

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
17 June 2021
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Board Chair 2021

Time: 4:09 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Chair (Arrived at 4:19 during Item 2)
Van Turner, Vice-Chair
La Vone Liddle
Dr. Dagmar Vitek

Trustees Absent: Carlton Christensen

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO
Andrew Dewsnup, IT/GIS Specialist
Richard Loomis, Ouelessebouyou Alliance
Cami Moss, Child Richards CPAs & Advisors
Erin Winterton, Child Richards CPAs & Advisors
Dorothy Owen, Board Chair of Westpointe Community Council, Public Resident (Attended Remotely. Left meeting at 5:43 p.m.)
Rebecca Burrage, Public Resident (Attended Remotely from 6:38 p.m. until 6:54 p.m.)
Emilie Jordao, Public Resident (Attended Remotely from 6:38 p.m. until 7:11 p.m.)

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Turner called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. because Trustee Vickers was caught in heavy traffic. Executive Director Faraji confirmed that the meeting was being recorded, and no conflicts of interest were declared by the Trustees.

2. Presentation, Discussion, and Approval of Audit for Year Ending 31 December 2020:

Erin Winterton and Cami Moss, from Child Richards CPA's and Advisors, presented the completed audit of the District's financial statements for the year ending 31 December

2020. The District received a clean opinion, which is the highest opinion possible. They stated that the internal control procedures are solid and they found no deficiencies. There were also no findings as far as state legal compliance, which is to be complimented. They indicated that they were impressed with the management and staff, and they were especially pleased that their pesticide inventory verification was simplified because everything was well organized. They thanked Supervisors Quinten Salt and Jason Hardman, Assistant Director White, Executive Director Faraji, and CFO Fairbanks for their cooperation and timeliness, which helped this audit go smoothly.

Trustee Liddle made a motion to accept and approve the audit for the year ending 31 December 2020; The motion was seconded by Trustee Vickers and passed with a unanimous vote. Cami Moss and Erin Winterton left the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

3. Presentation and Update from the Ouelessebougou Alliance Regarding Mali Malaria Control:

Richard Loomis gave the Trustees a background of how and why the Ouelessebougou Alliance was established and also how the Alliance became focused on the need to fight malaria through mosquito control. The Alliance has received indispensable donations and has successfully raised over \$100,000. He elaborated on some of the challenges the Alliance is currently facing. He thanked Executive Director Faraji and Assistant Director White for their advisory technical support and also the staff for providing training in the different aspects of mosquito control. The expertise being shared by the District and other proficient professionals is very crucial to the success of this malaria abatement pilot program. The Ouelessebougou Alliance would like to sponsor a luncheon at the District to unroll the program on 16 July 2021. Richard Loomis left the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

4. Approval of the 20 May 2021 Minutes of the May Monthly Board Meeting:

The minutes had been distributed to the Trustees for review prior to the meeting, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Liddle moved to approve the 20 May 2021 minutes, and the motion passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Vitek.

5. Presentation of the May 2021 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

The Board Members had also received the Financial Statements and record of bills for payment beforehand. CFO Fairbanks reviewed the Financial Statements with the Board; all expenditures were presented, with special attention being paid to items over \$1,000. Documentation for every payment accompanied the checks when they were signed, and no unusual transactions had occurred.

Trustee Vitek made a motion to approve the May 2021 Financial Statements as presented and May's bills for payment. The motion was seconded by Trustee Liddle and carried with all in favor.

6. Discussion and Approval for Purchase of Two Handheld ULV Machines:

Executive Director Faraji explained that there are some locations in the City that are extremely difficult for the ATVs and trucks to reach. There are also some sensitive terrains that that are harmed if heavier equipment is used, such as the soccer fields at the Regional Athletic Complex. Having some handheld ULV machines will allow us to conduct more targeted applications in these areas and thereby rectify this problem. Executive Director Faraji presented a quotation totaling \$3,648.06 from Target Specialty Products for two handheld ULV machines.

After asking a few questions, Trustee Turner made a motion to approve the purchase of these two handheld ULV Machines. Trustee Liddle seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

- **Moab MAD visit, 26-27 May 2021**

The Moab MAD has hired Dr. Michelle Rehbein as its manager. She was one of the District's applicants for our Biologist position, and Executive Director Faraji suggested interviewing her for Moab's vacant manager position. She stayed in the District's dormitory and spent two days observing and learning about the different facets of our operations. She believes she can utilize some of the innovations and novel techniques that we use for mosquito surveillance into her program. Executive Faraji recommended that she also meet with the Southwest Mosquito Abatement and Control District out of St. George because its operations and climatology are more similar to those in Moab.

- **Culex / WNV Best Management Practices (BMP), 1 June 2021, Virtual**

The CDC was extremely pleased with the Invasive *Aedes* Best Management Practices handbook that Executive Director Faraji helped co-create. Additionally, the Train the Trainer sessions that Executive Director Faraji and Assistant Director White helped conduct nationwide were also well received by the CDC and other organizations, such as the National Association of County and City Health Officials. The CDC is now desirous to sponsor a similar BMP with Train the Trainer classes for endemic *Culex* / West Nile virus surveillance and control. Executive Director Faraji was one of seven individuals selected to create this manual and discuss possible locations and particulars for the training during the 1 June 2021 online meeting. Another meeting will be held in July; their goal is to have a deliverable by the end of the year.

- **Salt Lake City Council, 15 June 2021, Virtual**

Executive Director Faraji provided a 20-minute presentation on the District's general operations and our need for a tax increase, which has been exacerbated by funds that are going directly to the Inland Port and also the nearly 5% annual inflation rate. No members of the Salt Lake City Council asked any questions pertaining to the tax increase at this time. A majority, or three of the District's Trustees will need to be present at the meeting when the Board Chair formally notifies the Salt Lake City Council that a 75% tax increase has been approved by the Board.

- **Insecticide Resistance Workshop, 16-17 June 2021**

The District hosted a one-and-a-half-day workshop that was a state-wide Insecticide Resistance Workshop and Training to teach the other districts how to go about conducting insecticide resistance testing at their own facilities with their local species of mosquitoes. Katherine Brisco from UC Davis came from California to teach the CDC's bottle bioassay method, and she stayed in our dormitory during this training. We spoke to several persons who attended this training, and it appears that the training was very successful. We hope that this training with Utah's mosquito abatement districts will increase their accountability and involvement in monitoring insecticide resistance issues; monitoring resistance should be a routine component of every district to scientifically influence product rotation and continuing efficacy. We will be following up with two additional sessions on larval bioassay and also molecular training to identify the presence of insecticide resistance genes within mosquito populations.

- **Mali visitors, 28 June to 2 July 2021**

Today, the Ouelessebougou Alliance let us know that plans to bring two persons from Mali to learn about the many aspects of the District's operations have been postponed again. The Alliance has also run into some shipping issues and is currently looking for a way to transport its 40' container to Mali. Although the District is not providing any financial assistance, staff is happy to share its expertise in promoting good public health and safety through Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) techniques. We would like to map the area with a drone to look for mosquito habitats and to determine where to set up traps.

- **UMAA Annual Meeting, 24-26 October, Park City, UT**

Plans are being made to hold the UMAA Annual Meeting in Park City this year. The meeting will be a hybrid format, including in-person and virtual opportunities.

8. Executive Director's Report:

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) The District is now fully staffed except for a shop assistant. 2) Creating an advisory council has been placed on hold because of the ongoing pandemic and because we have been

extremely involved in our field and lab projects. In addition, we want to ensure that this is an appropriate endeavor for the District to pursue. 3) Assistant Director White gave a surveillance and research update. He covered statistics from the rural, industrial, and urban surveillance zones. The strong winds caused the most recent mosquito numbers to be down from those collected previously during the unusually high temperatures. The traps are posted on the website; clicking on each trap icon will show how many mosquitoes have been collected at that location. He also mentioned the laboratory projects for 2021: non-target insect studies – midge populations (types of midges, seasonal changes in populations, and susceptibility to different mosquito control applications); insecticide resistance; blood feeding habits of mosquitoes; and new surveillance locations in urban areas. 4) Next week we will be responding to some questions Dr. Daniel Mendoza has sent; we need additional input prior to formulating our responses. We will take the findings from our spray cloud movement to define additional studies with Dr. Jay Gan out of the University of California Riverside. We will be taking some soil, water, and vegetation samples to find out if residue from our adulticide abatement applications can be found. 5) Assistant Director White has spoken to Dr. John Abbott, an ornithologist out of Weber State University, about working with us as well. He has worked with the Audubon Society previously, and he is very well respected. Perhaps he and some students could conduct some research and help us with bird nesting, migrations, feeding habits, etc. 6) Biologist Weinrich has decided that he doesn't want to pursue a masters degree through the District because he is interested in obtaining a PhD in human population genetics and wants to go back to school full time. He still plans to complete the study on midges this summer. He is in the process of finalizing his list of questions, and then they will be given to Dr. Robert Peterson. 7) On the back of the Director's Report is a copy of the paper published in the *Journal of Economic Entomology* that was co-written by Director Faraji on the utilization of unmanned aerial systems in mosquito and vector control programs.

On a motion made by Trustee Liddle, seconded by Trustee Turner, and unanimously passed, the current meeting was recessed at 5:57 p.m. in order to begin the public hearing.

9. Discussion and Approval of 2021 Amended Budget:

The Public Hearing was held from 6:04 p.m. until 6:36 p.m., and then the regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 6:38 p.m. No further discussion on the 2021 Amended Budget was necessary, and it was approved unanimously after a motion to adopt the 2021 Amended Budget was made by Trustee Vitek and seconded by Trustee Liddle.

10. Discussion and Approval of Resolution for 2021 Certified Tax Rate and 2022 Proposed Budget:

Trustee Liddle made a motion to adopt the 2021 Certified Tax Rate of 0.000115 to meet the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District property tax budget revenue requirements of \$3,736,0020. The motion also included adopting a higher tax rate for additional revenue, should an adjustment be made through State and County authorities, and to approve the 2022 Proposed Budget. The motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and carried with all in favor.

11. Update on Tax Increase Procedure and Salt Lake City Council Reporting Requirement:

As indicated previously, Executive Director Faraji had met with the Salt Lake City Council and provided a general update about the District's operations and our upcoming tax increase. He followed up with Councilman Dugan about truck-mounted adulticide applications. The actual tax increase process currently requires the District to have a majority of our Board attend a council meeting and provide a report to Salt Lake City regarding the proposed tax increase. The request to make a report may be made after the tentative budget has been adopted. The City must hear the report, which shall be listed as an agenda item for the meeting, at a public meeting within 40 days after receiving the request to make the report. If the City fails to do so, the reporting requirement will be considered satisfied. The Board was provided with the items that are to be included in the report.

A letter containing the required information concerning the District's tax increase was prepared for the Board to review. The Board was in favor of sending this letter to Ms. Gust-Jenson, the Executive Director of the Salt Lake City Council Office, and the letter was signed by Trustee Vickers.

Executive Director Faraji briefly covered some of the information he had presented to the Salt Lake City Council.

12. Probable Agenda Items for 15 July 2021 Board Meeting:

- Executive Director's Report
- Research Projects Update
- Tax Increase Update

13. Public Comment:

Emilie Jordao made the following public comment: "My name is Emilie Jordao, I am an urban planner and resident of the Glendale neighborhood in Salt Lake City. I'm here today to express my concern with the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District's plan to regularly spray pesticides over the Great Salt Lake and the streets of Salt Lake City.

I live in a neighborhood that is smacked between two interstates and main arterials, and near industry. This is where many underserved communities live. People that don't have regular access to health care, and we cannot afford to have our airshed compromised even further by the spray of chemical pesticides upwind from us.

I am personally concerned about this practice, because of my friends and neighbors, the Great Salt Lake wildlife, but also due to my personal health. I have what's called an MTHFR gene mutation, which severely compromises my ability to eliminate the toxins I am exposed to it every

day. It leads to chronic conditions such as anxiety, depression, inflammation, cancer, and autoimmune in the long term. Being downwind from pesticide spray can severely impact my health and those with similar issues.

The West Nile Virus is not at a level of public emergency to require regular sprays over our air and land. I am here today to call for a two-year moratorium on such practice. We must not allow a "perceived" cure that is worse than the disease.

Thank you".

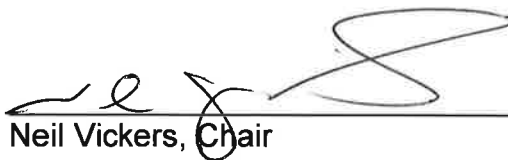
14. Adjournment:

Trustees Turner and Vitek made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. A box lunch will be available before the 15 July 2021 regular monthly board meeting, which will begin at 12:30 p.m.



Ary Faraji, Executive Director

15 JUL 21
Date



Neil Vickers, Chair

07/15/2021
Date