

**MINUTES OF THE  
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT  
23 May 2024  
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair

Time: 12:36 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair  
Amanda Barth, Vice-Chair (Attended virtually. Left after Item 9.)  
Luz Escamilla  
Van Turner  
Neil Vickers, Ph.D.

Others Present: Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director  
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO  
R. Bradley Sorensen, Aerial Operations Supervisor

**1. Roll Call:**

Trustee Mooers called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. No conflicts of interest were declared.

**2. Welcome New Board Member, Senator Luz Escamilla, and Oath of Office:**

Senator Luz Escamilla was warmly welcomed by the Trustees and staff. She has shown an interest in the work that the District is performing and recognizes how important our operations are in protecting public health. As the District Clerk, CFO Fairbanks administered the Oath of Office to Senator Luz Escamilla.

Upon completing the Oath of Office, Trustee Barth made a motion to recess this meeting in order to convene the LBA Governing Board Meeting. At 12:39 p.m., her motion passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Vickers.

A motion to adjourn the LBA Governing Board Meeting and to reconvene the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District's Governing Board Meeting was made at 12:51 p.m. by Trustee Vickers, seconded by Trustee Turner, and carried with all in favor.

**3. Presentation, Discussion, and Approval of Audit for Year-Ending 31 December 2023:**

The Auditors did not have sufficient time to complete our audit because they had not received most of the necessary financial data from DSLASA until earlier this week. Trustee Escamilla made a motion to table the audit presentation until June's Board Meeting; her motion passed with all in favor after being seconded by Trustee Barth.

**4. Approval of the 25 April 2024 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:**

The pending minutes of April's regular Board Meeting had been distributed to the Board Members prior to this meeting; Trustee Mooers had discovered a typographical error, and the correction had been made. Trustee Turner made a motion to approve the 25 April 2024 Minutes of the Board of Trustees, as revised; the motion was seconded by Trustee Vickers and carried with a unanimous vote.

**5. Presentation of the April 2024 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:**

The Trustees had received copies of April's Financial Statements earlier in the week, and CFO Fairbanks noted receiving the following items: Interest income of \$73,832.10 was distributed between the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund, and \$631,642.72 was expended. Credit card rebates totaled \$7,315.82, \$430.31 was received from the sale of a truck bed, and the SLC Corporation RDA payment was \$252,828.60. All expenditures were presented, with special attention being paid to items over \$1,000.00. Documentation for the payments was reviewed when the checks were signed, and the credit card statements, supporting invoices/receipts for all payments, and Balance Sheets were made available for review. There were no questions / comments about the financials, and Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the April 2024 Financial Statements and bills for payment. Trustee Escamilla seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor.

**6. Discussion and Approval for Purchase of a Carbon Dioxide Pump (Western IPM Grant – Partnering with Wyoming):**

We are partnering with Teton County Weed and Pest District in Wyoming to study a new method for attracting mosquitoes to surveillance traps. Assistant Director White explained the importance of both Utah and Wyoming utilizing similar surveillance techniques. Our District uses CO<sub>2</sub> from pressurized canisters, but Teton County does not have the same system available. In order to complete the study, the grant needs to purchase a CO<sub>2</sub> pump for Teton County, and our District handles the grant's finances. Assistant Director White presented a competitive quote of \$5,903.40 to the Board for purchasing the necessary CO<sub>2</sub> pump, which will be reimbursed to the District through the grant at a later date. Trustee Escamilla made a motion to approve purchasing a CO<sub>2</sub> pump up to the amount of \$6,000.00. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and carried with a unanimous vote.

**7. Discussion and Approval for Wasatch Electric Modifications:**

The District has obtained two different quotes totaling \$4,200.00 from Wasatch Electric for some work in Vehicle Storage 1, the Dorm, and providing more outlets and a back-up generator. Assistant Director White explained the benefits that will be derived from this work. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve both quotes, \$1,250.00 for Vehicle Storage 1 and \$2,950.00 for the Dorm, in order to move ahead with this work. Trustee Barth seconded his motion, and it carried unanimously.

**8. Update on UDOC Prison Grant with Senator Escamilla:**

Trustee Escamilla worked with Education Specialist Rehbein and significantly facilitated establishing an intergovernmental agreement between the District and the Utah Department of Corrections. We are preparing presentations to help educate the inmates and prison personnel in pest management. This will not only help us control mosquitoes at the prison, but it will hopefully provide life skills that can be used in the future. We are also collaborating with the Division of Wildlife Resources to establish a least chub rearing facility at the prison so these fish can be used to reduce mosquito larvae in native habitats. (The least chub is also a local fish of concern, so increasing their population is also a plus.) Trustee Escamilla conveyed the excitement that had been expressed by the legislators because it addresses multiple issues and interests.

**9. Update on Tax Increase Process:**

Now that the Trustees have approved pursuing a 19.5% tax increase, Executive Director has been communicating with Fabian VanCott, the Salt Lake County Auditor and Treasurer, and the Tax Commission about the tax increase process requirements and deadlines. The Trustees were provided with a Truth in Taxation Memorandum that had been prepared by Rachel Anderson of Fabian VanCott. The general public does not understand how the only way governmental entities can fund inflation is by having enough new growth or by increasing the mill levy. Most of Salt Lake City's new growth tax dollars are going to the Inland Port, which augments the District's financial challenges. The Board Members strongly recommended updating the website to make educational information readily available. Even small tax increases are met with a lot of resistance, and the general public must be able to locate effective/valuable answers to help them understand how their tax dollars are being used and the value/benefits they provide.

**10. Update on Construction:**

A 3-D site plan was included in this month's board packet. Because the helicopters will contain jet fuel, we just found out that we need to provide a fire-suppression system in case of a fire, which includes a containment area because the foamy discharge cannot enter the normal drainage system. We believe we can put most of the discharge in the front

retaining ponds, and we will add another small retaining pond in the north side of the property between the adult bioassay cage and the laboratory.

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

The Trustees were invited to make comments and/or ask questions about the following training/meetings:

- **Davis-Salt Lake Aerial Spray Authority, TBD**

Trustee Escamilla was given a brief explanation about the Davis-Salt Lake Aerial Spray Authority (DSLASA). Our two representatives on the DSLASA board are Trustees Vickers and Turner. The DSLASA meeting has still not been scheduled by its current Executive Director, Gary Hatch.

- **SLCMAD/CSU/RaHP VEC Tec Workshop 8-9 May 2024**

Over 70 persons attended the two-day Rockies and High Plains Vector-borne Diseases training and evaluation center (RaHP VEC) workshop at the District. Representatives from Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, New Mexico, and the Texas panhandle were in attendance to learn about Integrated Mosquito Management. We received very positive feedback from several attendees who thought the training was very valuable.

- **UMAA Spring Workshop, 10 May 2024**

We had 171 persons register for the UMAA Spring Workshop; this imperative annual training was provided to all of Utah's mosquito districts' full-time and seasonal staff members.

- **AMCA Washington Days, 13-15 May 2024**

The AMCA Washington Days event provides an opportunity for mosquito personnel to discuss areas of concern and mosquito control interests with legislative leaders. Executive Director Faraji and Education Specialist Rehbein felt that this year's event was the best they have experienced so far. They had several very good discussions with our federal partners, and they were even able to eat dinner with Celeste Maloy!

- **Entomological Society of America, 23-25 June 2024**

Executive Director Faraji will be attending this interim board meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. Trustee Vickers will be attending the ESA Annual Meeting that's taking place in Phoenix, Arizona from November 10 through 13, 2024.

- **Ecological Society of America, 4-9 August 2024**

- **International Congress of Entomology, 25-30 August 2024**

- **Society for Vector Ecology, 15-19 September 2024**

**12. Executive Director's Report:**

In addition to the Director's Report that was distributed to the Trustees, the Board Members were given a brief update and/or discussed the following: (1) We are very busy now, and we currently have 41 seasonal employees. (2) We are conducting projects / research with a number of interns from universities across the State. (3) Additionally, Sriman Samake, from the University of Bamako in Mali, is also staying in the dormitory. He is working with the Ouelesseboungou Alliance and will be training with us for over a month. (4) We had some visitors from Colorado's Grand River Mosquito Control District stay in the dormitory; they accompanied some our staff in the field to see how we conduct our operations and also attended the RaHP VEC and UMAA Workshops. (5) Michael Bollinger from the Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence also stayed in the dormitory during the workshop. (6) Our trap numbers are accelerating; before the meeting, Assistant Director White was informed that we collected 11,000 mosquitoes in one over-night trap. Depending on the other trap results, we may need to begin aerial adult mosquito control operations. (7) We have a lot more water in places that haven't flooded in the past 10-15 years. Our drone work has surpassed the drone work that had been conducted by this time of last year.

Trustee Escamilla stressed that educating the public is imperative, and we should be highlighting the work that the District is doing. She said she would gladly help coordinate a media / press event with the Department of Corrections to help get this project's message out to the public. Our educational efforts should be proactive rather than reactive. For example, the public will want to know the benefits that will be realized by utilizing a helicopter to conduct larval applications.

**13. Probable Agenda Items for 20 June 2024 Board Meeting, 5:00 p.m.:**

- Executive Director's Report
- Construction Updates
- Grant Updates
- Budget Amendments

**14. Public Comment:**

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

**15. Adjournment:**

Trustees Vickers and Escamilla made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m., which passed unanimously. The next Board Meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. on 20 June 2024. A light dinner will be available at 4:30 p.m.



Ary Faraji, Executive Director

20 JUN 24  
Date



Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair

06/20/2024  
Date