

**MINUTES OF THE  
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT  
20 May 2021  
BOARD MEETING**

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

Time: 12:31 p.m.

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

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

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director (Attended in Person)  
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director (Attended in Person)  
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO (Attended in Person)  
Andrew Dewsnup, IT/GIS Specialist (Attended in Person)

**1. Roll Call:**

Trustee Vickers called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m., and Executive Director Faraji confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. No conflicts of interest were declared by the Trustees.

**2. Approval of the 22 April 2021 Minutes of the April 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 22 April 2021 minutes, and the motion passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Christensen.

**3. Presentation of the April 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. Varying shortages, such as the wood and computer chip shortages, have been reported in the media, and Trustee Christensen asked if the District has run into any difficulty obtaining the necessary pesticides this year. Some of our pesticide inventory has been recalled due to PFAS contamination in the containers, and all of it has not been replaced yet. There has been some difficulty purchasing the pesticides used for our truck-mounted applications because of a global shortage of the synergist piperonyl butoxide, but we will be able to borrow/buy additional supplies from MAD-Davis if we run short. Our aerial pesticide supplies have not been affected.

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

**4. Discussion and Approval on Consulting Contracts:**

Executive Director Faraji reminded the Trustees that the District's contract with Dr. Daniel Mendoza only covers the modeling and literature review component and other researchers will need to perform the actual analytical chemistry testing of the samples in addition to providing other expert consulting services. He presented the Board Members with two more proposals from experts who can assist as needed on an hourly basis. The first proposal was from the Bonds Consulting Group, which promotes the application of scientific research related to the application of public health and crop protection compounds. Its goal is to improve efficacy, worker safety, reduce environmental contamination, and to support responsible stewardship of pesticides, biocides, and biological control agents. This work will be performed by Dr. Jane Bonds, an associate professor at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) and a leading expert on pesticide applications. She is willing to work with Dr. Mendoza, as needed, to provide effective and efficient technical expertise resulting in safe solutions to pest problems.

The second proposal was from Robert K. D. Peterson, Ph.D.; he is a professor of entomology at Montana State University, the Director of the Professional MS in Environmental Sciences, and Past President of the Entomological Society of America. His expertise is in environmental risk assessment, pesticide risk assessment, comparative biological risk assessment, insect ecology, and integrated pest management.

After some discussion concerning the differing areas of expertise required to produce sound research and the anticipated number of hours these two individuals will be working with Dr. Mendoza, Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve the consulting contracts with Bonds Consulting Group and Robert Peterson. Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

- **AMCA Washington Days, 10-12 May 2021, Online**

The scheduled meetings with the legislators for the AMCA Washington Days were held virtually this year. Executive Director Faraji, two attorneys from AMCA, and Gary Hatch, Manager of MAD-Davis, met with Senator Romney's staff on 12 May 2021; they promoted funding for the already-passed H.B. 345, Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act (SMASH Act). AMCA is looking for someone from the Senate to help push this through. Executive Director Faraji emailed Adam Gardiner at Senator Mitt Romney's office and asked him to invite Senator Romney to visit the district. Adam Gardiner responded by saying he was personally interested in touring the district's facility and appreciated the invitation. Once a date has been established, the Board Members will be notified in case anyone is interested in joining the tour.

- **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 is visiting our District to observe and learn about the different facets of our operations and how she can utilize some of the innovations and novel techniques that we utilize for mosquito surveillance and control into her operations.

- ***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 was also well received by the CDC and other organizations. They are now desirous to sponsor a similar BMP with Train the Trainer classes for *Culex* / West Nile virus surveillance and control. Possible locations and particulars for the training will be discussed during the 1 June 2021 online meeting.

- **Mali visitors, 7-11 June 2021**

The Ouelessebouyou Alliance plans to bring two persons from Mali to learn about the many aspects of the District's operations. We have heard that the dates may need to be later in June because of travel arrangement difficulties. 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.

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

The District is hosting a one-and-a-half-day UMAA workshop that is a state-wide Insecticide Resistance Workshop and Training to teach the other districts how they can go about conducting insecticide resistance testing at their own facilities with their local species of mosquitoes. A group will be coming from California to teach the CDC's

bottle bioassay method, and Katherine Brisco from UC Davis will be staying in our dormitories during this training. Our desire is to help Utah's mosquito abatement districts 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.

- **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.

## **6. Executive Director's Report:**

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) Assistant Director White's manuscript has been published in **Scientific Reports**, from the publishers of **Nature**, which is a highly-respected journal having a high-impact factor. The paper is on infrared light sensors and using bioacoustics to remotely identify mosquito species based on their wing beat frequencies in surveillance traps, and it has been included with April's Director's Report. The development of such traps will allow Districts to remotely monitor and identify mosquito populations in order to increase response times and monitor efficacy. 2) We now have employed 19 seasonals, which still leaves us short about eight individuals. 3) The interns and management are deciding which research projects they are going to accomplish this summer. 4) Calibrations on Mali's donated equipment have been completed, and the Ouelessebouyou Alliance is deciding what to include in its 40' container. The trip to Mali will be delayed from late spring to late summer or early fall, depending on when the container will be delivered to Mali. Mali's wet season generally runs between March and November of each year. 5) Last week we had a visit from Georgie Corkery who is pursuing a master's degree and wants to look at nontargets, which is similar to what Biologist Weinrich is working on with the non-biting midges. We are going to assist her with whatever we can; hopefully we can tackle some the questions the Audubon has posed to us by subdividing the work between her and Biologist Weinrich. 6) A Dr. Maria Shcheglovitova, an Environment and Society professor from Utah State University who specializes in environmental justice and also human-nature interactions, has some interest in conducting a survey on the west side of Salt Lake City to gauge people's perception about mosquito control, risks of mosquitoes, public health risks, pesticide risk, etc. She is very professional, and we plan to work and assist her as best we can. We would like to hear from west-side residents concerning mosquito control and mosquito-borne diseases. 7) The Entomological Society of America has asked Executive Director Faraji to write a blog / post for **Entomology Today** about his pathway to his current career. They want to increase awareness for entomological students who are seeking guidance in helping them find fulfilling careers when they don't have academic aspirations. The advice that he's providing entomological students is to venture outside the box and take some finance and other classes that can greatly enhance their capabilities when they are put in management positions. Also, understanding human psychology is another important skill that will prepare students for leadership positions and enable them to successfully navigate the vicissitudes

of the human ego. Mosquito control is not about mosquitoes; it is actually about people. And, most of the time it is about your own people. Also, training on handling media involvement is also imperative. 8) The nontarget study that we conducted the previous year has been completed and a manuscript has been submitted to **Ecological Applications**, which is a highly-rated journal in the Ecological Society of America. 9) Assistant Director White gave a surveillance update on the CO<sub>2</sub> traps in the rural and industrial zones. The mosquito numbers in the industrial area are above the five-year average. But, this year's average for the 35 traps in the rural area is 960, which is more than double the five-year average of about 400 mosquitoes for this time of the year. The high trap count this week was about 4,800 mosquitoes in the Inland Sea trapping location.

**7. Probable Agenda Items for 17 June 2021 Board Meeting:**

- Executive Director's Report
- Research Projects Update
- Tax Increase Update
- 2020 Audit Report
- Certified Tax Rate

**8. Public Comment:**

There were no public comments, for no members of the public were in attendance.

**9. Adjournment:**

Now that the CDC has relaxed its COVID-19 restrictions and Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, and Utah State are no longer requiring masks, the Board Members decided to resume in-person meetings. Another option to attend the meeting will be provided, upon request. Trustees Little and Christensen made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:59 p.m. The 17 June 2021 Regular Monthly Board Meeting will be held in person at 4:00 p.m., and a light meal will be available at 3:30 p.m. A Budget Hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m.

  
Ary Faraji, Executive Director

17 JUN 21  
Date

  
Neil Vickers, Chair

06/17/2021  
Date