

CITY OF FORT COLLINS WEST NILE VIRUS PROGRAM


TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



 February 26, 2025 |  11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

 Nix Main Conference Room, Nix Natural Areas Office

 Hybrid Option Available via Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

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Meeting Purpose

The West Nile Virus (WNV) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) gathers to review the 2024 season, assess key findings, and collaborate on strategies for 2025. Join us for a dynamic discussion on improving WNV response and public protection.

Agenda

11:00 – 11:15 | Welcome & Introductions

11:15 – 11:45 | Looking Back: 2024 WNV Season Recap

- **Speaker:** Will Schlatmann, Vector Disease Control International
- Key insights from the past season—trends, challenges, and lessons learned.

11:45 – 12:00 | WNV Cases in Larimer County

- **Speaker:** Kim Meyer-Lee, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- A closer look at case data and public health impacts.

12:00 – 12:15 | Lunch Break (Enjoy food and informal discussions!)

12:15 – 12:30 | Expanding Our Trap Network to Protect All Citizens

- **Speaker:** Ryan Vincent, City of Fort Collins
- How increasing surveillance can enhance early detection and equity in WNV monitoring.

12:30 – 1:00 | Looking Ahead: Process Improvements for 2025

- Open discussion on refining strategies for the upcoming season.

We look forward to your insights—let's strengthen our approach for 2025!

MEETING NOTES

Attendees:

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members: Chet Moore, Greg McMaster, Greg Ebel (online)

City of Fort Collins: Ryan Vincent, Matt Parker, Katie Donahue, Mike Calhoun, Amy Resseguie

Boulder County Public Health: Marshall Lipps, Carly Wilson

Larimer County Health and Environment: Kim Meyer Lee, Matt Bauer

Vector Disease Control International (VDCI): Kendra Smits, Will Schlatmann, Ellen McEwen

Town of Berthoud: Paul Furnas, Keith Knoll

The West Nile Virus (WNV) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met to review the 2024 season, analyze key findings, and plan strategies for 2025. City-appointed experts and stakeholders shared technical insights and recommendations. Along with the TAC members, representatives from the City of Fort Collins, Boulder County Public Health, Larimer County Health and Environment, Vector Disease Control International (VDCI), and the Town of Berthoud attended.

2024 Season Recap

The meeting began with Will Schlatmann, VDCI Program Manager, presenting a recap of the 2024 WNV season. He reported that 2024 was exceptionally hot and dry, particularly in the spring, and contrasted sharply with 2023. The City of Fort Collins did not conduct adult mosquito control in 2024. Of the 1,414 pools tested, 52 tested positive for WNV—fewer than in 2023. Schlatmann noted that *Culex tarsalis* populations dropped significantly, while *Culex pipiens* numbers remained steady. Attendees discussed whether *tarsalis* populations react more sensitively to temperature fluctuations and drought than *pipiens*. They also considered whether natural immunity increases as human cases rise. Schlatmann reviewed larval control efforts, stating that crews inspected 5,554 sites and found 1,952 producing larvae.

The group then discussed mosquito trap placement. Some members questioned whether limited traps should be near water sources or population centers. Others recommended keeping traps in their historical locations to maintain long-term data consistency. The committee suggested adding new traps rather than relocating existing ones. Schlatmann also mentioned new mosquito control products with residual effects but warned that their high costs and specific application requirements limit their use.

WNV Cases Update

Kim Meyer-Lee from Larimer County Health & Environment then updated the committee on WNV cases. She reported 1,466 cases nationwide in 2024, with 76 in Colorado and five in Larimer County. All Larimer County cases were non-neuroinvasive, fever-based infections in males. One patient required hospitalization, but none died. Meyer-Lee noted that, historically, males account for about 70% of WNV cases, while females make up 30%. She clarified that the data reflects where

patients live rather than where they contracted the virus. Attendees asked whether officials track recent travel history, and Meyer-Lee confirmed that they do, though the questionnaire is now less extensive than in previous years. The committee also debated whether researchers still accurately estimate the ratio of asymptomatic to symptomatic cases.

Expanding Mosquito Surveillance

Ryan Vincent from the City of Fort Collins led a discussion on expanding mosquito surveillance. He explained that a recent assessment found 13,000 residents without mosquito trap coverage, raising concerns about equity in WNV monitoring. In the 2025-2026 budget cycle, City staff proposed adding 12 new traps, but budget constraints prevented approval. The committee then explored alternative solutions such as:

- Relocating underperforming traps.
- Shortening the monitoring season to reallocate funds for additional traps.
- Maintaining flexibility in trap placement and testing to optimize results.

City staff noted that all existing traps produce useful data, particularly in unusual years when they reveal emerging trends. Early season trap data is also useful in getting the topic of WNV before council early in the season ahead of any possible adulticide.

The committee raised concerns that some traps were placed too close together, potentially distorting vector index (VI) data. They also discussed how bird movement contributes to the spread of WNV and questioned whether this factor was considered when determining trap placement.

Strategies for 2025

The group reviewed evolving mosquito control criteria and agreed that CDC input would enhance discussions. However, federal restrictions prevented CDC representatives from attending this year.

Additional recommendations included:

- Expanding TAC membership to include more technical experts and those with opposing views on adulticide.
- Improving processes for 2025 while balancing historical data continuity with adaptability to environmental changes, population shifts, and new research.

Summary and Next Steps

Attendees emphasized the need to preserve historical data while adapting to environmental changes, emerging population centers, and new research. Staff will review the questions and recommendations from the meeting and develop improvement strategies for discussion at the next TAC meeting.