

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
10 December 2020
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: La Vone Liddle, Board Chair 2020

Time: 4:35 p.m.

Place: 2215 North 2200 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Trustees Present: La Vone Liddle, Chair (Attended Remotely)
Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Vice-Chair (Attended Remotely)
Carlton Christensen (Attended Remotely)
Van Turner (Attended in Person)
Dr. Dagmar Vitek (Attended Remotely)

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director (Left at 5:56 p.m., after Item 10,
in order to attend the Ogden-Hinckley Airport's Advisory Board Meeting.)
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO

Note: After discussing item 10 (Executive Director's Report), the Board Meeting was recessed at 5:56 p.m. in order to go to the General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, and Local Building Authority Public Hearings. This Board Meeting was reconvened at 6:51 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Liddle called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being recorded, and no conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the 19 November 2020 Monthly Board Meeting:

The Trustees had received a copy of the pending minutes prior to the meeting, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve the

19 November 2020 Board Meeting Minutes as presented; Trustee Vitek seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Presentation of the November 2020 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

Copies of November's Financial Statements had been distributed to the Trustees prior to the Board Meeting. CFO Fairbanks reviewed the Financial Statements with the Board; all expenditures were presented, with special attention being paid to those expenditures in excess of \$1,000. Documentation for all expenditures had been provided when the checks were signed. Trustee Vitek made a motion to adopt the November 2020 Financial Statements and to approve November's bills for payment. After being seconded by Trustee Christensen, the motion carried with all in favor.

5. Discussion and Approval of the 2021 Board Calendar:

A calendar of dates was given to the Trustees; most of the Board Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month, and reasons for moving a meeting to an alternate Thursday were discussed. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the Board Calendar, with all meetings beginning at 12:30 p.m. except for June and December. Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

6. 2021 Board Elections:

Executive Director Faraji provided the Trustees with a historical list depicting appointment and expiration dates along with the years served as Chair. Trustee Christensen made a motion that Trustee Vickers serve as Chair with Trustee Turner as Vice-Chair during 2021. The motion was seconded by Trustee Vitek, and it carried with all in favor. The Board gave Trustee Liddle a heartfelt "thank you" for her good leadership during 2020, and then Trustee Liddle expressed her appreciation and reiterated that serving as a Trustee for the District has been her pleasure.

7. Discussion and Approval of Appointments to the Davis-Salt Lake Aerial Spray Authority:

Todd Erskine has served DSLASA as a Trustee, representing SLCMAD, for many years. It has now been several years since he was a Trustee for SLCMAD, and he has expressed a desire to step down as our representative so his place can be filled by a current board member who is more involved with the District's recent issues. Trustee Vickers has offered to serve on the DSLASA Board, and Trustee Turner is willing to assist as a backup. Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve appointing Trustee Vickers as the District's representative on the DSLASA Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Trustee Turner, and it carried with all in favor. Trustee Liddle is also SLCMAD's representative at DSLASA's board meetings, and she invited Trustee Vickers

to the upcoming DSLASA Board Meeting. Executive Director Faraji will let Trustee Erskine know that Trustee Vickers is now the new DSLASA Board Member.

8. Update on Inland Port Authority and Impact on Mosquito Control and Budget:

Trustee Christensen joined Executive Director Faraji in a virtual meeting with Jack Hedge, the Inland Port Authority Executive Director, and two members of his staff about losing 75% of the District's property taxes on future growth to the Inland Port Authority for the next 25 years, with an option to renew for 15 additional years. Renegotiating the District's percentage of participation in the Inland Port Authority would require a statutory ruling, which would involve attorney's fees and multiple other entities that will be impacted as well. The probability of success is questionable, and the amount of tax dollars initially going to the Inland Port does not support taking legal action at this time.

The District went through the expense of annexing this area into our taxing district in anticipation of the indubitable new growth. The Board discussed the District's financial forecast, and Executive Director Faraji agreed to work on it and bring it back to the Board in January.

9. Report on Attended and Reminder/Approval of Upcoming Training/Meetings:

- **DSLASA, 3 December 2020, Online**

The budget wasn't fully ready for the 3 December 2020 Board Meeting, and a second DSLASA Board Meeting has been scheduled for later in December. This second Board Meeting will be properly noticed so that the budget can be approved. The Ogden-Hinckley Airport is repaving a lot of areas, and they want to charge DSLASA for repaving the area around the hangar; however, the Airport's Advisory Board has provided input that we should not be responsible for this capital improvement cost. The original lease contract will be reviewed to see if the cost of repaving is included in the lease. Assistant Director White will be attending the Ogden-Hinckley Advisory Board Meeting later tonight to see if the repaving topic is brought up for discussion.

- **LMCA, 4 December 2020, Louisiana, Online**

Executive Director Faraji provided a thirty-minute update on AMCA at the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association conference on 4 December. There were about 115-120 participants; virtual meetings are basically awkward, and attendees miss out on the networking advantages that come from sharing ideas and proficiencies, but they may be the new norm moving forward.

- **Ouelessebouyou Alliance, 18-22 January 2021, Mali**

Executive Director Faraji has received the required immunizations for his trip to Mali. He was disappointed to learn that Anastasia Mosquito Control District's

Executive Director will not be participating in the January 2021 activities, but they have decided to send one of their trustees instead.

- **AMCA Annual Conference, 1-5 March 2021, Salt Lake City, Utah**

AMCA's Annual Conference in March of next year will be 100% virtual. Executive Director Faraji's presidency will be ending the first week of March, 2021.

10. Executive Director's Report:

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) All of the Trustees have completed their required annual training, which means that the District's score on the State Auditor's Annual Fraud Risk Assessment is a "very low risk level" of 370 points. This questionnaire is now ready to be submitted to the State Auditor. (2) Utah's Department of Environmental Quality will let the District close its wells. We will still need to incur this cost after we fulfill the State's capping requirements. 3) Dibrom (naled) is up for reregistration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the EPA is publishing comments before the review. Executive Director Faraji represented our District by submitting comments, and they should be posted online soon. Dibrom is especially vital for the District's aerial adulticide applications because of our dry, windy environment. Dibrom can be released at a higher elevation; it is heavier than all other adulticides, and is able to remain effective as it drifts down. 4) The Pan Africa Mosquito Control Association is interested in a Memo of Understanding; it would like to work on a nationwide collaborative project and make mosquito control available in other areas of Africa. 5) The District received a call from an older gentleman who feared he was suffering from a botfly infestation in his nostrils. He had been unable to receive assistance from medical personnel, so he decided to reach out to an entomologist for clarification. After scrutinizing the specimen, the final diagnosis was Ekbom syndrome (delusional parasitosis). Informing someone that the infestation is only a psychological disorder is a delicate issue. Fortunately, in this case, the gentleman was relieved to hear that his worst fears were unfounded. 6) The facility is still having heating problems. Settings have recently been adjusted higher than the mechanical engineer's recommended settings, and this appears to be improving the administration building's indoor temperatures. However, the heaters are still leaking; gaskets and seals will be replaced in the near future. 7) We are concerned that moisture from condensation on the windows in the insectary may seep into the drywall and produce mold. Design West and the mechanical engineer are pointing fingers at each other; neither one is willing to accept responsibility for the problem at this point.

11. Discussion and Approval of the 2020 Budget Amendments:

General Fund and Capital Projects Fund Budget numbers for 2020 had initially been submitted to the Board in June of this year. Actual income and expenses incurred during 2020 necessitated providing the Trustees with amendments to these budgets in October. Final 2020 budget amendments were presented and discussed during the District's 10 December 2020 Budget Hearing. Once this regular monthly board meeting

was reconvened at 6:51, Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve the 2020 Budget Amendments as explained, which included increasing the \$8,000 allotted for Environmental Remediation in the Capital Projects Fund to \$10,000 and reducing the remaining fund balance to \$5,457,558. This motion carried unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Vickers.

12. Discussion and Approval of the 2021 Proposed Budget:

The proposed changes from the previously-adopted 2021 General Fund and Capitol Projects Fund Budgets were also reviewed and discussed during the District's 10 December 2020 Budget Hearing. Trustee Turner made a motion to approve the 2021 proposed budget; the motion was seconded by Trustee Vickers and passed with all in favor.

A short recess was called at 6:54 p.m.; the meeting was reconvened at 6:59 p.m.

13. Discussion and Approval for 2021 Tax Increase:

The way the certified tax rates have been set up in Utah, the amount of property taxes that the District receives each year remains the same, and only new growth can increase this dollar amount. Increased costs due to inflation do not necessarily enter into these calculations. If house values rise, our tax rate is reduced to ensure that the overall revenue remains the same. The cost to provide similar services from year to year is greater every year; prices for pesticides alone can increase over 8%. The District's projected 2021 revenue will only increase around 1½%, which is exacerbated by the Inland Port Authority taking 75% of our new growth. In order to remain solvent, entities are basically forced to do a Truth in Taxation Hearing every few years. The District's last tax increase was in 2016. Legislation does not require the District to obtain permission from the Salt Lake City Council to conduct a tax increase, but notifying the Council about the tax increase is necessary.

Executive Director Faraji presented the Board with a schedule showing the Capital Project's annual fund balances and long-term debt bond payments. Funds in the Capital Projects Fund will be dangerously low around 2025. Conducting a Truth in Taxation Hearing during 2021 would greatly help with upcoming inflated costs, bond obligations, anticipated funds going to the Inland Port Authority, helicopter requirements, and meeting the needs of future growth. The Trustees asked Executive Director Faraji to prepare a one-page strategic plan covering the next five years so they will have an idea what percentage of an increase to pursue. The District will need this financial model articulating our operational requirements for the Salt Lake City analysts to look over, as well. A motion approving the exploration of a 25% to 50% tax increase and requesting that a five-year financial plan be submitted to the Board by March was made by Trustee Turner. The motion was seconded by Trustee Christensen, and it passed unanimously.

14. Discussion and Approval for Development of Back Property and Pursuit of Helicopter Operations:

The Board Members had already approved allocating \$100,000 towards the development of the back property. The estimated expansion costs of \$4,206,118 that were compiled by Construction Control Corporation were contrasted with the \$2,209,900 expense estimates put together by the District's Drone Pilot. These two estimates differ by nearly \$2,000,000, and Construction Control Corporation's totals didn't even include purchasing a helicopter. Executive Director Faraji asked the Board for permission to pursue RFPs for construction management and architectural design companies so we will have a better idea concerning development costs. Trustee Turner made a motion to use a portion of the budgeted \$100,000 to obtain proposals from project management and architectural firms. After being seconded by Trustee Christensen, the motion unanimously carried.

15. Probable Agenda Items for 28 January 2021 Board Meeting:

- Update on Mali Project
- Facility updates
- Executive Director's Report


16. Adjournment:

Trustees Vickers and Vitek made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. The 28 January 2021 Regular Monthly Board Meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m., and this meeting will be held electronically.



Ary Faraji, Executive Director

20 JAN 21
Date



Neil Vickers, Chair 2021

01/29/2021
Date