

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
28 January 2021
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Board Chair 2021

Time: 12:32 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Neil Vickers, Chair (Attended Remotely)
Van Turner, Vice-Chair (Attended in Person)
Carlton Christensen (Attended Remotely)
La Vone Liddle (Attended Remotely)
Dr. Dagmar Vitek (Attended Remotely; joined the meeting at 12:53 p.m. during Item 6.)

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director (Attended in Person)
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO (Attended in Person)
Josie Showalter, Millcreek Business Council Liaison (Attended Remotely; left the meeting at 12:48 p.m. after Item 3.)

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Vickers called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. Executive Director Faraji confirmed that the meeting was being recorded, and no conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

3. Discussion and Approval to Participate in the City of Millcreek's Woodland Avenue Community Reinvestment Area:

When Millcreek's City Center Master Plan was being conceived, a small piece of Salt Lake City was annexed into Millcreek because it is vital to Millcreek's City Center Master Plan. However, this portion of land remains in the District's taxing area, and Josie Showalter met with the Board to discuss the Millcreek Woodland Avenue CRA. Ms. Showalter provided a general overview of the project; taxing entities will continue to

receive property tax revenue from the current assessed value of the property within the Project Area and will contribute a portion of their respective tax increment for 20 years. It is estimated that the District will be providing \$33,280 over these 20 years. It is ironic that this area was actually annexed into our taxing district from the South Salt Lake Valley MAD in 2018, and now it appears that it will be going back to them. However, the overall taxing revenue from this area is insignificant to warrant another annexation process by either entity.

Trustee Christensen commented that this is a reasonable request, and the project will provide a long-term benefit. He made a motion to approve the District's participation in the City of Millcreek's Woodland Avenue CRA as presented and to allow Executive Director Faraji to sign the required paperwork. This motion passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Liddle. (Trustee Vitek was absent for this vote.)

4. Approval of the Minutes from the 10 December 2020 Monthly Board Meeting:

The Trustees had received a copy of the pending minutes prior to the meeting, and all suggested modifications had been made. Trustee Liddle made a motion to approve the 10 December 2020 Board Meeting Minutes; Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the 10 December 2020 Public Hearing Minutes of the 2020 Budget Amendments and 2021 Proposed Budget:

Trustee Turner made a motion to approve the 10 December 2020 Public Hearing Minutes of the 2020 Budget Amendments and 2021 Proposed Budget; the motion was seconded by Trustee Christensen, and it carried with all in favor. (Trustee Vitek was absent for this vote.)

6. Presentation of the December 2020 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

Copies of December'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. There were no out-of-the-ordinary expenditures or payments. Documentation for every payment was available when the checks were signed. Trustee Liddle made a motion to adopt the December 2020 Financial Statements and to approve December's bills for payment. After being seconded by Trustee Christensen, the motion passed unanimously. (Trustee Vitek was able to join the meeting at the beginning of this discussion and was present for the vote.)

7. Discussion and Approval to Purchase a Carbon Dioxide Recharge Pump and Associated Parts:

Assistant Director White has requested approval to purchase a carbon dioxide recharge pump in order to reduce the burden of filling the CO₂ canisters for the mosquito traps. During 2020, the District set between 30 to 40 traps twice a week, and filling the CO₂ canisters was a complicated and cumbersome task involving three or four employees in addition to the requirement of freezing the canisters prior to filling, which is also time consuming. Utilizing a carbon dioxide recharge pump to fill the canisters will facilitate the process and allow one or two persons to successfully complete the task in less time. A motion approving the purchase of a carbon dioxide recharge pump and associated parts for around \$4,132.50 was made and seconded by Trustees Liddle and Turner, respectively. The motion carried with all in favor.

8. Update on Construction and Facilities:

In spite of Koch Mechanical's frequent efforts, we have experienced problems with the heating system. Pump diaphragms have been replaced, and a bladder for glycol monitoring was replaced this week. Also, even though the warranty period has expired, two malfunctioning pumps have been replaced by the supplier at no cost. The system has now worked for nearly three days, and we hope our problems have finally been resolved.

A considerable amount of condensation has been occurring on the floor in the insectary, and we have fears of mold transpiring. Design West realizes that the insectary should have been designed with a moisture-resistant drywall, and the firm has agreed to pay for tearing out the existing walls and remediating the mold issue. Radiant heating will be placed in the floor, especially near the west walls where the major moisture is accumulating. Design West is working on an estimate and will hire its own contractor to perform the renovations, which will hopefully be completed before the 2021 mosquito season begins. We should be able to maintain our mosquito colonies because one side of the insectary will be completely renovated prior to demolishing the other side.

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

- **Ouelessebougou Alliance Malaria Project, 15-22 January 2021, Mali, Africa**

Executive Director Faraji was tested for the COVID-19 virus prior to leaving for Mali and before flying back to the United States. The Ouelessebougou compound lies approximately two hours south of Mali's capital city, Bamako. The Alliance has considerably improved living conditions through providing pumps and schools, but mosquito control is still in its infancy. Mali ranks 179 out of 190 countries in poverty and socioeconomics, and its poverty level is the worst that Executive Director Faraji has experienced in his travels. The water is not safe to drink, the temperature is exhaustingly hot, trash is everywhere, and the inhabitants are struggling to feed their families.

Mosquito nets are being repurposed as fishing nets, soccer goal nets, and plant wraps. The temperature is so oppressive, choosing to not use mosquito nets at night

is understandable. Malaria fevers are recurring and often result in being bed-ridden; anything that can be done to help with the mosquito situation is much better than nothing. However, a substantive mosquito program could run \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000. The Alliance's current budget is sufficient to supply some small equipment, such as sprayers, traps, and vehicles. But they will need to apply for some larger grants if they want to accomplish a more effective program.

The Alliance would like Executive Director Faraji to create a project design and write a protocol. He has asked the Alliance to identify 10 villages to be included in a mosquito trial. It would be beneficial to map the area with a drone so the habitat can be documented and studied. The Alliance is unable to run this collaboration on its own; perhaps graduate students and partners from the University of Bamako could be valuable assets. In addition to our District, the Anastasia Mosquito Control District in Florida will also be assisting with this project.

- **MVCAC, 1-3 February 2021, Online**

The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California has asked Assistant Director White to make two presentations during its meetings. Executive Director Faraji will also attend this conference.

- **NMCA Annual Conference, 3-4 February 2021, Online**

Executive Director Faraji will be presenting at the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association's Conference this year.

- **PacVec Annual Meeting, 17-18 February 2021, Online**

The Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases provides training grants to improve public health surveillance through increased host and vector screening, and Utah recently received one of these grants for a student. PacVec is hosting its 4th Annual Meeting in 2021, and Assistant Director White will be presenting this year. He will share a presentation with Hanna Rettler, the State of Utah's Zoonotic Epidemiologist with the Public Health Department. The meeting includes presentations from researchers, trainees, public health officials, and vector control professionals.

- **AMCA Annual Conference, 1-5 March 2021, Salt Lake City, Utah**

Senator Willard Mitt Romney has agreed to open AMCA's Annual Conference this year. Executive Director Faraji's presidency will be ending the first week of March, 2021. This year has been quite busy on the AMCA front, and Executive Director Faraji cannot wait to pass the torch to the next president.

- **Visitors from Mali, 1-5 March 2021, Salt Lake City, Utah**

Two professors from the University of Bamako aided Executive Director in his visit to Mali, and they are very interested in visiting and seeing our facility. They will be in Salt Lake City for the AMCA meetings and will be staying in the District's dormitory.

10. Executive Director's Report:

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) The staff will be discussing the 2020 seasonal employees and deciding who will be invited to return in 2021. (2) We will be reaching out to other Centers of Excellence to visit our District and to participate in joint projects of interest. 3) We are finally framing pictures and will have them placed on the walls soon. 4) We would like to certify our lab/facility for Good Laboratory Practices accreditation so we are able to conduct more studies on new mosquito control products. USDA currently carries out some testing in Florida on military uniforms and tents. We believe research conducted in Salt Lake City would be more applicable than Florida's humid conditions because our arid climate is more similar to the middle east where our troops are deployed. 5) The Utah Association of Special Districts has begun its weekly legislative (virtual) meetings. So far, there has been no legislation that will apply to us directly. 6) Zions Public Finance does provide forecasting services. They have personnel who are willing to help us create a financial model encompassing inflation, estimated future property growth, and property tax evaluations.

11. Probable Agenda Items for 18 February 2021 Board Meeting:

- Executive Director's Report
- Facility updates
- Tax Increase Update

12. Adjournment:

Trustees Christensen and Liddle made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 p.m. The 18 February 2021 Regular Monthly Board Meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m., and this meeting will be held electronically.



Ary Faraji, Executive Director

18 FEB 21
Date



Van Turner, Vice-Chair

2-18-21
Date