

North Fork Mosquito Abatement District



*PO Box 1822
Paonia, CO 81428
970-527-6681
www.nfmad.org*

April Board Meeting

The NFMAD Board of Directors did not meet in April, other than in committee, to save money for the 2016 season. Given the deep mill levy cuts due to the Bowie mine closure, NFMAD may be losing up to 20% of budgeted funds! The Board is currently squeezing every drop from every dollar, and seeking grants and other fundraising possibilities.

Finances

As of March 31, 2016, there is \$29,898.57 in the bank, including the \$3879.44 TABOR fund. The usual payments in January and February were substantially lower, in addition to the December losses. As a result, the accountant worked extra hard, delaying her own payments, until mid-March when the first sizable mill levy check arrived.

The 2016 season officially began on April 7, 2016, with one crew member, in addition to the Operations Manager, Chris Tschinkel, both working part time. The shed has been opened, any necessary repairs and maintenance on trucks and equipment performed, and the start-of-season paperwork completed. All employees hired for this season are returning, most for the 3rd or 4th season, hence a savings in training for this season.

Physical Mitigation of the Delta Fairgrounds

Chris Tschinkel met with Board member Zach Hotchkiss, Commissioner Mark Roeber, and Delta County Fairgrounds supervisor Les Linman, to create an action plan for hotspot areas of the Fairgrounds, mainly behind the Maloney House. Typically mosquito larvae are found in this area first in April, and last in October. A comprehensive approach has been planned, with inter-agency cooperation.

Zika Virus Update

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the federal agency, has declared Zika virus to be the cause of multiple birth defects in-utero, basically if the mother contracts the virus while pregnant. The state of Colorado Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) agency has outlined a reporting and inspection requirement for Zika viral cases, and the mosquito species carrier, *Aedes Aegypti*.

The North Fork District does not have this species of *Aedes* mosquitoes, but vigilance in using personal protection against mosquito bites when traveling to southeastern Colorado, or any of the southeastern United States such as Florida, or border states with Mexico, is essential! There isn't a vaccine or treatment for Zika illness, similar to West Nile virus in humans. The entire debacle created in Brazil will continue to impact all areas of South America, Central America, and the southeastern United States. A great deal of fear is happening, particularly in areas of Africa already devastated with malaria, and other mosquito-borne illness.

NFMAD 2016 Season

These issues truly illustrate the importance of continued physical mitigation and destruction of breeding habitat in the ongoing battle against mosquito-borne illness, aka "draining the swamp". The only 100% effective method of mosquito

control is the elimination of standing water and breeding sites.

NFMAD success in the last 3 seasons can be attributed to the integration of RAMP testing, directed and targeted full-scale treatment, and ongoing physical mitigation. In an update from the CDPHE, the NF District is one of the few Districts in the state with successful control in 2015...this was hard-won, at great costs in payroll and backhoe fees. We are determined to continue to stabilize and advance the physical mitigation program, despite the budget cuts, and need the support of every resident to police and mitigate your own properties. Please call 527-6681 to report mosquito activity, schedule a site-evaluation with Chris Tschinkel (free to residents!), or inform NFMAD of a scheduled event.
Thank you!
