

21 April 2020

Tick Task Force Meeting – held via Zoom for social distancing

Attendees: David White-NRC, Rick Kingston-City Council Liaison, Brooke Moore-Chair

Survey

Reviewed 2020 Survey Results

- 55 responses
 - Decreased from 133 last year (which was down from the previous year)
 - No cases of tick-borne illness were reported
- Awaiting comparison numbers from MDH. There will be a delay in getting these as David Neitzel is helping with COVID19 work. David Neitzel also informed Brooke that he is retiring in July. He provided contact information for Erin Kough, Elizabeth Schiffman, Molly Peterson, and Jenna Bjork at MDH – who will be available for tick related questions after July.
- Discussed reasons the response rate is down. Likely in part due to change to POLCO software. May also represent a decrease in disease – people who are diagnosed may be more likely to report than those who have not been diagnosed.
- Discussed with responses decreasing if it is still worthwhile to continue to survey the community.
 - The group decided the survey was still important, but we may need to change our approach.
 - Brooke will email Gretchen Needham/Deb Breen to see if it is possible to create a real-time survey for people who are diagnosed with a tickborne illness to complete at the time of their diagnosis. Rick was concerned that the survey may only allow one response per registered voter. Brooke will clarify this. If this is possible Brooke will draft an updated version of the survey to implement.

Articles

- Brooke and Rick will submit articles to both North Oaks News and North Oaks Living Magazine with tick survey results

Next meeting: July 21st, 7pm, Community Room (COVID19 permitting)