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## **ARBOVIRAL DISEASE EDUCATION & SITE REPORT SUMMARY**

### **Background:**

July 3, 2013 I was contacted by multiple shareholders of Hen Island, Rye New York to advocate on their behalf over concerns of West Nile Virus. July 8, 2013 I contacted Westchester County Health Department and spoke with George Veleskro. Mr. Veleskro informed VBD Corp. that the health department has NO entomologist on staff. He states the health department has 10 historic traps throughout the entire county and few day traps that help with NYS surveillance program monitoring for West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Jamestown Cenyon Encephalitis, and other arboviral diseases. The health department conducts a larvacide program to combat mosquitoes while in larve stages. The Westchester County bureau of public health protection does NOT conduct any form of adulticiding not even focal spraying after confirmed positive arboviral isolations. Mr. Veleskro informed VBD Corp. of health department's active role in researching and collecting over wintering mosquito larve. He also informed me of current training to identify EEE breeding grounds within Westchester County New York. Westchester County NY has had confirmed isolations of Jamestown Cenyon Encephalitis, West Nile Virus, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. There have been multiple confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus Neurological and many unreported cases of West Nile Virus Fever. The county had 2 horses contract EEE in 2012 and 1 EEE positive mosquito pool. Mr. Veleskro did inform me that Hen Island had a trap test positive for WNV and mosquito species were human biters in 2012. He also stated. "Hen Island was a political mess and treated differently than other areas of concern in the county "

### **Site Visit Summary:**

7:43 a.m. On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 during low tide on a beautiful hot, humid, and sunny day I visited Hen Island in the presence of Ray T, Mike C, and Andrew D. During the boat ride out I observed hawk, water fowl, day camps, public beaches, nature preserve, miles of wetlands, yacht club, swimming and rowing clubs, multiple senior living residential buildings and playgrounds. Milton Harbor is located along the shore of the long Island Sound approximately 10 miles north of New York City. July of 2012 1 single NJ C02 trap was placed on the island for 48 hours collected and taking down. The results from this trap showed West Nile Virus was present on Hen Island in culex pipens a known human biter mosquito specie. After being on the island 10 minutes a heavy feces smell was present during the duration of site visit.

I observed on the North end of the island man made mosquito breeding grounds. The water cisterns used to collect rain water for potable water are of most concern. The individual cisterns hold between 55 to 375 gallons of water and most cottages have several cisterns. Cisterns for the most part are not properly sealed allowing hundreds of thousands of larve to grow through their life cycle to hatch into adult biting mosquitoes. Cisterns also have leaky pipes and hoses. These tiny islands cisterns house collectively over 30,000 gallons of stagnant water. The cisterns would be an excellent source to collect over wintering mosquito larve. The second largest concern would be tidal pool where 18" blue fish was

captured until high tide. There is a lot of marshland and cattails surrounding the island. I also observed multiple other breeding sites of debris, tree holes, clogged gutters, piles of tree trunks, construction debris in open contractor's bags, bottles, tarps, grills, kid's toys, flower pots, inflatable boats, sewage pits, containers, and other vegetation poison ivy and weeds. The intentional storage of washed up debris was noted in several areas of high reeds through-out the Island. I noted one cottage had an extremely dangerous set up of utilities in their shed and 6 propane tanks next to the shed. If the mix of improperly installed utilities ignited, the propane tanks within feet would blow creating a catastrophic size explosion. I observed construction workers being eaten alive. We gave them our can of repellent. I observed one worker (who appeared to speak very little English) drinking from hose connected to a cistern.

Several Images of the beginnings of landfill's being created, were observed on the Middle and South end of Hen Island. Some of the cottages were in decay, built up household trash around cottages, old oil tank, tires, sinks, barbeques, tree piles, clogged gutters, bags of trash, beer cans, soda cans, water bottles, hot tubs, wheel barrels, buckets, rain barrels, water cisterns, four thirty gallon outside garbage cans full of stagnant water, cattails and weeds, bleach containers, tarps, discarded toilets and more litter. I observed song birds and crows through-out the island which potentially could be helping amplify WNV in adjacent communities along with infected flying mosquitoes. Birds and mosquitoes do not know nor understand village, town, city, county, or state border lines.

The landing counts on the island were ridiculous at 300 landings per 1.5 minutes. Mosquitoes were out full force in record numbers looking to take blood meals. Adult live mosquitoes and mosquito larve were collected for identification. The adult mosquitoes were identified as culex pipens, asian tiger mosquito (altopictus), vexans, perturbians, and culex salt marsh species. Three of the adult species identified are known to transmit illness to humans. One species transmits diseases not currently established in the USA. Two of the mosquito species are aggressive day biters. The larve is in multiple stages of egg, larve, and pupa have not hatched off for identification.

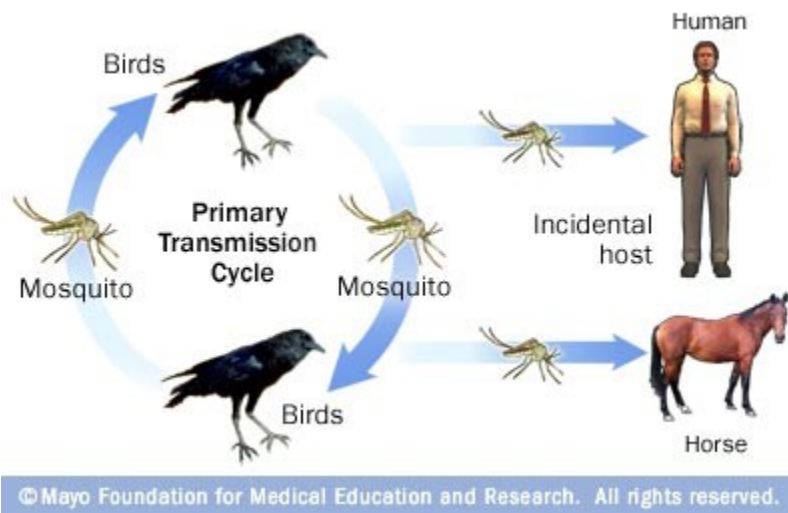
The evening of July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 I presented at the Rye, NY city council meeting along with Jeff O'Neil, other concerned constituents, and shareholders of Hen Island. The meeting produced little progress but rather displayed the arrogance and political agendas of certain city employees and council members. July 11, 2013 with the assistance of NYS I met with senior staff of Westchester County Health Department at Mario's Pizza to discuss my site visit to Hen Island. The group was kind. The Assistant Commissioner Peter DeLucia stated "Ray T is using me and my tragic horrific story to benefit himself. This problem was not about mosquitoes but rather Ray receiving sewer lines from the mainland hooked up to the island. The island was never considered to be habitable by the health department at bare minimum they'd consider the island a campground". Mr. Veleskro had pre-warned me of the political agendas and hatred standing in the way of communication and proactive progress to resolve the mosquito breeding and potential human cases of West Nile Virus. At the end of the meeting Westchester County Health Department verbally agreed to support private mosquito control on the island and to consider re inspecting Hen Island. The health department and I agreed that "Label is the law".

#### Recommendations:

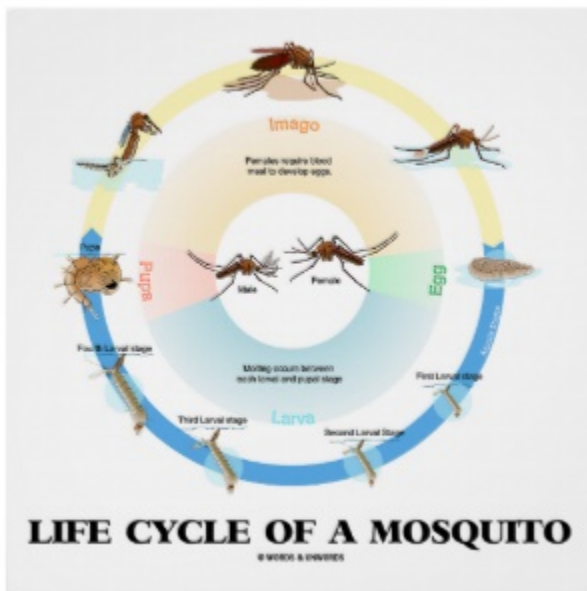
- Reach out to water management expert
- Eliminate all standing water ASAP
- Treat water cisterns with larvacide labeled for potable water
- Clean up all litter and man-made debris areas

- Promote education and awareness to mosquito breeding
- Promote education and awareness on prevention
- Refer utilities in shed to proper agency
- Refer improper use pesticides/chemicals to proper agency
- Contact NYS agencies to address specific concerns/questions/requests/offers/for enforcement
  - Eliminate feces and feces smells on island
  - Contact PMC entities educated on CWA, Endangered Species Act, and water management

Educational Material:  
Historical transmission cycle



Life Cycle of Mosquito



Respectfully Submitted,

Ex. Director VBD Corp.

July 12, 2013

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**July 20, 2013**

## ARBOVIRAL DISEASE EDUCATION & SITE VISIT SUMMARY

8:45 a.m. between tides on July 18, 2013 I visited Hen Island for 2<sup>nd</sup> site visit in the presence of Ray T., Councilman Sack, and the videographer.

There were no improvements on the island to eliminate the mosquito breeding, improve quality of life, and stop disease.

I did note 1 cottage took action by turning all bottles inside wheel barrel upside down in order not to collect water.

There was an extremely strong odor of bleach across the island. The feces smell wasn't as foul as it was on 7/10/13.

I recommend persistence. I recommend contacting any and all of the proper city, county, state and federal agencies for enforcement of nuisance and public health communicable diseases laws, regulations, and recommendations. I recommend petitioning for mosquito control program that addresses the infected biting adult mosquitoes. I recommend trying to get an agenda item for City of Ryes August 2013 meeting.

The problems on Hen Island have been neglected far too long.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberley King  
Ex. Director VBD Corp.  
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