

## MAY 13, 2021 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees was called to order by Board President Harris at 4:30 P.M., Thursday, May 13, 2021.

**PRESENT:** Secretary Sanbrook, Trustees Schmidl, Kirchner and Link

**BY TELEPHONE:** President Harris, Trustees Ghag and Guzman

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Manager Abshier, General Foreman Hunt

**EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS:** None

### CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Minutes of April 08, 2021

B. Bills for April 2021

C. Merit increase for Kayla Valencia, Administrative Manager. Valencia is being recommended for a salary increase effective May 1, 2021. The salary increase will be from step 2 to step 3 Administrative Manager in the salary range schedule.

D. Merit increase for Zach Samay, Mosquito Control Technician II. Samay is being recommended for a salary increase effective May 1, 2021. The salary increase will be from step 2 to step 3 Mosquito Control Technician II in the salary range schedule.

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

**RESOLUTION 05-13-21: REQUEST FOR THE 2nd INSTALLMENT OF YUBA COUNTY TAXES:** A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Ghag approving Resolution 05-13-21. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**MANAGER COMMENTS:** No West Nile Virus activity has been detected in California for 2021.

New Jersey Light Trap counts are pretty low compared to our 10 year average. No increase was observed over last week and normal for this time of year. *Culex pipiens* numbers are near normal for disease week 18. *Anopheles freeborni* and *Culex tarsalis* numbers are low right now. Sutter County rice acreage could be down as much as 45%, due to decreased water availability. Less rice acreage doesn't necessarily equate to fewer mosquitoes. Typically, we tend to see higher densities of mosquito larvae in years with a limited water supply.

Our invasive *Aedes* surveillance trapping program began this year in early April. In 2020, we had one adult mosquito detection and detection of eggs in oviposition cups on Helen Avenue in Yuba City. Oviposition cups have been placed in the area that had the invasive detections in 2020. This year we have expanded our oviposition trapping to include several plant nurseries.

Abshier also noted:

- The VCJPA Member Contingency Funds balance as of March 31, 2021 is \$365,260.
- Historically, two Board members have met with employee representatives to discuss personnel requests for the upcoming budget year. Sanbrook and Link volunteered to meet with employees one hour before the regular Board meeting, on Thursday, June 10 to hear their requests.
- The annual meeting with the USFWS was held on April 12, 2021 via teleconference. Topics included: Water outlook for 2021, projected to be cut by up to 50% and adding a new lavacide to the list of approved materials. A natural pyrethrin, Evergreen has been approved for use on

the Refuge. Abshier asked to have Spinosad added to the allowable materials list. Spinosad would give us another larvicide to use in rotation to prevent tolerance or resistance. The water outlook will result in fewer cells being irrigated this summer and a slower, later fall flood up. Also discussed were Refuge access issues we encountered in 2020 and material application limits on the PUPS. We were informed of several personnel changes. We continue to have a good rapport with the local Willows office.

- Two permanent staff successfully tested with DPR for their Qualified Applicators Certificate in April, a third is scheduled to test on May 26, 2021.
- An Appeal Democrat ad on District activities appeared in the April 5, 2021 edition. The article looks very professional and is precise.
- A half page ad highlighting our green pool surveillance program will run in the Territorial Dispatch on May 21, 2021.
- A full page Appeal-Democrat ad highlighting our green pool surveillance program is set to appear in the May 22, 2021 weekender edition.
- Staff continues to practice social distancing; three work schedules are being utilized.
- The green pool surveillance flight is slated for late May.
- Surplus items sold by Bidcal showed very good returns, the three vehicles sold received bids over high Kelly Blue Book.
- Seasonal staff began work on May 3, 2021.
- Staff are inspecting spring sources and preparing equipment for the spray season.
- The office carpet replacement project is underway and should be completed by the June meeting.
- Radio advertisement proofs have been received; they are ready for airing in mid-June.
- Several Southern California Districts are looking to alternative measures to control invasive mosquitoes. Methods would include the releasing of Wolbachia infected male mosquitoes and male mosquitoes sterilized by irradiation.
- Abshier will consult with District council Bordsen and other District managers concerning the continuation of board meetings held via teleconference as it relates to the Brown act.
- Staff are training several new seasonal employees.
- Most of the summer staff will begin work on May 17, 2021.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:** Several Trustees expressed interest in touring the Barker fish rearing facility and the District yard.

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

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John Sanbrook, Board Secretary