

MAY 11, 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, May 11, 2023.

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Abshier, General Foreman Hunt

EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Three members of the public, Alyssa Richebacher, Devin Lake, and Becky Hunt attended the meeting and commented in opposition to the necessity of the proposed nepotism policy. Topics included, hiring the best candidate for a position, if the District had any previous issues involving relatives working together at the District, why District council was consulted concerning the hiring decision and excluding the hiring of a highly qualified and certified top pick candidate. **Corazza questioned whether the Board should engage in a back and forth with the speaker during public comments or just listen.* President Schmidl allowed engagement with the public. **(amended and approved June 8, 2023)*

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Minutes of April 13, 2023

B. Bills for April 2023

C. Merit increase for Kayla Valencia, Administrative Manager. Valencia is being recommended for a salary increase effective May 1, 2023. The salary increase will be from step 4 to step 5 Administrative Manager in the salary range schedule.

Trustee Corazza asked to have item A of the Consent Agenda voted on separately, he is requesting an amendment to the April minutes.

A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving consent Agenda items B & C. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Corazza asked to have "Corazza asked Abshier if this Nepotism Policy would help his job as manager and Abshier stated it would" inserted in the minutes before his motion to approve. A motion was made by Link and seconded by Sanbrook approving the amending of the April Minutes and the amended Consent Agenda item A. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION 05-11-23: REQUEST FOR THE 2nd INSTALLMENT OF YUBA COUNTY TAXES: A motion was made by Guzman and seconded Ghag approving Resolution 05-11-23. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF AN UPDATED NEPOTISM POLICY: Abshier noted the updated comprehensive policy includes exemptions for Summer/Seasonal employees provided they are not supervised by relatives. Link asked to have a Summer/Seasonal job description added to the policy, detailing a Summer/Seasonal employee works less than 1,000 hours in a fiscal year, July 1- June 30. Corazza noted his duty as a Trustee is to help Abshier do his job. Guzman added the duty of the Trustees is to do what is best for the District. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Corazza approving the updated nepotism policy. Sanbrook asked for a roll call vote. The motion was approved with Sanbrook, Corazza, Link and Kirchner voting in favor and Schmidl, Guzman and Ghag voting against.

MANAGER COMMENTS: Three counties have detected West Nile Virus activity in California for 2023. Alameda and Los Angeles counties have each reported one positive

mosquito pool. Santa Clara County has reported two dead birds have tested positive for WNV.

New Jersey Light Trap counts are pretty low and below our 10 year average. The disease week 23 graph shows a slight uptick in *Culex pipiens* numbers over this time last year. *Culex tarsalis*, our primary vector of West Nile Virus and *Anopheles freeborni*, the late season rice field mosquito and major nuisance mosquito numbers remain low.

Abshier also noted:

- Fog routes will begin as justified by trap data, town routes typically begin just before the Fourth of July. Agriculture area routes and aircraft missions begin a little earlier in June.
- The VCJPA Member Contingency Fund balance as of March 31, 2023 is \$282,289. The return on interest is looking better. The fund is designed to preserve funds.
- Historically, two Board members have met with employee representatives, prior to the June Board meeting, to discuss personnel requests for the upcoming 2023-2024 FY budget. Employees have requested their representatives meet with Board representatives and then will attend the regular Board meeting. Sanbrook and Corazza volunteered to meet with employees, Ghag was chosen as an alternate. The meeting will be one hour before the regular Board meeting, on Thursday, June 8th to hear their requests.
- The annual USFWS meeting was held in person on May 2nd at the Butte MVCD office in Chico. The water outlook for Sutter National is projected to be 100%. The result will be more cells irrigated this spring and a complete fall flood up is expected. Topics also included approval/disapproval of pesticides (PUPS), personnel changes, contact info, and reviews of control activities performed in 2022.
- A half page ad highlighting our green pool surveillance program will run in the Territorial Dispatch on May 19, 2023.
- A half page Appeal-Democrat ad highlighting our green pool surveillance program is set to appear in the May 20, 2023 weekender edition.
- The green pool surveillance flight is slated for late May.
- One permanent and one seasonal employee will test with CDPH on May 18, 2023.
- Seasonal staff began work on May 1, 2023.
- Staff are inspecting spring sources, river areas, waste tires, catch basins, and preparing equipment for the spray season.
- Shasta and Oroville dams may be forced to make large releases which could impact potential mosquito sources along our river areas.
- The investment transfer from Hahn/MidCore to Bim/Mid cap was completed on April 18, 2023.
- Radio advertisement proofs have been received; they are ready for airing in mid-June.
- Staff is training several new seasonal/summer employees.
- Most of the summer staff will begin work by May 22, 2023.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS: Trustee Guzman asked to have employee requests available to the Board in advance of the June Board meeting. The Employee/Board Member lunch is scheduled for June 12, 2023. Kirchner noted he believes the District should put in place guardrails concerning public comments. He added most agencies have time limits per person, time limits per topic and countdown clocks. The public attendees thanked the Board for allowing comments and interaction.

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

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary