

**MINUTES OF THE  
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT  
14 December 2023  
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Carlton Christensen, Chair

Time: 4:03 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Carlton Christensen, Chair  
Dr. Shireen Mooers, Vice-Chair  
Amanda Barth  
Van Turner  
Neil Vickers, Ph.D.

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director  
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO  
R. Bradley Sorensen, Urban Field Supervisor  
Robert Pinon, MHTN (Attended during Item 2; left at 5:04 p.m.)  
Gregory Beecher, MHTN (Attended during Item 2; left at 5:04 p.m.)  
Robert Czubak, MOCA (Attended during Item 2; left at 5:04 p.m.)

**1. Roll Call:**

Trustee Christensen called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. No conflicts of interest were declared.

**2. Presentation (MHTN), Discussion (MOCA), and Approval Regarding Phase II Construction:**

Representatives from MHTN and MOCA were present to provide estimated costs and to answer questions about developing the back property. Various aspects of this project were discussed, including the fact that the paperwork has been received by the FAA. In an effort to avoid a condensation problem, the insectary has not been designed near an outside wall. And, the layout provides an area to accommodate the Department of Public Safety because they may wish to move some of their operations onto our property in the future.

Further discussion on the Phase II construction was delayed until the end of this meeting. Then, after a lengthy discussion, the Trustees felt more comfortable proceeding with the entire project because construction costs are substantially increasing and we do have a current need to expand operations. It's difficult seeing future technology advances which may alter mosquito control, but it is also important to protect citizens while technological advances are being conceived. We will always evaluate new methods for surveillance and control. Mosquito control utilizes Integrated Mosquito Management, which allows several different approaches to controlling mosquito activity and disease transmission. We have a responsibility to be proactive rather than reactionary in addressing public health needs. The trustees provided individual comments on the benefits and drawbacks on the Phase II development, and then Trustee Barth made a motion to proceed with pursuing Phase II and making other monetary decisions in the future. Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**3. Discussion and Approval for Issuance of an RFP and Hiring of a Financial Advisor:**

The Trustees discussed the RFP they had received in the board packet, requested some modifications to its scoring metric, and then suggested making it a three-year contract with two one-year renewal options. Trustees Barth and Christensen agreed to assist with selecting a Financial Advisor. A motion to approve the issuance of an RFP for hiring a Financial Advisor was made by Trustee Mooers, seconded by Trustee Vickers, and carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of the 16 November 2023 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:**

The Board Members were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of November's regular Board Meeting prior to this meeting, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve the 16 November 2023 Minutes of the Board of Trustees; the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and passed with a unanimous vote.

**5. Presentation of the November 2023 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:**

The Trustees had received copies of November's Financial Statements before the Board Meeting. CFO Fairbanks reviewed the Financial Statements with the Trustees. The State Treasury Account received \$56,549.56 in interest, and she was pleased to report that \$4,428.40 had been received from ESA - Public Health Entomology for All (PHEFA), \$2,411.45 from a UPS Claims Settlement, \$14,296.90 from the Prison's Western IPM Grant, and \$299,374.00 from the Utah Department of Corrections for mosquito abatement services provided in 2023. All expenditures were presented, with special attention being paid to items over \$1,000.00. Documentation for the payments was reviewed when the checks were signed, and the credit card statements, supporting invoices/receipts for all payments, and Balance Sheets were made available for review. After all questions about the financials had been answered, Trustee Turner made a motion to approve the

November 2023 Financial Statements and the bills for payment; this motion was seconded by Trustee Barth, and it carried with all in favor.

**6. Discussion and Approval of 2024 SLCMAD and LBA Calendar:**

The Board Meetings in April and May have been scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month because of conflicting obligations, but the other Board Meetings will remain on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Because the 2024 Board Meeting Schedule must be posted on the Public Notice Website, Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve the Board Calendar for SLCMAD and LBA as presented, with all meetings beginning at 12:30 p.m. except for June and December. Trustee Vickers seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

**7. Update on State Auditor Annual Fraud Risk Assessment:**

CFO Fairbanks briefly discussed the Fraud Risk Assessment requirements and 2023's results; this assessment needs to be completed and presented to the Trustees annually. Thanks to the Trustees completing their required annual training, the District was able to score a "very low risk level" of 370 points on the State Auditor's Annual Fraud Risk Assessment. This assessment will now be submitted to the State Auditor.

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

The following training/meetings were briefly discussed:

- **Entomological Society of America, 6-9 November 2023**

Executive Director Faraji attended this year's Entomological Society of America's annual conference that was held in Maryland, and he felt it was an extremely productive meeting. He encouraged the Trustees who have not attended this meeting to think about attending next year in Phoenix, Arizona. He is the upcoming president for the Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology section and also serves as a Subject Editor for the Journal of Medical Entomology.

- **Utah Association of Special Districts, 8-10 November 2023**

Assistant Director White, CFO Fairbanks, and Trustee Turner attended UASD's annual meeting at the Davis Conference Center in Layton, which allowed them to receive Trustee training and learn about legislative updates, new technology opportunities, and best practices for running the District. The Utah Transit Authority also sponsored Trustee Christensen's attendance at the conference, and he received special recognition for the service he has provided to several special districts in Utah.

- **University of Utah, Entomology Class, 14 November 2023**

Executive Director Faraji spoke to undergraduates at the University of Utah, and several of the students expressed an interest in working for the District during the summer.

- **University of Utah, Bioluminaries, 15 November 2023**

Trustee Vickers was heavily involved in setting up this opportunity for students to strategically learn about possible careers in biology that differ from the medical or academic fields. Executive Director Faraji spoke about his career path and how it led him to mosquito abatement. This was also another opportunity to recruit seasonal workers, and they can learn if they like mosquito control or if they should look into other employment opportunities.

- **DSLASA, 6 December 2023**

The DSLASA board meeting was held on 6 December 2023; Executive Director Faraji has completed his two-year Executive Director role, and now Gary Hatch, the Director of Mosquito Control District – Davis, will oversee DSLASA during 2024 and 2025. Executive Director Faraji will now be responsible for the maintenance of the hangar for the next two years. The Trustees were reminded that another board member will need to join Trustee Vickers in representing our District because La Vone Liddle will be stepping down after December's meeting. The quarterly DSLASA Board Meetings are held in the evenings, and La Vone Liddle's replacement will be discussed further in January.

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

November's activities and data are detailed in the November Director's Report. It also includes the article, "Emerging and Lesser-known Arboviruses Impacting Animal and Human Health" by Ary Faraji, Goudarz Molaei, and Theodore G. Andreadis. It was edited by David Taylor, accepted on 2 October 2023, and recently published in ESA's *Journal of Medical Entomology*.

The Board Members were also given a brief update and/or discussed the following: 1) Trustee Christensen has agreed to continue serving as a Board Trustee until the Salt Lake City Council appoints another Trustee. Trustee Turner is currently being evaluated for reappointment. 2) One of our seasonals, Ella Branham, is starting graduate school at the University of Southern Mississippi; we currently have a few part-time seasonals who are helping in the insectary, and Laboratory Director Bibbs is also interacting with SRI, entomology, and biology students to help in the insectary. 3) The first annual RaHP-VEC meeting will be held this coming March in conjunction with the WCMVCA meeting in Colorado Springs. 4) We will also be holding a week-long workshop for grant participants teaching mosquito biology, taxonomy, pathogen detection, insecticide resistance monitoring, calibrations, trap maintenance, epidemiology, pollinator health, etc. This workshop will precede the hosting of the annual UMMA workshop. 5) With the help of Laboratory Director Bibbs, we have submitted sixteen publications this year, and he has also been mentoring students and seasonal employees by teaching them about

experimental design, statistical analysis, and how to write scientific papers. 6) This upcoming year will be the District's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Rather than holding a large open house celebration, the Trustees felt it would be better to create a banner and prepare a press release showing how we have been "Protecting Salt Lake City for the last 100 years!". We could compare mosquito control "then and now". The banner could be included on our website, in brochures, incorporated into our social media, displayed during community events, and touted during educational activities. The District should prepare items to hand out to the public, perhaps participate in a news spotlight, and maybe obtain outside professional assistance in promoting our public health message.

**10. Motion to recess the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District Board Meeting in order to commence the Public Hearings:**

In order to go to the General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, and Local Building Authority Public Hearings, this Board Meeting was recessed at 5:55 p.m. through a unanimous vote on a motion made by Trustee Mooers and seconded by Trustee Turner.

**11. Motion to Reconvene the SLCMAD Board Meeting after the Public Hearings:**

Upon completion of the Public Hearings, a motion to reconvene the Regular Board Meeting was made at 6:35 p.m. by Trustee Turner, seconded by Trustee Barth, and carried with all in favor.

**12. Discussion and Approval of the 2023 Budget Amendments:**

Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve the 2023 General Fund and Capital Projects Fund Budget Amendments; the motion carried unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Barth.

**13. Discussion and Approval of the 2024 Proposed Budgets:**

Trustee Barth made a motion to approve the 2024 proposed budgets; the motion was seconded by Trustee Vickers and passed with all in favor.

A five-minute break was taken at 6:37 p.m. At 6:42 p.m., a motion to reconvene the meeting was made by Trustee Mooers and seconded by Trustee Barth. This motion passed unanimously.

**14. Discussion and Approval for 2024 Tax Increase Procedures:**

Executive Director had prepared a spreadsheet comparing past revenues and certified tax rates with the Consumer Price Index. Due to inflation, the District's increased costs have greatly exceeded the additional funds received from new growth. More

information is needed prior to deciding what the tax increase amount should be. It is necessary to prioritize what is actually needed, consider that building costs will be greater if construction is delayed, and understand that technology for mosquito abatement may change in the coming years. The Trustees gave Executive Director Faraji direction to proceed putting together more data in preparation for a tax increase in 2024. They requested that the Financial Advisor should be involved in this process as well.

**15. Probable Agenda Items for 18 January 2024 Board Meeting, which will begin at 12:30 p.m.:**

- Executive Director's Report
- Gavel/Board Elections
- Completing 2024 Annual Paperwork
- Grants Updates
- Personnel Update

**16. Public Comment:**

There were no members of the public present at this time.

**17. Adjournment:**

Trustees Barth and Mooers made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m., which passed unanimously. The next Board Meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. on 18 January 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ary Faraji, Executive Director

18 JAN 24  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair 2024

1/18/2024  
Date