

**MINUTES OF THE  
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT  
14 July 2022  
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Van Turner, Board Chair 2022

Time: 12:31 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Van Turner, Chair  
Carlton Christensen, Vice-Chair  
Amanda Barth (Attended virtually; left at 12:50 p.m.)  
Dr. Shireen Mooers  
Neil Vickers, Ph.D.

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director  
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO  
Christopher Bibbs, Ph.D., Laboratory Director / Entomologist  
Michele Rehbein, Ph.D., Education Specialist / PIO / Safety Officer

**1. Roll Call:**

Trustee Turner called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being recorded, and no conflicts of interest were declared.

**2. Introduction of New Board Members (Amanda Barth and Dr. Shireen Mooers):**

Dr. Shireen Mooers and Amanda Barth were welcomed to the Board of Trustees, and they were both invited to share a little about their backgrounds, accomplishments, and current endeavors. Their names have been added to the Public Notice Website, and an updated list of the Board of Trustees was distributed. Dr. Shireen Mooers has familiarized herself with the District's activities by reading the minutes from the past two years; Trustee Barth has had a virtual meeting with Executive Director Faraji, and they will meet again in person on 4 August 2022.

**3. Introduction of Dr. Chris Bibbs (Laboratory Director) and Dr. Michele Rehbein (Education Specialist/Public Information Officer/Safety Officer):**

Laboratory Director Bibbs provided some personal and professional background information. He spent several years working for Anastasia Mosquito Control District in a variety of roles that gave him a general understanding about the different facets of mosquito control. His most recent employer was Central Life Sciences, where he was involved in formulating, creating experimental designs, and conducting EPA field trials for new products, including a new adulticide. It is hoped that this new adulticide formulation will provide another option to utilize against mosquitoes if insecticide resistance is detected or if other adulticide concerns arise. His past work history has enabled him to hit the ground running, and he is already heavily involved in some research projects.

Education Specialist Rehbein, an ESA Certified Ecologist, received her Ph.D. in environmental science from Western Illinois University. She has been studying and doing research on mosquitoes since 2014 and involved in public health collaborations. She was recently the Manager of the Moab Mosquito Abatement District, where she gained a lot of experience working with the community amid the *Aedes aegypti* infiltration in that region. During that time, Dr. Rehbein received a Western IPM Grant on the "Management of the Invasive *Aedes aegypti* Mosquito in Moab, Utah through an Integrated Pest Management Approach Highlighting Educational Campaigns and Citizen Science Involvement." She appreciates the Board's support in allowing her to continue working on this grant. Her expertise from a pesticide-safety aspect as well as her public outreach engaging the general public goes hand-in-hand with the duties she is performing for our District.

Trustee Barth was attending an out-of-state conference and asked to be excused at 12:50 p.m.

**4. Approval of the 16 June 2022 Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting:**

The Board Members were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of June's regular Board Meeting prior to this meeting, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve the 16 June 2022 Board Meeting Minutes; Trustee Vickers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**5. Approval of the 16 June 2022 Minutes of the June Public Hearing:**

The Public Hearing Minutes covering the 2022 budget amendments, the 2023 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 2022 Certified Tax Rate, but the preliminary data established a certified tax rate of 0.000166, providing \$6,538,004 in anticipated revenues. During this public hearing, the Trustees had also suggested including a higher tax rate for additional revenues, should an adjustment be made through State and County authorities. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the 16 June 2022 Public Hearing Minutes, Trustee Christensen seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor.

**6. Presentation of the June 2022 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:**

June's Financial Statements had been distributed to the Trustees earlier in the week. CFO Fairbanks reviewed the Financial Statements with the Board and noted that DSLASA had reimbursed the District \$25.00 for completing DSLASA's annual registration requirement under UCA §67-1a-15 by registering with the Lieutenant Governor's Office. Also, AMCA had refunded \$129 to the District because virtual access to the 2022 annual meeting was unavailable. All expenditures were presented, with special attention being paid to items over \$1,000. Documentation for all payments had been closely reviewed when the checks were signed, and the Trustees were encouraged to scrutinize the credit card receipts. A folder containing all of the supporting invoices and Balance Sheets was also made available. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the June 2022 Financial Statements and the bills for payment; his motion passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Christensen.

**7. Discussion and Approval of Resolution for 2022 Certified Tax Rate and 2023 Proposed Budget:**

The Salt Lake County Treasurer's Office alerted the District to the fact that the approved tax increase had been calculated on 2021's dollars rather than 2022's, resulting in the District receiving an additional \$83,355. This necessitates an additional approval for the 2022 certified tax rate and 2023 anticipated revenue. Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve the resolution updating the certified tax rate to 0.000168 for the year 2022 to meet the District's property tax budget revenue requirements of \$6,621,359. His motion was seconded by Trustee Vickers, and the motion carried with all in favor.

**8. Update on Appointment of Dr. Gregory White as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Utah State University:**

Executive Director Faraji has been encouraging Dr. White to apply for an adjunct position at Utah State University (USU) for a couple of years, and we are ecstatic that he has now accomplished this task. Upon finally receiving Assistant Director White's paperwork, USU promptly appointed him as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology for the period of 1 July 2022 through 30 June 2025. This appointment recognizes his expertise relevant to the University's mosquito management insect vector-borne disease programs in the department, and the University welcomes him to contribute teaching, research, service, and/or other activities that advance shared goals.

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

- **International Congress of Entomology, 17-22 July 2022, Helsinki, Finland**

The International Congress of Entomology is held every four years; the last meeting was held in Orlando, Florida, and the meeting was attended by over 7,000 individuals.

Executive Director Faraji is running a symposium at this conference entitled "Nature's Revenge: Enduring Challenges of Vector-borne Diseases, Research, and Control Strategies in the United States".

- **Society for Vector Ecology, 19-23 September 2022, Honolulu, Hawaii**

Assistant Director White will be attending the Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE) International Congress conference this year. Trustee Mooers' father (Dr. Mir Mulla), a professor at University of California, Riverside, was one of the founding fathers of the Society for Vector Ecology. The family has put in place an endowment that provides funding for a guest lecturer at the annual meetings. Dr. Mulla has been a pillar within the entomology profession and SOVE has been a professional organization that has provided tremendous opportunities to our District over the years. We hope that our continued attendance and involvement in this society will further benefit our profession and our constituents.

- **Utah Mosquito Abatement Association Annual Conference, 23-25 October 2022, Park City, Utah**

Please plan on attending the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association Annual Conference in October this year. The UMAA meeting provides an opportunity for trustees to receive the training that the State requires each year. Due to a change in the State law, the District will now be able to provide hotel stays for the Trustees even if the travel is under 50 miles.

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

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) We have finally published the paper on the work that was done in Moab when the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito was initially discovered there. A copy of this paper has been included with this month's Director's Report. 2) We are still pleased with the majority of our seasonal employees this year. Several of them had applied because they were interested in an internship. When the internship positions had been filled, they agreed to perform the seasonal work with a promise to be able to assist in some research projects. If it was not for the internship opportunities, we may not have had a full workforce this year. 3) The new record for the number of mosquitoes collected in one trap overnight is now nearly 28,000 mosquitoes. 4) Dr. Jay Gan and his PhD student out of the University of California, Riverside visited with us and began plans for the deposition studies with naled. Active sampling before, during, and after aerial adulticide applications will be performed to gauge deposition and quantification of this product within our spray blocks. They will also look at water samples, soil samples, and vegetation samples (leaves) in order to provide some actual empirical evidence concerning product residue levels, if any. 5) We have been unable to conduct aerial pesticide applications for a few evenings because the wind has exceeded 10 mph. We are performing as many ground applications as possible. 6) On 26 July, we will begin conducting field trials on a new adulticide called Heavy Duet. It's a synthetic pyrethroid that can potentially be used in place of our naled applications if we are able to ensure that the product is safe and effective. 7) On the molecular side, Assistant

Director White and Emily Calhoun (Dr. White's Ph.D. student from Utah State University) are performing some bloodmeal analysis research. They are looking at host DNA from the blood inside mosquitoes to get an idea about what they are feeding on in our area. Additionally, portions of these mosquitoes will be sent to Yale University, where next-generation sequencing and phylogenetic analyses will be performed to determine the genetic ancestry of these mosquitoes. 8) The Department of Water Quality is in the process of extending our pesticide permit for the time being. All pesticides distributed or sold in the United States must be registered/licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and their paperwork has now been submitted to the EPA office. We hope that the pesticide permit will be issued in August. 9) Executive Director Faraji, Urban Field Supervisor Sorensen, and CFO Fairbanks met with MOCA Systems to discuss developing the back property. We are concerned about the high inflation rate, and they have agreed to provide estimated costs in phases so we can identify our priorities and see what we can afford to tackle in the near future. 9) Additionally, Zions Public Finance is coming to visit the facility in August, and we will discuss possible alternative financing options with them at that time as well. 10) We are continuing the catch basin project for evaluation of pyriproxyfen, an insect growth regulator, that may give us season-long control in these habitats. This project will be led by Dr. Justin Harbison from Loyola University and will also be duplicated in two other districts in the Midwest. 11) Last year we treated about 350 acres with the drone. This year we have increased larvicide applications and have treated around 650 acres so far. We have two employees who were hired to conduct drone applications, and we are tracking the amount of time that they and other employees are devoting to drone work. One of these employees has driven all the way from San Diego to spend the summer with us in order to gain additional drone experience and hours with our UAS.

Assistant Director White provided a surveillance report comparing the five-year averages for the rural, industrial, and urban zones with what has occurred so far this year. The mosquito counts in the rural zone have jumped nearly 1,000 higher than the five-year average during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of June. During the same time period, the industrial zone numbers are about 400 higher than the five-year averages, and the urban zone continues to be lower. We have begun virus testing; out of 220 mosquito pools tested, no virus activity has been detected so far this year.

**11. Probable Agenda Items for 18 August 2022 Board Meeting:**

- Executive Director's Report
- Surveillance/Control Updates
- Research Projects Updates
- Possible Report on Virus Activity
- Bylaw Changes
- Policies

**12. Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**13. Adjournment:**


Trustees Vickers and Christensen made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:34 p.m., which passed unanimously. A box lunch will be available before the 12:30 p.m. Monthly Board Meeting on 18 August 2022.



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Ary Faraji, Executive Director

18 AUG 22  
Date



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Van Turner, Chair 2022

8-18-22  
Date