

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
17 February 2022
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Van Turner, Board Chair 2022

Time: 12:31 p.m.

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

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

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Turner called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being recorded, and no conflicts of interest were declared. No members of the public were present.

2. Approval of the 20 January 2022 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

A copy of the pending minutes had been distributed to the Trustees prior to the Board Meeting, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Liddle made a motion to approve the 20 January 2022 Board Meeting Minutes. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Vitek, and it carried with all in favor.

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

The Trustees had been given copies of January's Financial Statements earlier in the week. CFO Fairbanks reviewed the Financial Statements with the Board and noted that the money from selling the ATVs and bikes had been received. 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 made available. Trustee Vickers made a motion to adopt the January 2022 Financial Statements and approve the bills for payment; this motion passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Christensen.

4. Discussion and Approval to Purchase a Computer Tablet for Truck 12:

The District has been using Frontier Precision hardware/software to record specific details for each pesticide application. It has become necessary to replace/upgrade the computer tablet in Truck 12 with hardware that is compatible with the current GIS system, and Frontier Precision is the single-source provider for this system. Trustee Liddle made a motion to approve purchasing a computer tablet for Truck 12 from Frontier Precision for the quoted price of \$3,265.95. Trustee Vickers seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor.

5. Discussion and Approval on Consulting Contract for Dr. Iliia Rochlin:

Dr. Iliia Rochlin is a colleague who has worked with us previously on five peer-reviewed publications. Our paper on sugar alcohols has been submitted, but it has not been accepted yet. He is skilled in experimental design, data processing and storage, statistical analysis, scientific and grant writing, environmental assessment, wetland restoration, mosquito and tick ecology, and also vector surveillance and control. He is proficient in epidemiologic practice, research, and public health interventions and in designing, maintaining, and evaluating surveillance systems. Our District has a dire need for his project design and analytical expertise that is specialized to our discipline; he will provide statistical guidance in defining sufficient research procedures so that the District will save valuable time and money in future research projects that are specific to our area. He will also be instrumental in peer-reviewed applications. We have checked with our attorney, and we are able to use the Small Purchase Policy, which counts as a "small purchase of professional services." Under this policy, we are allowed to enter a contract by direct negotiation for services up to \$100,000 per project, without issuing an RFP, after reviewing the qualifications of a minimum of three firms or individuals. Dr. Iliia Rochlin is willing to provide consulting services for \$100 an hour. A copy of his accomplished CV with example publications was included for the Board.

It is fortunate to find someone who is so well versed in vector control, and Trustee Christensen commented that Dr. Iliia Rochlin has a unique skill set. He made a motion to approve the contract with Dr. Iliia Rochlin; the motion was seconded by Trustee Vickers, and it passed unanimously.

6. Update on Financial Audit:

Trustee Christensen, Vice-Chair, presided over the meeting while Trustee Turner stepped out of the room for a few minutes. The auditors have begun our audit by inspecting our chemical inventory at the facility. They will also inspect our chemical

inventory at the hangar before we begin purchasing the pesticides needed for our 2022 mosquito season.

7. Update on J Wright Communities Annexations:

Executive Director Faraji notified the Board that one parcel by the soccer field is being annexed into Salt Lake City. Besides generating a small amount of funding, this will have no impact on the District other than possibly increasing service requests if the property is developed into housing.

8. Update on DWQ and UPDES:

Trustee Turner returned and took over the meeting. The Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) is the Utah version of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which is the permit system mandated by § 402 of the Clean Water Act to control pollutants in waters of the United States. The Department of Water Quality (DWQ) oversees the Utah Pesticide Elimination Usage Permit, which expired at the end of 2021. The DWQ is in the process of issuing a new permit, and several comments objecting to the issuance of this permit were received during the public comment period. If this permit is not issued, it will affect pesticide applications in the entire State of Utah. Because the District is a large applicator, it is responsible to submit an annual pesticide usage report upon request. The DWQ let the District know that it will be holding a public hearing on 7 March 2022, and Executive Director Faraji invited Don Hall and his boss to visit our facility to obtain a better understand of how we closely follow pesticide labels and conduct integrated mosquito management operations. Their visit culminated in an inspection, and we are pleased to state that their detailed inspection report indicated an overall continual compliance. We were issued noncompliance on the annual report (which had not been requested), a written agreement and signature on the Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP), and some other minor infractions. These omissions have now been rectified. We will have all of Utah's mosquito abatement districts and others attend the public hearing to render scientifically-correct data and experiences that will paint a true picture of the imperative need for mosquito control.

9. Update on UASD and Legislative Bills:

The Utah Association of Special Districts has been following Utah's legislative activities closely this year. Ryan Lusty, Manager of the Magna Mosquito Abatement District, has been attending the UASD meetings each Tuesday, and his summary on how the 2022 legislative bills could affect the mosquito industry has been included in this month's Board Packet. So far, this year there are no bills that will negatively affect the District.

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

- **Dr. Ilia Rochlin (Suffolk County MVCD, NY), 26-28 January 2022, SLCMAD Dormitory**

Dr. Rochlin visited the District to work on the sugar alcohol paper as well as some other research projects that we have planned for this upcoming season. He had planned on staying in our dormitory for two nights and flying out on Friday. However, his flight was cancelled because of the winter storm in New York, and he ended up being stranded until Monday evening, the 31st of January. Assistant Director White helped to make the weekend more pleasant for Dr. Rochlin by inviting him to his home for dinner. On Monday, Dr. Rochlin indicated that he had enjoyed spending the additional day with the staff.

- **Dr. Chris Bibbs (Central Life Sciences), 26-28 January 2022, SLCMAD Dormitory**

Central Life Sciences has created a new formulation of an adulticide, and official trials and evaluations need to be conducted for the EPA. Dr. Bibbs also stayed in our dormitory while he devised some experimental designs for our District, for we will be assisting Central Life Sciences with some field trials for different mosquito species this summer. We will be able to charge them for our services, which could possibly be a significant amount of funding. The intent of these studies is to evaluate this new adulticide formulation under different climatological conditions for three different genera of mosquitoes, which will hopefully provide us with other options to use against mosquitoes in case we detect insecticide resistance and/or other concerns surrounding adulticides. Dr. Bibbs lives in the Dallas area, so he was able to return home on Friday.

- **MVCAC, 7-9 February 2022, Sacramento, CA**

The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California had asked Assistant Director White to conduct a presentation on insect resistance during its meetings. The MVCAC meetings are always extremely informative, and he was not disappointed this year. He was especially interested in learning that California is moving forward with sterile insect techniques and its benefits.

- **ESA PACT, 14 February 2022, Virtual**

The Entomological Society of America has a Professional Advancement Career Training Initiative focused on familiarizing graduate students with possible entomological careers. Executive Director Faraji was invited to sit on a panel with three other professionals, and he focused his comments on small local government mosquito abatement districts. He covered lessons learned and provided sage advice to the next generation of entomologists.

- **USU, 16 February 2022, Logan, UT**

Assistant Director White spoke to the Public Health Department at the Utah State University on Wednesday. The downside of his presentation was that enrollment was low and only four students were present. However, the upside was that he had the

opportunity to meet with Dr. Norah Saarman, who is an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department. She specializes in landscape population genetics; she and a Ph.D. student are interested in looking at vector populations and how to reduce their populations. Her student will be visiting the District next week to work on a collaborative project regarding the spread of resistance in our area.

- **AMCA Annual Conference, 28 February – 4 March 2022, Jacksonville, FL**

American Mosquito Control Association's Annual Conference will be held in Jacksonville this year. This is a very beneficial and informative meeting, and Trustee Vitek will be attending the conference. Trustee Vickers, Executive Director Faraji, and Assistant Director White will all be presenting symposium talks.

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

The Environmental Protection Agency has asked Executive Director Faraji to provide a presentation on mosquito biology and control operations in Salt Lake City. He will include general mosquito information as well as some unique innovations that our District has undertaken.

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

Anastasia will also be conducting an annual workshop at their facilities in March. This is 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 will be attending this workshop and enjoying Executive Director Faraji's, Assistant Director White's, and Trustee Vickers' presentations. Visiting the Anastasia Mosquito Control District's facility and seeing what they have accomplished is worth the trip, in itself.

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

This conference will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in SLC. Although the District will have nothing to do with implementing this meeting, Executive Director Faraji was asked if the District could host a social event in the evening, inform the attendees about our operations, and possibly conduct tours.

11. Executive Director's Report:

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) The Annual Trustee Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form and Annual Ethical Behavior Pledge Form were distributed and completed by the Trustees. 2) Trustee applications are due the 24th of February. 3) The Tooele, Davis, and Magna Mosquito Abatement Districts are all interested in partnering with our helicopter acquisition. The Board recommended purchasing the helicopter on our own as a government entity and then contracting out our services to the other districts through an interlocal agreement. This way we would have more control of all decisions and could still have help with pilot and maintenance costs. 4)

We have helped Moab apply for a Western IPM Grant on *Aedes aegypti* which looks to be funded. The proposal that was submitted will concentrate on including a public education component for integrated mosquito management of invasive species. This route could possibly be an avenue for us to receive some additional funding in the future as well. 5) The CDC has approved the publication surrounding the detection and eradication of *Aedes aegypti* in Moab. The manuscript has now been submitted and is currently under review. 6) Executive Director Faraji is serving as an Expert Witness on the Spartan Mosquito Eradicator Control Device. He will be conducting some experiments on the efficacy of the device and will deliver expert testimony, if requested. He has provided a Secondary Notification of Employment to the Board. 7) We will be conducting a catch basin project on pyriproxyfen with Loyola University out of Chicago. We will be evaluating the use of this insect growth regulator 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. 8) We will be expanding Jenna Crowder's bee project research to include pesticide toxicology. She has submitted a proposal and will be fine tuning the details on the actual project prior to the start of the mosquito season. 9) We will be continuing our conversation with the CDC during the Anastasia Mosquito Control District's workshop about serving as a training hub. The CDC has encouraged us to submit a letter of intent. Then, if there are any funds left over, the money could be transferred over directly to our District. Currently, the CDC is funding the Centers of Excellence; however, much of the training for students at these Centers is actually occurring at Districts like ours. Thus, being provided direct funding to expand this program would be beneficial for all parties. 10) We have also been approached by Salt Lake County Health Department (Public Health and Environmental) to apply for a grant opportunity through the County and State Territorial Epidemiologists. If successful, this grant would provide us an intern through CSTE that could work on a joint topic of interest for our District and the County. 11) We are continuing projects with TechCyte and Particle Flux for the development of smart traps for mosquito surveillance. We were also contacted by Dr. Manu Prakash (Stanford University), who was the keynote speaker at a previous AMCA meeting, about further development of these smart traps. Since we do not have the engineering and technical expertise to conduct this ourselves, we will be helping to facilitate discussions between various groups and assist where needed. 12) Executive Director Faraji has been asked to write a chapter on mosquito surveillance for a book on West Nile Virus Surveillance and Control. He is approximately 90% finished with the chapter, and he is including illustrative photos of the innovations the District has put into practice, such as the 3-D printing, manufacturing our own traps, and the incorporation of condensed carbon dioxide for mosquito monitoring. 13) Maintenance Operator Hernandez has been a terrific asset to the District because he is able to handle any challenge. He is currently closing the impractical doorway in the dormitory that leads to the restroom through the lab and creating a more appropriate access. He has also been working on updating all the shower heads and retiling the dormitory bathrooms. 14) The HVAC system is still having problems. We had yet another glycol leak and have contacted a new company for inspection, maintenance, and fixing of that equipment.

12. Probable Agenda Items for 24 March 2022 Board Meeting:

- Executive Director's Report
- Northpointe Ranches Annexation Update
- Grant Updates

13. Public Comment:


There were no public comments.

14. Adjournment:

Trustees Vickers and Liddle made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:21 p.m., which passed unanimously. A box lunch will be available before the 12:30 p.m. Monthly Board Meeting on 24 March 2022.


Ary Faraji, Executive Director

24 MAR 22
Date


Van Turner, Chair 2022

3-24-22
Date