

## Current & Future Source Reduction Efforts in Portsmouth, VA – George Wojcik (City of Portsmouth Mosquito Control)

- a) Need to work with stormwater management
- b) Portsmouth stats
  - i) Population just under 100k
  - ii) 29 sq mi
  - iii) \$400,000 operating budget
  - iv) Falls under Public Works
- c) Top 5 things for creating a mosquito habitat
  - i) Poor initial design of ditches
  - ii) Lack of elevation
  - iii) Maintenance program relying on hand labor of “problem spots”
  - iv) Add highly invasive plant species
  - v) Decades of neglect
- d) Lots of mosquito production
- e) Projects
  - i) Phragmites site
    - (1) Spoil site
    - (2) Army Corp mowed down vegetation
    - (3) Leveled area to remove water
  - ii) Ditch restoration project
    - (1) Low lying area used to store junk
    - (2) Reduce function of ditch line
    - (3) Purpose
      - (a) Restore ditch function
      - (b) Increase wildlife usage
      - (c) Reduce mosquito populations
    - (4) Methods
      - (a) Herbicide
      - (b) Remove dead material
      - (c) Clear neglected ditches with long-reach excavator
    - (5) Fish moved into area immediately
    - (6) Birds followed equipment and stayed
    - (7) Costs
      - (a) Excavator - \$20,000
      - (b) 700 gallons of fuel/212 hours on equipment
      - (c) Rented brush shredder - \$1,200
- f) Future plans
  - i) Use a consultant to work through regulatory process
  - ii) Hire contractors to clear certain areas/clear some in-house
  - iii) Conduct a detailed cost benefit analysis
  - iv) Use cost-benefit analysis
    - (1) Show in-house is cheaper
    - (2) Justify buying equipment
  - v) Railroad ditch fill-in project planned