

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
16 February 2023
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Carlton Christensen, Board Chair 2023

Time: 12:34 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Carlton Christensen, Chair
Dr. Shireen Mooers, Vice-Chair (Attended Virtually)
Amanda Barth
Van Turner
Neil Vickers, Ph.D.

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO
Robert Czubak, MOCA Systems (Attended during Items 1-6)
Bradley Sorensen, Urban Field Supervisor (Attended during Items 5-6)
Michele Rehbein, Ph.D., Education Specialist (Attended during Items 5-8)

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Christensen called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being recorded, and the Trustees had no conflicts of interest.

2. Approval of the 19 January 2023 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

The Board Members were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of January's regular Board Meeting prior to this meeting, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve the 19 January 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. This motion was seconded by Trustee Barth, and it carried with all in favor.

3. Presentation of the January 2023 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

Copies of January's Financial Statements had been distributed to the Trustees before the Board Meeting. 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 all payments had been reviewed when the checks were signed; the Balance Sheets and a folder containing all of the supporting invoices were circulated. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the January 2023 Financial Statements and the bills for payment, and his motion carried unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Turner.

4. Discussion and Approval of Bylaws Changes:

Upon reviewing the modifications that had been made to the Bylaws reflecting the previously-approved Resolution Number 1a-19-2023, Trustee Mooers recommended adding “outside of monthly board meetings” to Article II. GOVERNING AUTHORITY, A. Board Members, 2. It would then read: ... “Because Trustees provide a valuable service to the District outside of monthly board meetings, Trustees are eligible for half compensation (\$200) for that given month, regardless of Board Meeting attendance.” ... The motion was seconded by Trustee Barth and approved with all in favor.

Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve the Bylaws as amended on 16 February 2023. Trustee Vickers seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

5. Discussion and Approval on Construction Project Overview & Guidelines from MOCA Systems (Owners Representative):

Robert Czubak reviewed the Project Overview & Design Guidelines draft that been prepared by MOCA Systems. This document provides general requirements, responsibilities, and guidelines to assist the designer in understanding the scope of the District’s plans when they respond to our RFQ. The Board Members were asked if they had any further input, and they were also invited to participate in selecting an architect to design our project. Further specifics will be decided and different options discussed once we have more defined costs and also the required approvals. Executive Director Faraji asked the Board Members to email their concerns to him so they can be included in this document. Trustee Barth made a motion approving the Construction Project Overview & Guidelines as presented, with some refinements, and beginning the RFQ process. This motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and carried unanimously. Trustee Christensen indicated that he is willing to assist with evaluating the architects.

6. Discussion and Approval for Purchase of an AGRAS T-40 Unmanned Aerial System and Associated Components:

Urban Field Supervisor Sorensen also oversees the District’s UAS program; he updated the Board Members on the condition of the District’s current drones and the anticipated 2023 UAS program needs. He had researched different UAS options, as well as their advantages/disadvantages, and he had obtained some bids for the Trustees to consider. A motion to approve purchasing the AGRAS T-40 UAS and the associated components listed on Order # EST402659630 from DroneNerds for \$25,697.00 was made by Trustee Barth, seconded by Trustee Vickers, and passed with all in favor.

7. Discussion and Approval for Laboratory Electrical Modifications through Wasatch Electric:

We have received a bid from Wasatch Electric to perform six different projects, which include relocating the ultra-low temperature freezer, providing more electrical outlets, and modifying the electric station in the parking lot for increased security and making it available only during office hours. Trustee Barth made a motion to approve Wasatch Electric's \$6,338.00 quote to perform the electrical modifications that were discussed. This motion was unanimously approved after being seconded by Trustee Vickers.

8. Discussion and Approval of Western IPM Center Grant: "Adopting Integrated Pest Management for Mosquito Suppression at a Newly Operational State Correctional Facility within Wetland Habitats Surrounding the Great Salt Lake":

Education Specialist Rehbein applied for and was awarded a \$26,515.00 Western IPM Center grant that will focus specifically on integrated vector and mosquito control at the new state prison. It will include an education program in addition to supplying some small equipment, materials, and training for the prison staff and inmates. The plans are to start an education program breeding some least chub, a Utah native gold-colored minnow typically less than 2.5 inches long, to help mitigate some of the mosquito issues the prison is having. (The District currently utilizes *Gambusia affinis* as a biological control feeding on larvae in contained ponds, but they are not a native fish and cannot be released into open waters. The prison must use a native fish because it is located in a 100-year floodplain.) Education Specialist Rehbein has not only been able to coordinate with the Utah Department of Corrections, she has also been able to obtain addition support from the Utah Prisoner Advocate Network (UPAN). An MOU will be forthcoming.

Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the Western IPM Center Grant, "Adopting Integrated Pest Management for Mosquito Suppression at a Newly Operational State Correctional Facility within Wetland Habitats Surrounding the Great Salt Lake". Trustee Barth seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

9. Update on External Grants and Grant Policies:

Executive Director Faraji reached out to our attorney and a few districts for input about an external grant policy, but no substantive response has been received so far. Concerning the "Life Elevated in the Intermountain West through STEPPES (Standardization of Training, Evaluation, Partnerships, Prevention, Efficacy, and Surveillance)" that was submitted 3 February 2023, we did request 17.5% for the overhead.

We were not awarded two grants: DoD W911SR-23-S-DWFP "Improved Method for Autodissemination of Insect Growth Regulators for Mosquito Control" Banfield Bio Inc. with SLCMAD as Co-PI and DoD W911SR-23-S-DWFP "Real-time Detection and Classification of Existing and Invasive Mosquito Species" Particle Flux Inc. with SLCMAD as Co-PI.

10. Update on UASD and Legislative Bills:

The Trustees had been provided with a list of House and Senate Bills that may directly or indirectly affect the District, and Executive Director Faraji pointed out SB 127 on Cybersecurity Amendments. This Bill requires governmental entities in the State to use an authorized top-level domain by 1 January 2025. UASD is attempting to get SB 127 amended so that we will not have to go through the expense of changing our website and our emails.

11. Update of 2022 Audit:

CFO Fairbanks reported that she had met with Steve Rowley, a Partner of Keddington and Christensen, and had answered several procedural questions about the District's operations. The audit will officially begin 11 April 2023. If she hasn't already done so, Rylee Johnson of K & C will be emailing a list of questions about control, fraud, attitude, etc. to the Trustees. These answers will help K & C identify a risk factor and define the amount of testing they will need to conduct during our audit.

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

- **MVCAC, 29-31 January 2023**

Executive Director Faraji, Assistant Director White, and Education Specialist Rehbein attended and presented talks at the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California's annual conference this year. Members of the Board were encouraged to attend this extremely informative meeting in 2024, if possible. Education Specialist Rehbein will also spend an extra day interacting with the Public Information Officers at some of the local mosquito control districts and experiencing first-hand how they conduct their educational programs.

- **West Central Mosquito & Vector Control Association, 8-10 February 2023**

Executive Director Faraji attended this conference, and he reported that Trustee Barth is a very good speaker who will obviously be asked to provide future presentations. In fact, she has already agreed to speak at the UMAA meetings in October. Executive Director Faraji was very pleased with the quality of the speakers this year; he was on the board, but he stepped off after this meeting.

- **Southshore Wetlands & Wildlife Management, Inc., 11 February 2023**

This year, we invited the members of Southshore Wetlands & Wildlife Management to hold their annual meeting at our District. Representatives from the duck clubs, Audubon, Friends of the Great Salt Lake, etc. were in attendance. They enjoyed our

venue and would like to hold their future meetings at our facility. Executive Director Faraji briefly spoke about our operations and some of our challenges/needs.

- **Clarke Mosquito Control Appreciative Inquiry, 14-16 February 2023**

Clarke Mosquito Control is a very green, environmentally-conscious company that provides surveillance and control products, and the company is holding a strategic planning meeting in order to discover what is working well and to identify areas where improvements can be made. The District has been invited to participate in this factfinding event through a process called Appreciative Inquiry, and Assistant Director White is actually attending this event today. The exchange of information at this meeting will help define the direction mosquito control will go in the future.

- **Judge Memorial High School Presentations, 15-16 February 2023**

Laboratory Director Bibbs and Education Specialist Rehbein taught classes at Judge Memorial High School all day yesterday and this morning. They included a variety of mosquito biology, mosquito ecology, mosquito surveillance, and CRISPR techniques.

- **American Mosquito Control Association, 27 February – 3 March 2023**

Trustee Vickers and several members of staff will be attending the American Mosquito Control Association's innovative meeting this year. It will be an enlightening experience for everyone who participates in the conference. The meetings will be held in Reno, Nevada, and the Board was highly encouraged to attend this meeting in the future.

- **AMCA Washington Day, 15-17 May 2023**

The AMCA Washington Day event is the legislative day when we get to meet with our federal representatives on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. and discuss issues that impact public health and vector control. The Board was encouraged to attend this meeting, as well.

13. Executive Director's Report:

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) This month's Director's Report contains an interesting article on how a box of 200 mosquitoes did the vaccinating in a malaria trial. The mosquitoes deliver live malaria-causing *Plasmodium* parasites that have been genetically modified to not get people sick. The body still makes antibodies against the weakened parasite so it's prepared to fight the real thing. It is quite an interesting read. 2) We have had six applicants apply for our vacant Biologist position; we are going to wait to see if we receive more applications after we speak to others at the AMCA conference at the end of this month. 3) We have four seasonal employees on staff. 4) Jenna Crowder has asked to postpone the report on her bee project until March. 5) We have attended some training for the Utah Pesticide Discharge Elimination Systems (UPDES). All of our paperwork has been completed, and our annual

report will be finalized and submitted by 28 February 2023. 6) The Department of Corrections provided a letter of support for the CDC grant. Although we received it after the grant's submittal deadline, it is good to know that the prison is on board with the grant. 7) Fortunately, the HVAC system has been working and we have not experienced any issues since the last fix. 8) We conducted some Duet adulticide trials last summer, and we have finalized the study and are working on the statistics. We are hoping to write the trials up as a peer-reviewed manuscript and present it to the Board in a month or two. 8) The Salt Lake City Council has asked Trustee Vickers to fill out an application for reappointment. It is unknown when the Council will act on his reappointment; fortunately, Trustee Vickers has agreed to keep serving on the Board until an appointment is made. 9) Utah Governor Cox has banned TikTok, and we have also made sure that this app is not on any of our electronic devices at work. 10) This morning, Executive Director Faraji had an hour-long Zoom conference call with Councilman Dugan and Council Staff Sam Owen. Councilman Dugan wanted to make sure that the prison is providing a financial incentive for all of the mosquito abatement work. He also wanted to discuss our pesticides and the "forever chemicals" (PFAS). He asked if any of our products have tested positive for PFAS, and he was informed that Clarke Mosquito Control did have a product that was in receptacles containing PFAS. The containers had been recalled and replaced in 2020, and we have also obtained two official letters from pesticide manufacturing companies ensuring that no PFAS are contained in their products. Councilman Dugan would like the District to conduct, at our expense, some independent testing to verify no PFAS exist in the products we utilize. After some discussion, the Board Members decided that testing our products might be unnecessary because they have already been tested by the manufacturing companies and have undergone a regulatory evaluation through FIFRA. The Trustees were also concerned we may not currently have the expertise to do this kind of testing and more research into this would be needed. Councilman Dugan is making this request as an individual council member; it is not a full Council request. This is an issue that should be taken to the manufacturing companies directly, for they have the means to properly test for PFAS. Also, if the Council has a sincere concern, it should be taken to the State; perhaps the Department of Environmental Quality should conduct this testing. Executive Director Faraji will find out more information on testing and will inform the Board about his findings at a later date. He reiterated that we want to remain completely transparent with all aspects of our operations, and he will report back to the Board prior to contacting Councilman Dugan.

14. Probable Agenda Items for 16 March 2023 Board Meeting:

- Construction / RFQ Update
- Executive Director's Report
- Grants Update
- Legislative Report
- Bee Project Update
- Personnel Update
- Grant Approval Policy
- Policies and Procedures Update

15. Public Comment:

There were no members of the public present at this time.

16. Adjournment:

Trustees Vickers and Barth made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 p.m., which passed unanimously. The 16 March 2023 Regular Monthly Board Meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m.



Ary Faraji, Executive Director

16 MAR 23
Date



Carlton Christensen, Chair 2023

16 March 2023
Date