the mosquitoes and that people are blaming the marsh for this. There are problems elsewhere as well. You need to find out what breed are on your land and then find a solution. She would like to know the source about the Type O and pregnant issue.

Paul Fischer – He identified there are mosquitoes all over. He touched on the salt water mosquitoes that are on his property. He asked if Madeleine and Rick if they are interim at this point. Yes that is the case. Do they have the authority to oversee this? Roger said that they have been approved to oversee at this point.

Deno Kumeloni – He brings bags of mosquitoes to meetings. He asked how many people lived near the marsh. There were 3. He is starting to see the small ones again. Ken said that Bandon Dunes have them set up. As of today they cannot say that they are salt water mosquitoes. He touched based on his private property.

John Costa – He talked about the 162k that was allotted to the mosquito control and if a small amount could be set aside for bat/swallow houses. The OHA said that he could do about 200 of these. Roger asked Rick to look in to this for non herbicidal solutions. He has questions about VCI and why were they selected and why open bids were not done. He also asked why public could not do input. John said that he has never received a call back. Roger stated that John should show up at the BOC meeting to ask the question.

Steve Hermann – He has been working along the river and concur with Don and out buildings that have swallows/bats. They did not have a problem until this past year because they were all overwhelmed with mosquitoes.

Charles Ruddell – His take on the mosquito farm that they have and this is going to be on going year after year and think about the money that is being spent. Not only that this is an ongoing expense and that for federal presenters he takes umbrage when comments were made that no one knew. He talked about standing water and that this should be removed.

Diane Bilderback – She would like to say as a biologist and listen to what Bill said about habitat. Mosquitoes will only come when there is enough habitat to breed and produce. If the long -term resolution is to remove the ditches will decrease the habitat and long term decrease of mosquitoes. That will not happen year after year. She is impressed with Coos County and USFWS to find a long-term remedy.

Nancy Murphy – She wanted to offer advice that this is a learning lesson if future restoration occurs in other places.

6. Committee Member Comments

Christine did a hand out regarding public outreach. She got this from a vector control committee that they can review and discuss next meeting. Amy will distribute to the public.

Carl – talked about a couple problems. Right now it is a situation and could grow to a bigger problem that needs resolved.

Chris – Sampled and netted some fish and understand the increase of mosquitoes. He touched base on the bat boxes and bird houses. His agency is supportive of this and may solve some of the problem but may not totally fix the problem.

Mark – It was said that someone wanted Lunder from Jackson County. Mark said that we heard from him last year and does not think we need to hear from him again. Mark showed and talked about the bat box. The plans came from Chris's boss (Bat International). Mark's friend made it for him. Boxes like this being put up will produce habitation. We need to get all the bats we can. He touched based on a disease that bats have and could decrease the habitat. Hennicks will donate 5 sheets to get started. Hennicks will give mismatched paints to use also. Ken said that they have several and sometimes it will take a year for them to find it. It did not happen instantly. Dan stated that if you put them you can make it happen fast. Mark talked about bats that come out in the evening. They need to be put on buildings not trees.

Roland – Mentioned that this is an ongoing problem and not restricted to mosquitoes. We have to find a way to find resolutions.

Roger – thanked everyone that came and USFWS for the presentation. Roger asked what the next step is going to be with regard to meetings. Mark wants an answer to the open bid question because that is a part of it. Roger said that Rick is tasked with that. With the election this is a huge question. Roger said that this is not a political thing just tasked to resolve the situation.

Christine said 2 weeks because they are doing a treatment this weekend. This will allow a report for the treatment.

7. Set Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

May 15, 2014 @ 5:30pm either at The Barn or City offices.

Chris said that he wants to hear from VCI gentleman. Roger said that he has a presentation that he could bring. Roger asked if Chris will get specific's nailed down on the person from VCI so that it get be put on the agenda.

Roland - mentioned the issue how to get on the agenda. Roger stated that they need to think this over. They need the right process for this.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.