

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
21 April 2022
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Van Turner, Board Chair 2022

Time: 12:32 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Van Turner, Chair
La Vone Liddle
Neil Vickers, Ph.D.
Dr. Dagmar Vitek

Trustees Excused: Carlton Christensen, Vice-Chair

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director (Left at 2:03 p.m.)
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Turner called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being recorded, no conflicts of interest were declared, and no members of the public were present.

2. Approval of the 24 March 2022 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

The Trustees had received a copy of the pending minutes prior to the Board Meeting, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Liddle made a motion to approve the 24 March 2022 Board Meeting Minutes. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Vickers, and it carried with all in favor.

3. Presentation of the March 2022 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

Copies of March's Financial Statements had been distributed to the Trustees earlier in the week. CFO Fairbanks reviewed the Financial Statements with the Board and noted that DSLASA had reimbursed the District for the air filters and the annual

router charges for the hangar. All expenditures were presented, with special attention being paid to items over \$1,000. Documentation for all expenditures had been closely reviewed when the checks were signed, and a folder containing all of the supporting invoices was circulated among the Trustees. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the March 2022 Financial Statements and the bills for payment; his motion passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Vitek.

4. Discussion and Approval to Hire Construction Management/Owners Representative:

The District has started to seek bids from Utah's pre-qualified and approved vendor list with the State of Utah Division of Purchasing and General Services, and Construction Control Corporation (with a fee of 3.05% of the project's cost), MOCA Systems, Inc. (with a fee of 2.75% of the project's cost), and BDK Management (with a fee of 3.15% of the project's cost) all responded. When we built our current facility, the service fees escalated with each modification to the construction. Therefore, Executive Director Faraji will attempt to ascertain a "not to exceed" fee that will remain finite for the entire venture. Trustee Vitek made a motion allowing the District to omit requesting RFPs by utilizing Utah's State Contract Service. This motion was seconded by Trustee Vickers, and it passed unanimously. Staff was asked to meet and interview each firm, to obtain proposals from each company, and to report back to the Board with a recommendation for hire.

5. Discussion and Approval to Purchase a DJI AGRAS T30 Unmanned Aerial Systems Spray Drone:

We have noticed an increase in complaints about ATV tracks, which is requiring more drone applications that eliminate ATV footprints. Our outdated drone no longer qualifies for software updates, carries a smaller load, is unable to handle curved perimeters, and requires someone to watch and guess where to make applications. Urban Field Supervisor Sorensen has been researching new drone models, and he has acquired several bids for a DJI AGRAS T30 unmanned aerial system that has a longer battery life, carries up to 70 pounds, and also has a camera that eliminates guesswork and allows more exact pesticide disbursements. This UAS can be programmed to treat sensitive habitats around power lines, near the airport, and also curved spray areas. The five bids for the exact model are \$25,846, \$27,089, \$27,494, \$32,308, and \$34,091. Urban Field Supervisor Sorensen recommends purchasing the DJI AGRAS T30 UAS from DroneNerds for \$25,846; in addition to providing free shipping, the company is also able to provide parts and service for the drone. Trustee Liddle made a motion to approve purchasing the DJI AGRAS T30 UAS from DroneNerds for \$25,846; the motion was seconded by Trustee Vickers, and it passed with all in favor.

6. Update on New Hires and CPI Increases:

Assistant Director White and Trustee Vickers are on the selection committee for an Education Specialist and a Laboratory Director. Applications from four very solid

individuals were received, and one applicant interviewed head and shoulders above the rest. A lot of this applicant's work history was reviewed with the Board; he has designed experiments, conducted bioassays, worked on product development, and is familiar with good laboratory practices (GLP). The Biologist position is still available, and hopefully one of the Lab Director applicants will be interested in this position.

Four applications were received for the Education Specialist position. Three of the applicants are available to be interviewed on 27 April 2022. If a suitable candidate is not found at this time, the fourth applicant will be interviewed at a later date.

At the last Board Meeting, a discussion occurred concerning how the outdated salary ranges are affecting the ability to attract the necessary talent required for the present job openings. The Trustees requested salary range information incorporating 85% and 100% of the CPIs from the past few years. A spreadsheet comparing proposed salary ranges at 85% CPI and 100% CPI was distributed to the Board. Our initial discussions with the top candidate for the Lab Director indicated that he needed an annual salary which was \$8,000 above this position's current maximum salary range recommendation. Our lower salary ranges, inflation, and the rising real estate costs are exacerbating our efforts to attract qualified persons to fill our job openings. The Board asked Executive Director Faraji to find out how other governmental agencies in Utah are handling the unusually high inflation rate. Trustee Vickers volunteered to help Trustee Christensen and some staff members establish a salary range committee that will meet, examine different concerns, and then make recommendations regarding the salary ranges. Appropriate salary ranges for all of the current staff will then be further discussed and decided at the next Board Meeting.

7. Update on ULGT and PEHP Health Care Benefits:

It is currently open enrollment for health benefits; the District has been notified that our medical insurance will be going up 5.8% in July, and \$570.00 of unused Flex dollars will now be rolled over into the following year. The final contract will be reviewed and signed by staff prior to 27 May 2022.

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

- **EPA Webinar Series, 23 March 2022, Virtual**

Executive Director Faraji provided a presentation on mosquito biology and control operations in Salt Lake City for the Environmental Protection Agency. He included general mosquito information as well as some unique innovations that our District has undertaken. About 200 individuals attended this virtual meeting; it was surprising to see how little our regulators know about mosquito control. Quite a few people followed up the webinar by asking a variety of questions, and Executive Director Faraji has been responding to their emails. The District received an email the following day from someone who desired more information on our 3-D printing. He asked what he could do to assist us, and he was informed that we need help with

public outreach. Executive Director Faraji has asked AMCA to be involved with the EPA webinar series on an annual basis so that EPA is kept in the loop with the latest mosquito technology developments. Persons have asked about physically visiting our District so they can learn more about our operations, increase our collaborations, and create better test models for public health in relationship to mosquito control. We will serve as a field location for their management to come and visit.

- **Arbovirus Surveillance & Control Workshop, 29-31 March 2022, St. Augustine, FL**

Anastasia Mosquito Control District conducted an annual workshop at its facility in March. This was a good opportunity to meet with CDC partners and ask for vector surveillance/control funding, which is similar to what they are accomplishing for the Centers of Excellence. Trustee Christensen attended this workshop and enjoyed Executive Director Faraji's, Assistant Director White's, and Trustee Vickers' presentations. The attendees commented on their observations and what they learned from the workshop. Anastasia Mosquito Control District has a helicopter mechanic who is intimately familiar with his machines and has specific insight to their needs. He is able to remove the additional "safe signature" expense (generally a \$20,000 - \$30,000 service), and he keeps replacement parts available to reduce "out of service" time. Their District also has adult bioassay mosquito cages that are used for a variety of controlled testing under semi-field conditions. Overall, it was a very good workshop; we would like to conduct something similar for the western region, but on a smaller scale. We could have local companies that are working on pest control products and researchers from our different academic institutions meet together and collaborate all of our efforts.

- **Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence Annual Meeting, 5-6 April 2022, Sacramento CA, Virtual**

Assistant Director White presented at this meeting on behalf of the UMAA and our District; he spoke about some of the challenges Utah had last year with mosquito abundance, resistance, and West Nile virus. Trustee Vickers, along with one of his graduate students and Hannah Rettler from the Utah Department of Health, were also in attendance. A great benefit of these meetings is that it brings key individuals together and provides networking/collaboration opportunities.

- **Liberty Elementary School Presentations, 7 April 2022, SLC UT**

Assistant Director White and Operations Supervisor Hardman provided some well-received presentations to 3rd Graders. They brought mosquitoes, fish, and dippers to capture the students' interest.

- **Salt Lake City Office Meeting, 8 April 2022, SLC UT**

Trustees Christensen and Turner, along with Executive Director Faraji, met with Sam Owen, and Salt Lake City Council Members Dan Dugan and Darin Mano. The Trustees focused on our scientific-driven operations and public health, and the others responded by exhibiting sincere interest in the District's mission. The Council intends

to interview all ten of the qualified candidates who have applied for our open trustee positions.

- **UMAA Spring Workshop, 13 May 2022, SLCMAD**

Assistant Director White is currently the President of UMAA, and he will be participating in a presentation for the UMAA Spring Workshop. SLCMAD will be hosting this workshop at no cost, which will allow UMAA to save some money rather than renting another facility. We will section off the meeting area for the breakout sessions. It has been scheduled for a Friday in May rather than a Saturday in April, so most of the seasonal employees will be able to attend without other conflicts. The employees will receive instructions on poison control, chemical safety, harassment training, public relations, aquatic insects, mosquito biology, reading labels, pesticide safety, etc. All of the Trustees were invited to attend this workshop if they had time in their schedules. It will be a good time to interact with all of the other mosquito districts in Utah.

- **National Conference on Urban Entomology, 15-18 May 2022, SLC, Utah**

This conference will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in SLC, and it will be attended by persons dealing with pest control for termites, cockroaches, mites, ants, bed bugs, and other peridomestic pests. Although the District will have nothing to do with implementing this meeting, the District was asked if we could host a social event in the evening of 17 May 2022 to inform the attendees about our integrated mosquito management operations and possibly conduct tours for attendees so that they become more familiar with mosquito surveillance and control programs.

Assistant Director White left the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

- **AMCA Washington Days, 17-18 May 2022, Washington DC**

Executive Director Faraji will be attending the American Mosquito Control Association's Washington Days in Washington DC in May. He is in charge of this year's program on behalf of the AMCA, and it should be innovative and informative. Ryan Lusty, Magna MAD's Manager, is in the process of setting up all of the appointments to visit Utah's federal representatives.

- **International Congress of Entomology, 17-22 July 2022, Helsinki, Finland**

After being canceled for two years because of COVID-19, it looks like the International Congress of Entomology meeting in Finland will finally be held this year. Executive Director Faraji's symposium proposal about "Natures Revenge: Enduring Challenges of Vector-Borne Diseases, Research, and Control Strategies in the United States" will be included with presentations from CDC, Armed Forces, USDA, universities, and public health operations. The last time the congress was held was during 2016 in Orlando, Florida. That meeting was attended by well over 7,000

participants, so we are hopeful that the 2022 meeting will not be canceled and will also be well-attended and informative.

9. Executive Director's Report:

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) Executive Director Faraji submitted comments on Oxitec's genetically modified mosquitoes, which is currently under review by the State of California. 2) Executive Director Faraji and CFO Fairbanks attended a virtual meeting with Brian Olsen, Alicia Prenovost, and Matthew Everett at Zions Bank about utilizing our new Zions Commercial Credit Cards. They identified our vendors who accept Visa credit card payments, and they encouraged us to make more credit card payments when available to take advantage of the rebate programs. We also discussed the problems we have been having with charges with these new credit cards being denied, and we found out that we only had a company overall limit of \$20,000. We asked to have an additional company credit limit of \$35,000 for the time being, and we requested a company overall limit of \$250,000 so that we can temporarily increase the limit on one credit card specifically for pesticide purchases. Increasing our overall company credit card limit will be an action item at May's Board Meeting. 3) We currently have two seasonal employees who are in the process of putting the traps together. They are placing the trap poles out in the field, and we hope to begin trapping around the second week in May. We have hired eleven other individuals so far, and it looks like we will be able to hire at least 25 persons to staff our seasonal positions. 4) We had a call with Brad Willenberg of the University of Florida; we are designing a field study to see if his substrate is an effective method for viral testing. The premise is that trapped mosquitoes will feed on the substrate and spit out particles that can be tested for pathogens. This would increase the number of individuals that could be tested from a typical trap collection. 5) Dr. Manu Prakash, who is a professor at Stanford University, is developing a new app for identification of mosquitoes utilizing wing frequencies, and he has asked if we would like to work with him. He has a brilliant mind, and we are honored that he approached us to assist him! Ironically, he mentioned that he going to Mali to work with National Institutes of Health (NIH) on a potential mosquito project, so Executive Director shared a few details about our own Mali mosquito control project and put him in touch with some of our colleagues at the University of Bamako. 6) We had another call from Dr. Justin Harbison from Loyola University in Chicago. We have a protocol in place for conducting a catch basin project on pyriproxyfen, an insect growth regulator (IGR); the product's brand name is SumiLarv. We will be evaluating the use of this IGR in our catch basins, which may provide season-long control of peridomestic mosquitoes. Our current catch basin operations entail visiting each catch basin three times or more during the course of the active season; hence, a single application may provide valuable cost and time savings. This project will be conducted in partnership and duplicated in two other mosquito control programs in the upper Midwest as well. 7) Dr. Daniel Mendoza has almost finalized his literature review on aerial adulticide applications of Naled, which supports the health benefits of mosquito control and the non-existent health risks associated with aerial applications using that product. Dr. Robert Peterson and Dr. Jane Bonds have reviewed his materials, and he will present his findings at the 26 May 2022 Board Meeting. 8) Our bee project including pesticide toxicology is currently underway. The beehives have been set in place, and Jenna Crowder (UT Department of Agriculture Bee Inspector) has started sampling these

beehives. 9) A lack of rural seasonal employees has postponed calibrating our equipment prior to using them in the field. 10) We have received a few service requests that resulted from the recent warm spell. 11) We are continuing to receive a few No Spray Requests from residents who live in areas where we do not conduct aerial or even truck-mounted spraying. It is unfortunate that misinformation is still being circulated by those who have other agendas. 12) Maintenance Operator Hernandez has nearly completed renovating the showers in the dormitory. 13) We have purchased the gas-powered utility vehicle for our maintenance operations. This purchase was previously approved as part of the proposed 2022 budget. 14) The HVAC system's exhaust fan was making a lot of noise last week; we had to shut it down, and it may be necessary to replace the entire unit if it cannot be repaired. Apparently the unit wasn't installed correctly, and we were not previously informed that it requires a specific maintenance process to be performed every six months. 15) Executive Director Faraji met with the Director of CDC's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, Dr. Lyle Petersen, and Dr. Rui-De Xue during the Anastasia Mosquito Control District's workshop about our District serving as a training hub. We also discussed the possibility of acquiring direct funding to our respective mosquito control districts and gaps in support from CDC. Dr. Petersen was amenable and excited about visiting our facility with his entomologists and outreach personnel to learn more about our operations and to identify ways the CDC can assist us. 16) Our audit has been scheduled, and the results will be presented to the Trustees in June. 17) Trustee Christensen let us know that it has been difficult hearing discussions at the Board Meetings while attending virtually, and he suggested purchasing a Meeting Owl to circulate around the room to enhance the virtual experience.

10. Discussion and Approval to Update 2022 Board Calendar:

Executive Director Faraji has a conflict with May's previously-scheduled Board Meeting because he will be participating in AMCA's Washington Days meeting from 16-19 May 2022. He asked the Trustees if their schedules could accommodate moving the Board Meeting to 26 May 2022. It will also be necessary to re-schedule July's Board Meeting because it conflicts with the International Congress of Entomology, and possible dates were discussed. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve holding the Board Meetings on 26 May 2022 and 14 July 2022. His motion was seconded by Trustee Liddle, and it carried with all in favor.

11. Probable Agenda Items for 26 May 2022 Board Meeting:

- Executive Director's Report
- New Hires
- Research Projects Updates
- Base Salary Inflation Increase Update
- Scoping Literature Review

12. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.


13. Adjournment:

Trustees Liddle and Vitek made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:32 p.m., which passed unanimously. A box lunch will be available before the 12:30 p.m. Monthly Board Meeting on 26 May 2022.



Ary Faraji, Executive Director

26 MAY 22
Date



Van Turner, Chair 2022

May 26-2022
Date