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of the

AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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Part I

ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON VECTOR CONTROL OF THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

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The Inter-Agency Committee on Water Resources approved the charter for a Subcommittee on Vector Control at its meeting on September 27, 1961. Present membership on the Subcommittee consists of representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, the Army, the Interior, and Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. For the current fiscal year, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is serving as the chairman agency.

Currently, representatives of the various departments are from the following constituent agencies.

Department of Agriculture

Member: Entomology Research Division, Agricultural Research Service
1st Alternate: Soil Conservation Service

2nd Alternate: Forest Service

Department of the Army

Member: Office of Chief of Engineers

Department of the Interior

Member: Bureau of Reclamation
Alternate: Fish and Wildlife Service

From the Technology Branch, Communicable Disease Center, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Atlanta, Georgia.

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Member: Communicable Disease Center, Public Health Service

Tennessee Valley Authority

Member: Division of Health and Safety

Brief reference should be made to the origin of the parent committee—the Inter-Agency Committee on Water Resources (known as ICWR or “Icewater”). The basic authority which led to the establishment of this Committee is the “Inter-Agency Agreement on the Coordination of Water and Related Land Resources Activities,” which was signed by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Army, and the Chairman of the Federal Power Commission. This agreement was approved by President Eisenhower on May 26, 1954, and established the Inter-Agency Committee on Water Resources. This Committee replaced the existing Federal Inter-Agency River Basin Committee (known as FIARBC or “Firebrick”). In his letter of approval, the President stated: “The Inter-Agency Committee on Water Resources will provide a facility for improving the coordination of

existing policies, programs, and activities of the participating Departments and Agencies concerned with water and land resources investigation, planning, construction, operation and maintenance." He also wrote: "I am pleased to note that the participating Departments and Agencies will be represented on the Inter-Agency Committee on Water Resources by principal policy officials such as secretaries, under secretaries, and assistant secretaries."

The mission of the Subcommittee is essentially the mission of ICWR as regards responsibilities in the field of vector control. Basically this mission consists of consideration by the agencies concerned, at a relatively high level, of the major problems encountered in the Federal water resources programs with the view of developing and establishing coordinated policies and procedures and useful standards and guidelines for dealing with vector problems. In achieving its objectives the activities of its Subcommittee receive general direction by ICWR and the recommendations of the Subcommittee are acted upon by ICWR. Neither committee is an action agency with regard to the programs carried out by its member agencies.

The specific functions of the Subcommittee on Vector Control are prescribed in its charter. Briefly they are to develop and recommend continuing procedures to coordinate agency activities pertaining to the prevention or control of mosquitoes and other arthropod vectors associated with water resource developments and to consider special problems in this field as assigned by ICWR. More specifically, functions of the Subcommittee include: (1) Actions to provide for improved cooperative research studies and demonstrations, (2) exchanging information on significant research findings, and (3) developing technical guides, standards, and educational aids in furthering a coordinated attack on the prevention and control of vectors associated with water resource developments.

Two task force groups have been established—one on preparation of a bulletin and other educational materials, and one

on cooperative research studies. Another type of activity which is being considered is the coordination of training activities.

Presently under preparation is a comprehensive inter-agency bulletin on "Mosquito Prevention on Irrigated Farms."

To date five active joint investigations projects have been initiated in Western States. Four of the projects pertain to the management of irrigation water for multipurpose benefits, and the other study involves the development of vector control measures at waterside recreational areas. The five projects are as follows: (1) Development of improved soil and water management practices for irrigated mountain meadows in Colorado; (2) Development of soil and water management practices for deep-well irrigation areas of the Southern High Plains, Texas; (3) Pre- and post-impoundage study of an irrigation project (Crooked River) in Oregon; (4) Development of multipurpose management techniques for sewage effluent and irrigation runoff in the Weber Basin, Utah; and (5) Development of vector control and sanitation measures for waterside recreational areas in the Northwest (Washington).

It is too early to assess the value of the new Subcommittee on Vector Control, but the very nature of such an interdepartmental, coordinated undertaking cannot be other than valuable in furthering the interests and accomplishments of the control of insect vectors associated with water development projects. We in public health have a direct interest and responsibility in the suppression of vector-borne disease and this problem is often tied up with the development of both large and small irrigation projects and impoundments. Our traditional channels of contact are usually not with those responsible for water project management activities. However, our long time success in vector control is dependent upon joint planning with the people so that they and we will be advised of mutual problems, conflicting and complementary, and devise means for correction.

Agriculturists, such as county agricultural agents and soil conservationists, are in intimate contact with the problem of irrigation and, in many instances, guide the proper use of irrigation waters. The Subcommittee, through its bulletins and proposed training activities, can inform the agriculturists through their own agencies of the practices that will be conducive to a lowered vector population. Cooperation with the Agricultural Research Service in the Milk River Valley of Montana showed that the management of irrigation water which produced the greatest crop yield also produced the smallest number of mosquitoes. Proper water management is not only of economic advantage to agriculture but also is a good public health practice. Any time a problem, such as water management, exists, and where many different agencies are involved—local, district, State, and Federal—it becomes imperative that some understanding of each other's problems and coordination of activities be undertaken in order to assure maximum benefit and minimum harm from the management activities.

These water resource enterprises have been growing at a rapid rate. Irrigation agriculture has spread to nearly 35 million acres in the United States, and it is increasing at the rate of about 3/4 million acres per year. Most of this is in the West, but irrigation is now developing rather rapidly in the East, there being at present approximately 3 million acres under irrigation in the 31 States east of the Great Plains.

The development of suburbs adjacent to many water projects is bringing millions of people in intimate contact with the problem and many public recreation areas are being built around water resources projects.

All agencies concerned have done an ex-

cellent job in carrying out their specific responsibility in regard to development and management of water project activities, but oftentimes without adequate knowledge of the interest and problems of other agencies. We believe that the Subcommittee on Vector Control of ICWR will result in better and more economical vector control and prevention practices without interfering with such interests as power, recreation, or irrigation but, on the other hand, complementing these primary purposes of water resources projects.

SUMMARY. The Inter-Agency Committee on Water Resources (ICWR) approved the charter for a Subcommittee on Vector Control at its meeting on September 27, 1961. Membership on the Subcommittee consists of representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, the Army, the Interior, and Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. The functions of the Subcommittee are to develop and recommend continuing procedures to coordinate agency activities pertaining to the prevention or control of mosquitoes and other arthropod vectors associated with water resource developments and to consider special problems in this field as assigned by ICWR. To date, five active joint investigational projects have been initiated. A comprehensive inter-agency bulletin on vector problems as related to irrigation farming is under preparation; another is planned on vector problems in reservoirs and impoundments, and coordination of training activities is being considered. The various activities of the Subcommittee on Vector Control of ICWR should result in better and more economical vector control and prevention practices without interfering with but actually complementing the primary purposes of water resources projects.