

APRIL 13, 2023 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees was called to order by Board President Schmidl at 4:30 P.M., Thursday, April 13, 2023.

PRESENT: Board President Schmidl, Secretary Sanbrook, Trustees Guzman, Ghag, Link and Corazza

ABSENT: Trustee Kirchner

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Abshier, General Foreman Hunt, and Ken Meyers of Meyers Investment Group

EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of March 9, 2023
- B. Bills for March 2023
- C. Merit Increase for Erik Blosser, Entomologist: Mr. Blosser is being recommended for a salary increase to be effective April 1, 2023. The salary increase will be from step 5 to step 6 of the salary range schedule for Entomologist.
- D. Merit increase for Devin Lake, Mosquito Control Technician I: Mr. Lake is being recommended for a salary increase to be effective April 1, 2023. The salary increase will be from step 2 MCT I to step 2 MCT II of the salary range schedule.

A motion was made by Ghag and seconded Guzman approving the consent agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN INVESTMENTS AS OF MARCH 31, 2023: Ken Meyers of Meyers Investment Group provided a snapshot of the plan as of April 12, 2023. The plan is up 2.56% year to date. The Millennium Group/Partners Group, which remained in positive territory in a down market last year, is up 0.67% YTD. Meyers noted Hahn/MidCore is down 5.24% this year following a dismal performance in 2022 ending down 17.78%. Meyers recommended moving out of Hahn/Midcore to Bim/Mid Cap or Sun Coast. Bim/Mid Cap has a great long term track record up 11.7% since its start date. Board consensus was to move out of Hahn/MidCore to Bim/Mid Cap. The investment change would be within our asset allocation and in accordance with the District's Investment Policy Statement and does not require Board action.

RESOLUTION 04-13-23: APPROVAL OF A NEW DISTRICT POLICY FOR CLAIMS TO THE SUTTER COUNTY AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S OFFICE. THE POLICY WOULD REQUIRE TWO SIGNATURES, WHERE BOARD MEMBERS COULD SIGN DIGITALLY: Abshier noted that he asked Bordsen about the legality of such a resolution. Bordsen indicated that the resolution is fine, but should meet the requirements of the Auditor-Controller's office. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving Resolution 04-13-23. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR THE AERIAL APPLICATION OF ADULTICIDES AND LARVICIDES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SUTTER YUBA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT: Abshier stated that Russ Stocker of Arena Pest Management has provided a letter detailing rates for 2023. Both larvicide and adulticide application rates increased over 2022. The larviciding rate would be \$1,450 per hour, an increase of 5.5%. The adulticiding rate would be \$2,600 per hour, a 4.8% increase. Stocker has three aircraft that will be available for adulticide work, including a twin-engine Skymaster that could be used over congested areas. Stocker has the hardware and software required to apply these materials. In 2022 the Placer, Sac/Yolo and San Joaquin Districts entered into a combined contract with VDCI at the cost of \$0.64 per acre for adulticide work. We paid \$0.45 per acre with Arena Pest Management in 2022. Our 2022 larviciding of rate at \$1,375 per hour with Arena Pest averaged \$1.76 per acre. Sac/Yolo is paying \$1,750 per hour for larviciding with Farm Air. The San Joaquin District is paying up to \$5 per acre for granular larviciding. An aerial contractor must possess a DPR Pest Control Aircraft Pilot Certificate and Category K (public health). A motion was made by Link and seconded by Guzman approving applications by Arena Pest Management at the rates of \$2,600 per hour for adulticide

application services and \$1,450 per hour for larvicide application services. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF AN UPDATED NEPOTISM POLICY: Abshier presented a revised nepotism policy for review and approval. A goal of the District is to avoid creating or maintaining circumstances in which the possibility of favoritism, conflicts or management disruptions exist. The new policy provides clarification of relationships as they pertain to permanent and temporary employees. The policy also requires employees provide notification of any new relationship which may fall under the definitions of this policy and possible disciplinary action including termination if necessary. Trustees asked if we are required to have a nepotism policy. Abshier noted we are not required to have a policy, but it would be prudent to have in place. Trustee Guzman commented that he is supervised by his wife at the Wheatland School District and that many other people that have relatives are also employed by the School District. Guzman stated his wife regularly assigns a heavier workload to him than other staff members. **Corazza asked Abshier if this updated nepotism policy would help his job as manager and Abshier stated it would.* A motion was made by Corazza approving the updated nepotism policy. The motion failed due to a lack of a second. *(*Amended and approved 5/11/2023)*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Alyssa Richebacher, a two-year, temporary seasonal employee commented and engaged with the Board on how the District's nepotism policy has affected her ability to be employed at the District. Richebacher is currently in a relationship with a full time employee. Ms. Richebacher said she was encouraged to return to work for the District seasonally last year, leaving a full time position with the Sac/Yolo District. She applied in October 2022 for an open Mosquito Control Technician I position. After the candidate evaluation process, Ms. Richebacher was the first chosen candidate by all Field Foreman and the General Foreman. She had two years of experience and already possessed CDPH Vector Control Technician Categories A, B & C. Before a job offer was made to anyone, Abshier consulted with District Council Bordsen concerning the nepotism policy. Bordsen advised that Abshier would violate the District's existing nepotism policy if he hired Ms. Richebacher. Abshier described several situations and how relatives had been disqualified under earlier managers in the past, setting precedence. Several Board members questioned if a nepotism policy is needed. Board President Schmidl called for a special meeting to be held April 27, 2023 to decide if the nepotism policy should be abolished.

MANAGER COMMENTS:

- The MVCAC Spring meeting will be held April 26-27, 2023 in Sacramento. Topics will include the 23-24 budget and the dead bird hotline.
- MVCAC Legislative Advocacy Day was held March 21, 2023. The meeting was with Assemblymember Gallagher's Aide Joe Zanze and Senator Niello's staff. Three main topics discussed were; the success and need for continued funding of CalSurv, emerging invasive *Aedes* control strategies, and the funding of BMP projects on CDFW lands.
- Seasonal employees will begin work on May 1, 2023.
- CDPH testing for one seasonal staff member has been scheduled for May 18, 2023.
- The annual green pool surveillance flight is scheduled for late May.
- Mosquitofish are available for pickup at the District yard beginning April 1, 2023.
- Sentinel Chickens pick up day will be April 27, 2023.
- The annual meeting with the USFWS is still TBD. Topics to be discussed include planned irrigations, fall flood up schedule, water availability and the previous year's treatments.
- The Dead Bird Hotline began on April 10, 2023.
- New Jersey light traps have been deployed, reports will be presented at the May meeting.
- Staff continues monitoring spring sources, river areas, catch basins, waste tires, green pools, and responding to service calls.
- The District is making Facebook posts reminding residents to dump and drain to address miscellaneous containers holding water in their yards after a very wet winter.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS: Trustee Corazza suggested having an Employee/Board member luncheon or breakfast on June 12th.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Link and seconded by Guzman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Board President Schmidl adjourned the meeting.

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary