

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
21 October 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

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO

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 16 September 2021 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

Prior to this meeting, the Trustees were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of September's regular Board Meeting, and no modification were required. Trustee Turner made a motion to approve the 16 September 2021 Board Meeting Minutes; Trustee Liddle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Presentation of the September 2021 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

September's Financial Statements had been distributed to the Trustees preceding the Board Meeting. CFO Fairbanks reviewed the Financial Statements with the Board, and any unusual transactions were explained. All expenditures were presented, with special attention being paid to the expenditures in excess of \$1,000. Documentation supporting September's

payments was made available. Trustee Liddle made a motion to adopt the September 2021 Financial Statements and to approve September's bills for payment. This motion carried unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Vitek.

4. Update on Northpointe Ranches Annexation Process into the City of North Salt Lake:

Approximately 300 acres of property is being sold to a developer for homes and high-density housing, and the developer would like the property to be annexed into North Salt Lake. North Salt Lake, which is in Davis County, is potentially interested in providing some municipal services to this area. However, the developer wishes to stay in Salt Lake County and to also have the District provide mosquito abatement services to its residents. North Salt Lake's Planning Commission is not supporting this annexation, but the issue will be presented to North Salt Lake's City Council for a final decision in November.

5. Discussion and Approval for Hiring McNeil Engineering and Annexation of Unincorporated Regions of Salt Lake County Within SLCMAD Service Boundary:

Upon investigation, we discovered that the unincorporated property to the north of the District has not been paying taxes to support our abatement services. This area is in prime mosquito habitat and is greatly benefitting from our abatement operations, not to mention that we receive many service requests from this area. A lot of future property development will continue to occur in this area, and we would definitely like to collect property tax to support our services. Executive Director Faraji contacted our general counsel, Rachel Anderson, an attorney with Fabian VanCott, to see how this area can be added to our tax rolls. Annexation is more convoluted than expected, and Trustee Christensen indicated that annexation of unincorporated areas will most likely have to be instigated by the County. Rachel Anderson did mention that tax dollars could be derived from the 300 acres through obtaining a single petition signature from the owner.

McNeil Engineering provided their assistance for \$17,186.85 when the District previously conducted its three annexations, and they submitted a current bid of \$14,500.00 to complete the unincorporated surveying work. Because this annexation is more complicated, the survey work will be expensive. And, because we are waiting to see what North Salt Lake's final decision will be, the Trustees decided to table the annexation of the unincorporated regions of Salt Lake County that fall within the District's service boundary. The Trustees also advised Executive Faraji that a single petition annexation may be the best option if the area can be included without any contiguous annexation restrictions.

6. 2021 Budget Amendments and 2022 Tentative Budget Discussion and Approval:

The budget amendments and tentative budgets were presented in October because State statutes stipulate that these budgets should be made available to Board Members at least 30 days prior to being adopted in December. CFO Fairbanks reviewed 2021's Budget

Amendments and 2022's Proposed Budgets with the Trustees. Reasons for all modifications were provided; the Board Members will let the administration know if there are any further comments, recommendations, or questions. The 2021 Budget Amendments and 2022's Proposed Budgets were unanimously approved upon a motion made by Trustee Liddle and seconded by Trustee Vitek.

7. Updates on Tax Increase Procedures and Discussion/Approval to Pay Salt Lake County Charges:

The Trustees were given a sample of the notice that has been sent out to Salt Lake City residents. The County is now charging a fee to include property tax increase notices with its regular property tax billings. The District's approximate cost will be \$19,000, which includes a \$500 administration fee, a \$200 printer set up fee, and \$0.12 per letter fee. We doubt there will be an additional \$0.03 charge per notice for putting the tax notice over the postage weight limit. The final amount owed to the County will not be known until they invoice us in November. The District has received a few calls from residents with questions about the tax increase. For the most part, the citizens have sought more information about our operations, have appreciated our responses, and have been supportive. Today we had an unhappy caller who would like to know why his tax assessment increased from 2020 to 2021 when we did not raise our certified tax rate. He is planning on attending our December Board Meeting, and he will be calling next week for more answers.

Reimbursing the County for distributing our tax notices requires formal approval by the Board. Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve payment, up to \$25,000, of the County's impending invoice. This motion was seconded by Trustee Turner, and it passed with all in favor.

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

- **Judge Memorial High School, 12 October 2021, Salt Lake City, UT**

A biology teacher at Judge Memorial High School asked Executive Director Faraji to provide a presentation to his students. There was a lot of interest, for the students had been talking about mosquitoes and discussing malaria and Zika virus. Executive Director Faraji brought mosquito fish in addition to mosquito larvae, pupae, and adults to enhance interest. The school may plan a field trip to our facility and possibly do a lab bioassay project.

- **UMAA Annual Meeting, 24-26 October 2021, Hybrid Meeting, Park City, UT**

Assistant Director White, who will be the next UMAA President, has planned an interesting UMAA program this year. The key note speaker will be Scott Benson, MD, PhD, MPH, who works with the Family & Preventive Medicine Department at the

University of Utah. He will be speaking on international travel and how mosquitoes and arboviruses from around the world are affecting the health of Utahns. Two members of our staff and our own Trustee, Dr. Neil Vickers, will be speaking at the conference. Randall M. Larsen, an attorney with Gilmore & Bell, will conduct a training session on RDA's and their effects on special districts; Rachel Anderson, an attorney with Fabian VanCott, will provide a look at legislation that may impact Mosquito Abatement Districts in Utah. LeGrand Bitter, Executive Director of the Utah Association of Special Districts, will also be conducting the required annual trustee training. This meeting will be in a hybrid format, including in-person and virtual opportunities.

- **Waterford School, 22 October 2021, Sandy, UT**

Executive Director Faraji will be providing a presentation for three biology classes at the Waterford School in Sandy on Friday. He will take fish and mosquito samples similar to those he used at Judge Memorial High School.

- **ESA, 31 October – 3 November 2021, Denver, CO**

Executive Director Faraji will be driving to the Entomological Society of America's conference in Denver this year.

- **UASD, 3-5 November 2021, Provo, UT**

Assistant Director White and Trustee Vitek will both be attending UASD's conference this year.

- **AMCA IBM, 10-12 November 2021, Jacksonville, FL**

Executive Director Faraji will be attending American Mosquito Control Association's Interim Board Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. In addition to the Association's business, the AMCA officers will be inspecting the facility and seeing what other preparations need to be made in order to have AMCA's 2022 Annual Meeting run smoothly.

9. Executive Director's Report:

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) Dr. Rui-De Xue, Executive Director of the Anastasia Mosquito Control District in Florida, was elected as AMCA's next President. And, the new West Central Representative is Amy Girard of the Teton County Weed and Pest District in Wyoming. 2) Biologist Weinrich will be leaving us on 29 October to pursue a Ph.D. in human genetics. We will be retaining two seasonal employees, Ella Branham and Forrest Young, to assist a short while in the lab and/or Dr. Mendoza's research. 3) Two seasonals, Kayla Godfrey and Forrest Young, are moving forward with their careers in mosquito control. They have been talking with some Florida districts about future employment and will be visiting those districts in person during the next few weeks. 4) We are

continuing to have sump issues because the debris is clogging up the oil/sand separator. Next year, we will most likely need to tear out the concrete and make substantial modifications to this system by putting in larger concrete vaults. 5) Hannah Rettler, the Vector-borne and Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist with Utah's Department of Health, visited the District with two of her coworkers to identify some ideas where we can work together and to discuss global climate change and how it affects mosquito populations. They were impressed with our facility, and the public health specialist encouraged us to be more involved in the One Health Initiative. The new Utah State's Epidemiologist, Dr. Leisha Nolen, was also in attendance. 6) The Pan-African Mosquito Control Association is sending some representatives to America to learn more about western mosquito abatement operations. They will be attending the AMCA Interim Board Meeting in Jacksonville, they will spend some days with Dr. Rui-De Xue and the Anastasia Mosquito Control District in Florida, and then they will visit our District. Because our dormitory currently only houses four persons, we will be purchasing additional supplies to accommodate our two extra visitors. 7) On 21 September, our staff joined Clarke Mosquito Control in a half-day community cleanup event in Salt Lake City. We partnered with the Jordan River Commission and spent four hours cleaning up the environment along a section of the Jordan River. This was a productive endeavor, and we hope to carry on this tradition of providing some community service each year. Clarke was thoroughly impressed with this partnership and they will be conducting similar activities across the nation with other districts in the future. 8) The Pacific South-West Center of Excellence has released their request for pre- proposals for the PacVec grants. We have been asked to partner with Dr. Neil Vickers with the University of Utah, Dr. Tara Thiemann with the University of the Pacific, and also Dr. Jay Gan with U.C. Riverside. 9) Dr. Mendoza is close to finalizing his modeling work. He will meet with Dr. Robert Peterson, Dr. Jane Bonds, and us within the next few weeks to go over the data. 10) Our beekeepers who are maintaining hives on site and in our spray area have been extremely pleased because they have not experienced bee mortality due to our pesticides. They will continue to monitor these hives and are looking to expand their operations even further during 2022. 11) The District's paper, "Effects of aerial adulticiding for mosquito management on non-target insects: A Bayesian and community ecology approach", has been published by Ecosphere and was included with the Director's Report in this month's board packet. 12) We also received a visit from Jacob Hicks and Ben Cahoon from TechCyte, who are interested in partnering with us on developing an automated next-generation mosquito surveillance trap. 13) More *Aedes aegypti* have been trapped in Moab, and it looks like this will continue to be a problem in that area. 14) Dr. Donald Yee, with the University of Southern Mississippi, has a student who is working on mosquito control and non-target insects. Dr. Yee has asked Executive Director Faraji to be a member of her PhD Committee out of Mississippi, and it looks like she will be coming out and spending a few summers with us to do the actual investigational work. 15) Dr. Brian Moench met with the Salt Lake City Council during its work session. We were contacted by the Council representative and informed that our attendance will not be needed at this time; however, they will reach out to us directly if any further information is needed. 16) Assistant Director White presented a surveillance update including West Nile virus testing results. There have been 220 positive WNV mosquito pools so far this year, which is up considerably higher than the five-year average. Now that the mosquito season is coming to a close, the trap numbers are only slightly higher than the five-year averages. Additional information on mosquito abundance, species composition, and West Nile virus activity was also presented. According to the most

recent data, Utah has had 26 West Nile virus human cases and three deaths. Our District has had five neuroinvasive incidences and, fortunately, no deaths.

10. Probable Agenda Items for 18 November 2021 Board Meeting:

- Executive Director's Report
- Research Projects Update
- Tax Increase Update
- Bylaws Changes
- Policies and Procedures Modifications

11. Public Comment:

No members of the public were present.

12. Adjournment:

Trustees Liddle and Christensen made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 p.m. A light lunch will be available before the 18 November 2021 regular monthly board meeting, which will begin at 12:30 p.m.



Ary Faraji, Executive Director

13 NOV 21
Date



Neil Vickers, Chair

11/18/2021.
Date