

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
15 July 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, Ph.D., Chair
Van Turner, Vice-Chair
Carlton Christensen
La Vone Liddle
Dr. Dagmar Vitek (Attended Remotely from 12:40 p.m., Item 4 – 1:46 p.m., after the Grant Discussion in Item 7)

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO
Andrew Dewsnap, IT/GIS Specialist

1. Roll Call:

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

2. Approval of the 17 June 2021 Minutes of the June Monthly Board Meeting:

The Board Members were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of June's regular Board Meeting prior to this meeting, and all suggested modifications had been made. Trustee Turner made a motion to approve the 17 June 2021 Board Meeting Minutes; Trustee Christensen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the 17 June 2021 Minutes of the June Public Hearing:

The Public Hearing Minutes covering the 2021 budget amendments, the 2022 proposed budget, and also the Certified Tax Rate had been given to the Trustees previously. The Utah State Tax Commission had not yet finalized the 2021 Certified Tax Rate, but the preliminary data established a certified tax rate of 0.000115, providing

\$3,736,002. Trustee Liddle made a motion to approve the 17 June 2021 Public Hearing Minutes, Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor.

4. Presentation of the June 2021 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

The Trustees had received copies of June's Financial Statements 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. Copies of the balance sheets and all of the documentation for June's payments were circulated. The facility has been experiencing HVAC troubles, and Executive Director Faraji informed the Trustees that IT/GIS Specialist Dewsnap had been saving money by trouble shooting and fixing several of the problems himself. In addition to HVAC, IT, and GIS proficiency, he also assists the urban and fish teams. The District is lucky to have him working with us. Trustee Liddle made a motion to adopt the June 2021 Financial Statements and to approve June's bills for payment. This motion passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Turner.

5. Updates on Tax Increase Procedures:

On Tuesday, the 13th of July, Trustee Vickers gave a presentation from the District during the Salt Lake City Council's Work Session supporting our pursual of a tax increase. Trustee Christensen was able to attend most of the presentation virtually; Executive Director Faraji and Trustees Turner and Liddle attended this meeting from the District's Board Room. The City Attorney was able to ameliorate the Council's confusion about the new statutory changes covering tax increase procedures. Trustee Vickers also plans to present on our tax increase at the public hearing that the Salt Lake City Council has scheduled for 20 July 2021. A majority of the Board will also be present during the City's Public Hearing.

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

- **LDS Church presentation, 30 June 2021, Virtual**

Assistant Director White presented at the LDS Church's annual training for all of their Utah licensed pesticide applicators. He focused on safety measures during pesticide applications; a representative from the Department of Agriculture also presented to the group.

- **Insecticide Resistance Molecular Workshop, 13-15 July 2021**

Dr. Tara Thiemann, from the University of the Pacific in California, arrived on Tuesday and has been staying in the dormitory while preparing for and presenting the insecticide resistance molecular workshop that began this morning. In fact, Assistant

Director White is not in today's Board Meeting because he is wrapping up the workshop and transporting Dr. Thiemann to the airport. This workshop covered training to identify the presence of insecticide resistant genes within mosquito populations. Having our collaborators stay at the dormitory has worked out very well, and comments have been very complimentary. We have received one constructive comment that suggested providing a laptop with a printer for use at the dormitory would be very helpful. We will be following up this workshop with an additional session on larvicide bioassays.

- **Ouelessebougou Alliance Media Event / Luncheon, 16 July 2021:**

The Ouelessebougou Alliance is holding a media event and luncheon tomorrow at the District. Richard Loomis will do a welcome address talking about their organization for the media at 11:00 a.m., and then Executive Director Faraji will briefly discuss the plans which aim to reduce malaria in Mali through the proposed mosquito control project. Touring the facility will be followed with a luncheon provided by the Ouelessebougou Alliance. Although the District is not providing any financial assistance, the Alliance wants to thank the staff members for being willing to share their expertise in promoting good public health and safety through Integrated Mosquito Management techniques. Our next steps are to map the target area with a drone to look for mosquito habitats, to determine where to set up traps, and to initiate larval surveillance and control measures for local health inspectors in Mali.

- **UMAA Annual Meeting, 24-26 October, Park City, UT**

Plans are being made to hold the UMAA Annual Meeting in Park City this year. The meeting will be in a hybrid format, including in-person and virtual opportunities.

7. Executive Director's Report:

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) The District recently hired a shop assistant. He will run errands and help with cleaning the facility and maintaining the landscaping. 2) After Maintenance Operator Hernandez explained that he needed more income and regretfully provided his two-week notice, he was given the option of reducing his hours to 30 hours a week. Working fewer hours will permit him to provide us with the help we need, allow him to maintain some of the benefits the District makes available, and still leave him with time to pursue other income avenues during his spare time. 3) Valent BioSciences has shown interest in our MosquitoThon Competition and asked us if we'd be willing to participate if they were to sponsor such an event on a larger scale. Executive Director Faraji also shared a video of this event with colleagues in California who are looking to initiate a similar event for their staff and seasonals. 4) Clarke Mosquito Control sponsors an annual community cleanup or volunteer event, and this year they are planning to do a community project in Salt Lake City on Tuesday, the 21st of September. The project will run four hours in the morning, and we indicated that we'd like to participate. The nature of the actual project will be announced at a later date; however, recommendations were provided to them in regards to a cleanup effort along the Jordan River or perhaps a food event for our transient populations in Salt Lake City. 5) The

mosquito counts are continuing to increase; the gravid traps in the City are capturing abundant numbers of *Culex pipiens* mosquitoes, which serve as the primary enzootic vector of West Nile virus. Mosquito Abatement District – Davis has had some positive WNV pools in an area that closely borders our District. We have not had any positive WNV pools so far this year, but we expect to see evidence of WNV locally in the very near future. 6) Executive Director Faraji was also approached by Mike Medina, Chair of the Operations Committee of the Armed Forces Pest Management Board, in regards to potential collaborations at military bases, particularly in regards to surveillance and communication. 7) Assistant Director White, Operations Supervisor Hardman, Rural Supervisor Salt, and Biologist Weinrich met with Ella Sorensen and Dr. Heidi Hoven at the Audubon Gillmor Sanctuary to discuss larval sampling and further testing for Chironomid midges in addition to setting malaise traps. 8) We have a meeting with Dr. Daniel Mendoza, Atmospheric Scientist at the University of Utah, at 3:00 today to discuss the modeling aspect of his research and the greater literature search that he is working on for naled. 9) We are working with two local beekeepers; one beekeeper has placed four beehives at our facility with an additional 28 beehives out in the clubs where we have been conducting our aerial pesticide applications. So far, the bee populations are doing well, and it's a benefit to be able to monitor bee health with an actual beekeeper who has hives within the areas where we conduct mosquito control. Also, there is another beekeeper who maintains about 500 beehives that are usually put out in the field not too far from the prison; he moves them around the country to help with pollination. He has told us that he maintains about 50 hives in the local habitat during the summer season, and he has indicated that he has not seen any bee losses in this area. Information derived from actual beekeepers is extremely valuable to us, and we hope to collaborate with these beekeepers for many years to come. We have a meeting set up on Friday with Dr. Kristen Healy out of Louisiana State University to determine a protocol where we can empirically monitor these bees so we have actual numbers rather than just anecdotal evidence. 10) Three grants have been submitted to the Mosquito Research Foundation: [1] Particle Flux has been developing sensors that monitor/capture images of snowflakes and determine their shapes and water content. They have put in for a grant to modify the sensors so they can count and identify mosquitoes remotely, and we are partnering with them. [2] Professor Lee (who used to work for UC Davis), from the University of Florida, has applied for a joint grant for Utah and California to conduct next-generation sequencing on *Culex tarsalis* to look at dispersal of mosquitoes from larval habitats. This research is vital to know if mosquitoes produced at the far west areas of our jurisdiction make their way into the City because it will help us make operational decisions about whether or not these habitats need to be treated. [3] Executive Director Faraji also put in a preproposal for \$45,000 to be used for Pesticide Deposition studies in collaboration with Dr. Jay Gan from the University of California-Riverside. These investigations will help determine the extent of pesticide drift, amounts, and sizes, which will further help determine risk and efficacy. 11) We have also been contacted by the Director of the Midwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases out of the University of Wisconsin Madison (Dr. Lyric Bartholomay) to partner on a grant from the National Institutes of Health. This grant will focus on providing science education and helping to train the next generation of scientists, particularly for disadvantaged students. 12) The blog that Executive Director Faraji prepared about the pathway to his current career for the Entomological Society of America to publish in **Entomology Today** has been included with the Director's Report. He included several valuable life lessons that he learned along the way. 13) The paper on heterodissemination through using frogs as carriers of a mosquito

larvicide has been published in **Scientific Reports**, from the publishers of **Nature**. 14) An additional peer-reviewed publication on the diel host-feeding activities of invasive mosquitoes has been accepted for publication in **PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases**. 15) Our non-target study was just accepted by a journal called **Ecosphere**. This peer-reviewed research provides empirical evidence that our operations, particularly aerial adulticide applications, have minimal impact on other non-target insects and the environment. 16) The Board had no questions about the letter drafted by our attorney in response to our recent GRAMA request and Executive Director Faraji was tasked with responding back to this request.

8. Probable Agenda Items for 19 August 2021 Board Meeting:

- Executive Director's Report
- Research Projects Update
- Tax Increase Update

9. Public Comment:

No public was in attendance.

10. Adjournment:

Trustees Christensen and Turner made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:01 p.m. A box lunch will be available before the 19 August 2021 regular monthly board meeting, which will begin at 12:30 p.m.



Ary Faraji, Executive Director

19 AUG 21
Date



Neil Vickers, Chair

08/19/2021
Date