

OCTOBER 13, 2022 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees was called to order by Board Trustee Schmidl at 4:30 P.M., Thursday, October 13, 2022.

PRESENT: Secretary Sanbrook, Trustees Schmidl, Ghag and Kirchner

ABSENT: Trustees Guzman and Link

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

EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of September 08, 2022
- B. Bills for September 2022
- C. Merit increase for Bill Lanier, Mosquito Control Technician I. Lanier has completed his probationary period and is being recommended for a salary increase effective October 1, 2022. The salary increase will be from a step 1 to step 2 Mosquito Control Technician I in the salary range schedule.
- D. Merit increase for Zach Samay, Vector Ecologist. Samay has completed his probationary period and is being recommended for a salary increase effective October 1, 2022. The salary increase will be from step 3 to step 4 Vector Ecologist in the salary range schedule.

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: WITH THE RESIGNATION OF BOARD PRESIDENT BILL HARRIS, A NEW BOARD PRESIDENT NEEDS TO BE ELECTED. The remainder of Harris' term will expire December 31, 2023. Sanbrook nominated Schmidl to serve as the new Board President. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Kirchner electing Schmidl as Board President. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 10-13-22: RESOLUTION IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF BILL HARRIS' 17 YEARS AND 7 MONTHS OF SERVICE (FEBRUARY 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2022) TO THE SUTTER-YUBA MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving resolution 10-13-22. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN INVESTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2022: Ken Meyers, of Meyers Investment Group noted the District's portfolio is down 17.9% year to date, which is doing pretty well considering the rest of the Market is down 20-30%. Meyers also noted bond funds are not doing well either, they are down 15%. Meyers pointed out averaging the last 80 to 100 years, the Stock Market has had average returns of 10.5% to 11% per year. Currently, the annual average return is near 7%. He added the cash in the portfolio, which is in Money Market Funds is earning 2.7%. Meyers suggested we put most of the portfolio's cash into CDs which are earning well over 4% for one year CDs. The CDs are FDIC insured. A motion was made by Link and seconded by Ghag accepting Meyers Quarterly Review. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION - TO DISCUSS THE FINDINGS OF THE WRITTEN PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER: A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Kirchner to go into a closed session to discuss Manager Abshier's written performance review. The motion was approved unanimously. A motion was made by Kirchner and seconded by Sanbrook to go out of a closed session. The motion was approved unanimously. There was no reportable action.

APPROVAL TO CONTINUE THE DISTRICT MANAGER'S CONTRACT FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2022 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023: This would be year five of the five-year contract for District Manager Abshier. Board consensus was that Abshier continues to grow as Manager and is doing a great job. Abshier received high marks for our media outreach program and his fiscal responsibility. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag to continue the District Manager's contract for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL FOR DISTRICT MANAGER ABSHIER'S MERIT INCREASE: Abshier is eligible for a 2% merit increase from step 7 to step 8 of the salary range schedule. A motion was made by Kirchner and seconded by Ghag approving a 2% merit increase from step 7 to step 8 of the salary range schedule. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MANAGER COMMENTS: In Sutter County, one human case of WNV is in process, it has yet to be been verified by the state. Sutter County had 31 mosquito pools test positive, compared to 18 positive pools, at this time last year. Sixteen sentinel chickens have tested positive compared to last year, which had 11 at this time. Additionally, four dead birds tested positive in Sutter County. In Yuba County, 12 mosquito pools have tested positive. Thirteen sentinel chickens have tested positive, compared to two at this time last year. There has been one dead bird test positive and one human WNV case in Yuba County this year. Last year there were no WNV human cases in either county.

For our New Jersey light traps, *Culex tarsalis*, which are the biggest transmitter of West Nile Virus, are below the ten year average. They are typically more prevalent in the earlier part of the season. We have been higher on *pipiens* numbers for most of the year. *Anopheles freeborni* typically peak around Labor Day. Numbers are way down now. The overall higher numbers of *Culex tarsalis* this year could be a result of a two week delay in spraying, due to the 48 hour beekeeper notification requirement. On seasonally flooded Duck clubs, the first mosquitoes produced are the *Aedes* followed by huge numbers of *Culex tarsalis*. We wanted to see if the *tarsalis* produced would quickly become infected with WNV. We CDC trapped at three club locations and caught over one thousand *tarsalis* female mosquitoes. Twenty-three mosquito pools were submitted for testing, all pools results were negative for WNV.

The invasive *Aedes aegypti* has been detected in the same areas as last year, Tierra Buena, Shanghai and areas of north Yuba City. Most areas are not expanding and they are not resulting in many calls for service. There has not been any invasive detection in Yuba County. We continue the three additional surveillance methods, the BG trap, ovi position cup and the In2Care traps. Two methods are designed to attract the female mosquito looking for a site to lay her eggs. The ovi cup uses color and a water infusion to attract the female to lay her eggs on paper positioned just above the water level. The In2Care trap is a black bucket with a water attractant and gauze strip at and above the water level. The In2Care trap utilizes two methods of control. As the female positions herself to lay eggs, she picks up the pesticide, Pyriproxifen, on her legs, which she transfers to her next ovi position site, killing the larva at the new site. Secondly, she picks up a fungus that is lethal to her in approximately eight to fourteen

days, allowing enough time for her to treat additional sources with the Pyriproxyfen. The BG trap utilizes a fan and an attractant lure that mimics human odor to catch adult mosquitoes. Additionally, we began weekly wide area, A-1 treatments targeting larval sources along with added adulticide missions. We will continue to monitor until early November, and then resume surveillance in the spring.

Abshier and Blosser attended a twenty minute online meeting with epidemiologists from Sutter and Yuba County health departments, explaining our control program. Topics discussed included our trapping programs, testing mosquitoes for disease, sentinel chickens, the dead bird hotline and additional spraying being triggered as a result of these programs. Abshier noted it was a great meeting.

Additionally, the Manager reported on the following:

- On October 1st two new Mosquito Technicians were hired from a pool of five temporary employees. One Technician has worked as a summer employee for four seasons and is completing a Bachelor's degree in Plant & Soil Science plus has extensive GIS experience. The other new hire has worked as a seasonal employee for two seasons and has already passed the VCT Categories A&B. Both will bring many great attributes to the District. One applicant will remain as a seasonal employee with the official hire date being November 1st. The other new hire is slated to begin full time the first week of January. An applicant that was our overall top pick for the position had to be passed because of nepotism issues.
- All spray routes have ended.
- All temporary staff has been laid off.
- Staff is currently monitoring duck clubs, Sutter National Wildlife Refuge and North Butte areas which are typically impacted by the flooding of the Butte sink.
- Abshier and Blosser will be attending the MVCAC Fall Conference in Visalia November, 2-3 2022.
- The replacement of the A/C unit at the Crews Quarters has been completed. The project was performed by the low bidder John Burger Heating and Air for \$13,800. The other bid received was \$17,262 from R.B. Spencer. Special thanks to the Board for approving this emergency item allowing for the quick replacement in the middle of the hottest time of the year.
- The 905 Market Street warehouse lease with Jeff Helm will automatically renew on November 1st with the rent increasing from \$1,575 to \$1,650 per month.
- The lighting project on the vehicle parking structure is in process. Hopefully the additional lighting will deter any further District theft losses. The lighting is set lower to the ground than the existing exterior lighting. It should not be bothersome to the neighbors.
- We are planning a fencing project to encompass the recessed areas on the west side of the 925 Market Street building. We continue to have issues with the homeless sleeping, leaving trash and defecating in these areas. Sharpe, the lessee of the property, should not have to continually deal with these issues.
- Two Staff members will be attending C.E. meetings at Sutter County Ag. in November and December for DPR credit. All staff will attend the Spray Safe meeting scheduled for January.
- Cyber security training is set for October 28, 2022.
- Four fish ponds are being fenced and netted to deter bird predation at our Barker fish rearing facility. All work is to be completed by District staff.
- District Staff Abshier, Hunt and Blosser plus Trustees Ghag and Sanbrook will be attending the MVCAC Annual Conference in Anaheim, February 7-9, 2023.

- District staff is working on an extensive list of winter building and maintenance projects.
- Former District Manager Michael Kimball passed away on Tuesday October, 11, 2022.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS: Secretary Sanbrook suggested the Board meeting be adjourned in memory of Michael Kimball.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Sanbrook to adjourn the meeting in memory of Michael Kimball. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. President Schmidl adjourned the meeting in memory of Michael Kimball.

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary