

**MINUTES OF THE  
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT  
17 September 2020  
ELECTRONIC BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: La Vone Liddle, Chair

Time: 12:33 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: La Vone Liddle, Chair (Attended Remotely)  
Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Vice-Chair (Attended Remotely)  
Carlton Christensen (Attended Remotely; joined at 2:27 p.m. just  
prior to the Surveillance Report, Item 9)  
Dr. Dagmar Vitek (Attended Remotely; left at 2:28 p.m., just prior to  
the Surveillance Report, Item 9)  
Van Turner (Attended in Person at the District)

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO  
R. Bradley Sorensen, Urban Field Supervisor  
Gregory White, PhD., Assistant Director (Joined the meeting  
intermittently and then, during Item 8, from 2:03 p.m. – 2:49 p.m.  
to deliver the Surveillance Report, Item 9)

**1. Roll Call:**

Trustee Liddle called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. Executive Director Faraji verified that the meeting was being recorded, and no conflicts of interest were declared.

**2. Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**3. Approval of the 20 August 2020 Minutes of the Monthly August Board Meeting:**

The Board Members were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of August's regular Board Meeting prior to the meeting, and all modifications had been completed. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the 20 August 2020 Board Meeting Minutes; Trustee Vitek seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor.

**4. Presentation of the August 2020 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:**

Copies of August's Financial Statements had been disseminated prior to the Board Meeting. CFO Fairbanks reviewed the Financial Statements with the Board; all expenditures were presented, with special attention being paid to those expenditures in excess of \$1,000. It was noted that nearly \$200,000.00 of the \$410,830.61 spent in August was for pesticides. Documentation for all expenditures had been provided when the checks were signed. Trustee Turner made a motion to adopt the August 2020 Financial Statements and to approve August's bills for payment. This motion passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Vitek.

**5. Update and Discussion on Environmental Remediation for Old, Old Facility:**

Executive Director Faraji received an email thread from Laurie Goldner, Senior Environmental Consultant with Barr Engineering Company, portraying the progress in petitioning to discontinue groundwater monitoring at 463 North Redwood Road in Salt Lake City, Utah. The most encouraging comment was made in an email between two Utah State employees: "Brad, to your question on modification, I would say yes if we are removing the monitoring requirement. No public comment required. Make the appropriate changes and then approve it. Of course, we need to locate the original first." Barr Engineering pulled together the original Site Management Plan and both Addenda with attachments, and they have been sent to the State. So, now we are assuming that we'll be receiving approval to stop monitoring the wells from the Utah Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control in the near future.

**6. Update and Discussion on Aerial Contractor and Future District Aerial Helicopter Plans:**

Executive Director Faraji reiterated the problems we've experienced with Vector Disease Control International (VDCI) this year, including the fact that the 90-gallon adulticide airplane is still being repaired and that VDCI's larvicide pilot has continued making pesticide applications much higher than the calibrated 45 feet. Even the 45-foot application height is well above the historic 30 feet from which the previous pilots were conducting larvicide applications. Hopefully, the previous pilot may be able to help us out

from time to time, for he is currently working a two-weeks-on and two-weeks-off schedule in his other job. To complicate matters, this week their plane hit a bird and suffered a major oil leak in one of the motors. Also, VDCI has mentioned potentially declining our larviciding spray requests in addition to contracting out their equipment maintenance and mechanical needs. Executive Director Faraji reminded the Trustees that VDCI was basically selected to provide our aerial spraying because no one else was willing to conduct aerial spraying without a few days' notice because they'd be flying in from out of state. This, of course, is an impossibility. Additionally, other contractors do not want to conduct larvicide applications by air; they are only interested in aerial adulticide applications because that is where they make their money. We awarded the contract to VDCI because they agreed to conduct both larvicide and adulticide applications by air for us with only a short notice.

In order to prove that flying higher than the calibrated 45 feet reduced the actual penetration and application rate in the habitat and to scientifically enumerate the failure to provide the requested 7 lbs. per acre, totes were put out in the field in a blind experiment to collect granules during some aerial larvicide applications. Four out of five trials indicated a less than 80% efficacy of larvicide granules hitting the ground. Our contract stipulates that, in this situation, we do not have to pay VDCI for the application and VDCI may be billed for the cost of the wasted pesticide. Executive Director Faraji sent the results from the totes documenting that these applications were below the required efficacy and requested that these invoices be removed. VDCI quickly agreed to revise August's statement. Executive Director Faraji decided to not request reimbursement for the pesticide for three reasons: 1) we want to maintain a good relationship with VDCI because we'd like them to continue to provide aerial adulticide applications for us; 2) we do not have another aerial larvicide applicator option at this time; and 3) although we did not receive the requested 7 lbs. per acre application rate, we did obtain a projected penetration rate of 2-3 lbs. per acre, which should have killed *some* mosquito larvae in the field.

Mosquito Abatement District – Davis is having the same concerns with VDCI, and they have mentioned that they will also not pay some invoices and they may even request reimbursement for larvicides used. Additionally, MAD-D may possibly be willing to partner with us if we move forward with our helicopter plans.

Executive Director Faraji had discussed with some of the Trustees about the possibility of obtaining a helicopter in the future, and he was asked to present further details and cost estimates to the Board. Hence, Urban Supervisor Sorensen, who is also a licensed helicopter pilot, was asked to give a short presentation to the Board identifying some preliminary helicopter costs and comparing them to our current airplane expenditures. There were a lot of pros for making larval applications utilizing a helicopter. The Board Members felt that we should look more seriously into the feasibility of obtaining a helicopter and thought we should continue to gather more information on this topic. Given the current situation with VDCI, we may be forced to move forward with our helicopter plans earlier than we had previously anticipated. Also, expansion is a definite possibility, and it was suggested that looking at the cost of housing more than one helicopter would be prudent. There may also be cost sharing opportunities, not just with MAD-D, but potentially other districts and entities within the State.

**7. Discussion and Approval for Executive Director Faraji to Serve as Expert Witness and Invoicing for Tiki Torch Research to Bursor and Fisher:**

Tiki brand Torch Fuel has a Tiki Citronella Scented Torch Fuel that contains 3% citronella, and a Tiki BiteFighter Torch Fuel that contains 0.2% citronella and 0.8% cedar oil. The company is claiming that the Tiki BiteFighter Torch Fuel is a good product to repel mosquitoes. Executive Director Faraji highly doubted that Tiki torches with 0.2% citronella and 0.8% cedar oil could be as effective in spatially repelling mosquitoes as BiteFighter claims. He has been interested in testing the efficacy of these torches for over a decade now. So, when an attorney at Bursor & Fisher, P.A. approached him about conducting trials to prove or refute repellent efficacy claims, he agreed with alacrity. He showed the Trustees a diagram depicting how he set up the study comparing these two Tiki fuels with an untreated control, and he explained how the study was performed. The preliminary results are actually showing that both Tiki torch fuels attracted more mosquitoes than the control site, which may prove that neither Tiki torch fuel will repel mosquitoes.

Executive Director Faraji felt that this research required more manpower and expense than he had anticipated, and he asked the Board for permission to invoice Bursor & Fisher for the hours and materials expended on this study. He also asked for approval to serve as an expert witness, should he be asked to do so. We need to ensure that we are being compensated for any additional work that we are taking on outside of our regular duties. All of the time, equipment, and supplies should be reimbursed to the District if utilized during District time. Additionally, any current or future work, or travel, performed outside of the District should also be reimbursed to the individual. Upon a motion made by Trustee Vickers and seconded by Trustee Turner, Executive Director Faraji was unanimously approved to serve as an expert witness and to invoice Bursor & Fisher for the Tiki torch research expenses.

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

- **DSLASA, 10 September 2020, Electronic**

VDCI's aerial performance affects DSLASA, and the DSLASA Trustees were brought up-to-speed concerning the VDCI situation during the 10 September 2020 board meeting. The DSLASA Board Members are not happy with the current work being performed by VDCI, and they have asked staff to reevaluate this aerial contract at the end of the year. Additionally, Trustee Todd Erskine has served DSLASA as a Trustee, representing SLCMAD, for many years. It has now been several years since he was a Trustee for SLCMAD; and he has expressed a desire to step down as our representative so his place can be filled by a current board member who is more involved with the District's recent issues. Trustee Liddle is also SLCMAD's representative at DSLASA's board meetings, and Executive Director Faraji asked the other Board Members to please consider taking Trustee Erskine's place in 2021. There was interest from a couple of Board Members to fulfil this

position at DSLASA, and Executive Director Faraji recommended that they think about this opportunity some more so that a decision can be made during the December Board Meeting.

- **2020 Board Member Training Update**

Because the 2020 UASD and UMAA meetings have been cancelled, the only option at this time for obtaining the required Trustee training is online from the State Auditor. CFO Fairbanks gave a quick overview on how the Board Members can locate the mandatory training at [training.auditor.utah.gov](http://training.auditor.utah.gov). Trustees Christensen and Turner were appointed this year, which means they must complete the "District Board Member Training 2020", and all five Trustees must complete the "Open and Public Meetings Act 2020" module. The Trustees were asked to please complete their training before November and to then email their certificates to CFO Fairbanks. She will also email the directions to each Board Member.

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

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) The Spartan Mosquito Eradicator study is ready for publication, and the Board will receive copies. Four other partners assisted the District with this research, including Southern Mississippi University, Louisiana State University, Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, and the Medical Entomology Laboratories at the University of Sydney, Australia. We will be splitting the publication costs with these other entities so that this research can be freely available to all via open access. The hope is to provide scientific evidence to consumers that these devices are not effective. 2) The UC Riverside grant has been extended, and we have invoiced the University for payment. 3) A study was conducted last year during aerial adulticide applications, and we now have statistics showing that our pesticides have no negative impact on non-target insect populations. A statistician in New York and a senior at Waterford School in Sandy, Utah are preparing a paper showing no decline in insect abundance. They plan to submit their research findings to a peer-reviewed journal for publication. We will then be able to show this article to environmental groups to support our position that we are not harming other insect life during routine mosquito control. 4) Most of our seasonal employees have gone back to school, and the bulk of the mosquito control work has been completed. No further treatments will be conducted at the duck clubs after this week; the rural ATV seasonals will move to cleaning the District, equipment, and supplies. Lab work is still being conducted, and it will wrap up around 15 October 2020. 5) Maintenance Operator Hernandez has returned to work after his bout with Covid-19 and he is healthy and well once again. 6) Problems with the new facility are slowly being resolved, and we recently had a walk-through where we addressed issues with the involved parties. 7) Executive Director Faraji had the unpleasant job of firing AMCA's Executive Director after numerous complaints from Board Members and general membership because he wasn't communicating or taking care of his responsibilities. A newsletter introducing the new Executive Director will be sent out soon. 8) The Trustees were reminded that elections were being held for new AMCA

officers, and Executive Director Faraji briefly reviewed the positions and the candidates' attributes. 9) Assistant Director White gave a Surveillance Update with graphs depicting the current year's activity in comparison to the 5-year averages. He covered the urban, rural, and industrial surveillance areas. The sudden cold temperatures didn't cause the same abrupt decline in the number of mosquitoes in the urban area as it did in the industrial and rural areas. For the most part, mosquito activity was considerably higher than the 5-year averages. This may be due to the warmer temperatures and/or the aerial pesticide application difficulties. Concerning arbovirus surveillance, 662 pool samples have been tested so far this year, and West Nile virus has only been found in six of the samples. Fortunately, WNV activity this year has been very low and there have been no deaths. The reduced virus activity has been documented, not just in Utah, but also in surrounding states. We suspect that the much lower abundance of *Culex pipiens* mosquitoes, which serve as the primary enzootic vector of WNV, may have something to do with this.

**10. Probable Agenda Items for 15 October 2020 Board Meeting:**

- Executive Director's Report
- Surveillance / Control
- Facility Update
- Helicopter Update
- Preliminary Budget
- Tax Increase Discussion

**11. Adjournment:**

Trustees Christensen and Turner made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:54 p.m. The 15 October 2020 Regular Monthly Board Meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m., and we anticipate this meeting will be held electronically.

  
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Ary Faraji, Executive Director

15 OCT 20  
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Date

  
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La Vone Liddle, Chair 2020

10/16/2020  
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Date