

01/04/2005

## **Regional Policy for a Standardized Preparedness and Management Approach for West Nile Virus for Health Purposes: Mosquito Surveillance, Education and Larval Control in Catch Basins on Public Lands**

### **Scope**

On March 26, 2004 the GVRD Board adopted a policy setting the minimal standard for management of larval mosquitoes in surface waters for health purposes on public lands. In continuation of the effort to support the Province in its strategy, the GVRD, through a Working Group of the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee, has developed a parallel standardized approach for both the preparedness and management of larval mosquitoes in catch basins for health purposes on public lands.

The REAC WNV Mosquito Work Group, representing municipalities as well as the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health Authorities, the University of British Columbia Plant Operations, the Provincial government, some federal agencies and other jurisdictions, has prepared the following policy table outlining the approach, the tasks involved, the jurisdictional responsibilities and the timing required to control larval WNV-vector mosquitoes in catch basins.

This policy is based on the regional/local governments, as land owners, and other land-owning jurisdictions assuming responsibility for the management of mosquitoes on their lands. Mosquito management on private lands is the property owner's responsibility and will be managed by the Regional Health Authorities under the provision of the *Health Act*.

Owners of lands of other jurisdictions within the region have been requested to voluntarily adopt this policy. Within the context of West Nile Virus management it is imperative that every jurisdiction undertake a comprehensive pre-emptive larval control program. Flying mosquitoes know no boundaries and lands left unmanaged for them can contribute to additional regional populations in jurisdictions that are managing them.

Actions proposed in the policy will be undertaken within budget limits applied for the fiscal year. The Provincial Government should recognize the budget planning cycle of municipalities and jurisdictions for grant funding purposes.

### **Definitions:**

'Areas of environmental sensitivity' include environmentally sensitive locations (e.g. registered organic farms, watercourses, wetlands and fish-bearing waters.)

'Catch basin' means a curb and gutter inlet, or lawn structure, that receives storm water. These often have an associated sump that can support breeding populations of WNV-vector species mosquitoes. In the context of West Nile Virus management this term can be used to describe any underground engineering structure that can support mosquito populations (such as manholes, inspection chambers etc.)

‘Jurisdiction’ means chartered companies, municipalities, the GVRD, the Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities, school districts, the Crown Provincial, the Crown Federal or their groupings of associated agencies.

‘Lead’ means to take responsibility for implementing the task described.

‘Public land’ means any lands owned by a municipality, the GVRD or any other governmental jurisdiction or chartered company or agency.

‘Support’ means to provide assistance or input to the lead jurisdiction responsible for implementing the task.

### Acronyms

CB – Catch Basin

GVRD – Greater Vancouver Regional District

REAC – Regional Engineers Advisory Committee

RHA – Regional Health Authority

WNV – West Nile Virus

Task	Responsibility				Timing
	Municipal	GVRD	RHAs	Prov/Fed/ & Other Jurisdictions	
<b>A. Sustainable Response Planning</b>					
1. Each jurisdiction should prepare a sustainable WNV response plan for their catch basins based on this policy.	lead	lead	support others  lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	Framework plan complete by March 2005  Operational plan complete mid-May 2005
2. Each jurisdiction should regularly monitor and evaluate its catch basin response plan.	lead	lead	support others  lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	ongoing
3. The Provincial government should be encouraged to provide ongoing financial assistance to local governments in implementing sustainable catch basin WNV response plans.	support	lead	lead	support (jurisdictions)  lead (Province to provide \$)	ongoing For 2005 April 1  Subsequent years in September
4. Each jurisdiction should estimate its annual catch basin WNV management costs (those changes over and above normal operations for accelerated maintenance or treatment) in a general framework to contribute to an annual regional roll-up.	lead	lead	support others  lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	Complete by Nov 30 each year
<b>B. Mapping &amp; Inventory</b>					
1. All catch basins in the jurisdiction should be digitally mapped and incorporated into the jurisdiction’s WNV	lead	lead	lead	lead	January 2006- December 2007 (latest)

Task	Responsibility				Timing
	Municipal	GVRD	RHAs	Prov/Fed/ & Other Jurisdictions	
database. It is desirable for standard applicable attributes for each catch basin to be recorded.					
2. A standard catch basin vocabulary should be adopted for this purpose.	support	lead	support	support	January 2005
3. Each jurisdiction should classify their catch basins according to the risk they pose for breeding WNV-vector mosquitoes.	lead	lead	support others  lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	January 2006
4. Each jurisdiction should compile locations of all catch basins, catch basins of interest and concern, areas of environmental sensitivity, and monitoring & surveillance results by individual jurisdictions.	lead	lead	lead	lead	January 2006
5. Catch basin WNV-vector mosquito related data should be made available to participating jurisdictions to assist in providing a larger sub-regional or regional context.	lead	lead	lead	lead	January 2007
<b>C. Surveillance</b>					
1. In sampled catch basins each jurisdiction should record attributes and the data be maintained in its WNV database.	lead	lead	support others  lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	Spring 2006
<b>D. Integrated Management for Larval Control</b>					
1. Each jurisdiction should determine its own catch basin treatment program for managing WNV-vector mosquitoes for health purposes.	lead	lead	lead	lead	March 2005
2. If it is not feasible to clean and treat all catch basins, each jurisdiction should determine its treatment regime for its catch basins as resources allow.	lead	lead	support others  lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	ongoing
3. Each jurisdiction should monitor and evaluate the results of catch basin treatments, if any, as resources allow.	lead	lead	support others  lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	ongoing

Task	Responsibility				Timing
	Municipal	GVRD	RHAs	Prov/Fed/ & Other Jurisdictions	
4. The REAC WNV Mosquito Work Group should continue to investigate viable alternatives to the application of pesticide in catch basins for control of mosquitoes.	lead	lead	support others  lead on own assets (e.g. health facilities)	lead	ongoing
<b>E. Communications</b>					
1. Messages concerning WNV mosquito management in catch basins should be disseminated to the public in a timely and consistent manner coordinated with those relating to surface water.	lead	lead	lead	lead	Spring 2005
2. The REAC WNV Mosquito Work Group should continue to act as a focus for information sharing and regional policy review on catch basin management for WNV management purposes.	support	lead	lead	support	ongoing
3. Each jurisdiction should share a summary of its experiences in catch basin management for WNV prevention with other jurisdictions in the REAC WNV Mosquito Work Group to ensure that we are managing from a regional perspective.	lead	lead	lead	lead	November of each year
<b>F. Data Management</b>					
1. Any WNV mosquito data collected or processed should be made available in a common format compatible for regional use.	lead	lead	lead	lead	Common data standard by Spring 2006
<b>G. Training &amp; Technology</b>					
1. Each jurisdiction should ensure that appropriate personnel are trained in the basics of responding to public inquiries related to the WNV response plan of their jurisdiction.	lead	lead	lead	lead	Spring 2005

Updated and approved by the GVRD Board on 01/04/2005

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