

## **JUNE 8, 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, June 8, 2023.

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

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Manager Abshier, General Foreman Hunt, Employee's Representatives Jessica Farrell, and Bill Terbush

**EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS:** None

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Minutes of April 27, 2023
- B. Minutes of May 11, 2023
- C. Bills for May 2023
- D. Merit Increase for Joe Songer, Field Foreman: Songer is being recommended for a salary increase effective June 1, 2023. The salary increase will be from step 8 to step 9 of Field Foreman in the salary range schedule.
- E. Merit increase for Darrell Jew, Fisheries Specialist: Jew is being recommended for a salary increase effective June 1, 2023. The salary increase will be from step 7 to step 8 of Fisheries Specialist in the salary range schedule.

Trustee Corazza asked to have item B of the Consent Agenda voted on separately. He is requesting an amendment to the May 11, 2023 minutes.

A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Guzman approving Consent Agenda items A, C, D and E. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Corazza asked to have the sentence, "Corazza questioned whether the Board should engage in a back and forth with the speaker during public comments or just listen." added to the public comments. A motion was made by Kirchner and seconded by Link approving Consent Agenda item B, the May 11, 2023 Board meeting minutes, as amended. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Personnel Committee members Sanbrook and Corazza met with employee's representatives, Bill Terbush and Jessica Farrell, prior to the Board meeting to hear employee benefit and salary requests. The employees presented a one year COLA proposal, based on the April 2023 CPI-U for western states. The current CPI-U for the Western States for April is 4.9%. The employee requests included a 4.9% COLA, New Year's Eve Day as a holiday, a vacation accrual shift for full-time permanent employees, and changing the sick leave payout at retirement from 45% to 50% with a cap of 480 hours. New employees accrue vacation leave at the rate of 8 hours per month. The current, existing schedule provides 10 vacation hours per month beginning after an employee completes 2 years of service, through 15 years; and 13.33 hours per month after 15 years through 20 years of service. The proposed vacation accrual shift would provide that employees who have completed 2 years of service would begin accruing 10 hours per month through year 10. After the completion of 10 years of service through 20 years, employees would earn 13.33 hours per month.

Sanbrook noted the 4.9% COLA request seemed reasonable and he doesn't have a problem with the increased sick leave payout at retirement, which only applies to retirees. If an employee separates from the District for any reason other than retirement, they would not be eligible to receive any sick leave payout. The committee noted 15 holidays was plenty; no need to add an additional one. Corazza added that employees have four floating holidays between October and March. Link asked moving forward to have COLA's available from similar sized Districts in the state. The Board had concerns if any of these items could create any unfunded liabilities. Abshier noted that the Board approved a Budget Stabilization Reserve in September 2022 to mitigate any situation where you have an unexpected expense, such as an unanticipated retirement.

**APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE SALARY/BENEFIT REQUESTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024:** A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Ghag approving a 4.9% cost of living increase for fiscal year 2023-2024, an adjustment to the vacation accrual schedule to 10 hours per month for years 2 through 10 and 13.33 hours per month for years 10 through 20, and raising the sick leave payout upon retirement to 50% for all permanent employees. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**RESOLUTION 06-08-23; RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SUTTER-YUBA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT DETERMINING AND LEVYING AN ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 AGAINST ALL TAXABLE PARCELS OF LAND WITHIN THE MERIDIAN AREA OF THE DISTRICT TO PAY FOR THE COSTS OF VECTOR SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL ON THOSE LANDS:** This year, the per parcel assessment calculation is \$31.78. The 2023-2024 assessment is an increase from \$26.52 for fiscal year 2022-2023. The maximum amount that can be levied per parcel is \$45.00. The current calculation uses actual hours worked, virus surveillance testing, vehicle mileage, pesticides and any other materials. The per parcel assessment was calculated using 892 parcels as provided by the Sutter County Assessor's Office, utilizing data compiled from the previous year. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Link approving Resolution 06-08-23. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**RENEWAL OF NON-OWNED AIRCRAFT LIABILITY INSURANCE:** Abshier stated that this liability policy would be in addition to coverage that we contractually require our contractor to maintain. The contractor's insurance would be the primary insurance and ours would be secondary insurance. Abshier noted the policy limits are \$2,000,000 chemical and non-chemical, \$4,000,000 aggregate, available at a cost of \$9,512, an increase of 15% over fiscal year 2022-2023. Abshier noted the coverage is well worth the cost, as our contractors performed 65 flight missions last year. The green pool surveillance flight mission would also be covered by this policy. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving the renewal of the \$9,512 non-owned aircraft liability insurance with AvQuest. The motion was approved with Ghag, Sanbrook, Link, Kirchner, Guzman and Corazza voting in favor of and Schmidl voting against.

**CLOSED SESSION- PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 54956.9(b)(3)(c):THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL RECESS TO A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OFFER FOR A PENDING WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIM:** A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Kirchner to go into closed session. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. A motion was made by Kirchner and seconded by Link to come out of closed session. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. There was no reportable action.

**PRELIMINARY BUDGET APPROVAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024:** Board members were provided a preliminary budget for review. Abshier reported the Salaries and Benefits budget increased 6.5%, or \$150,287 above FY 2022-2023. The increased amount is largely due to having two, full time Mosquito Control Technician I positions on payroll for the full fiscal year. These two positions were added last fiscal year, one starting in October 2022 and the other in January 2023. The 2023-2024 budget includes a 5% cost of living increase for the permanent positions. Included in the budget is a \$1.00 per hour increase for all summer and seasonal positions commencing July 1, 2023. To be prepared for potential increased health insurance costs on January 1, 2024, a 10% increase has been included.

The Services and Supplies portion of the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 reflects an increase of 4.7%, or \$86,772 over the approved budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. As California is quickly moving to an electric only model, we are making purchases of some new gas powered equipment, including weed eaters, a push mower, and leaf blowers, as battery technology is still developing. In addition, increasing pesticide costs, professional services, insurance costs, digital advertising, addressing invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes earlier in the season, and use of more larvicides in controlling mosquitoes produced in fall flood ups can also be attributed to the increase.

The Fixed Assets portion of the budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 reflects a 55.4% increase or \$97,250 over the approved budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. The budget will cover costs to seal the asphalt laid last year, replace the roof on the old Gilsizer office, purchase a new cab and chassis truck, two ½ ton 2WD pickups, two adult mosquito foggers, a new computer network server, replacement of our tractor, a new riding mower,

pesticide application equipment and a trailer that will replace a DIY trailer we have been using.

The total budgeted expenditures for fiscal year 2023-2024 indicate an increase of 7.7% or \$334,809 over the approved budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. The total revenues for fiscal year 2023-2024 are anticipated to be around \$4,694,664 to \$4,715,000 and should be sufficient to cover the \$4,678,652 budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.

A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Sanbrook approving the Preliminary Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**MANAGER COMMENTS:** Abshier reported that there has been some WNV activity this year. Five mosquito pools have tested positive state wide, year to date. Fourteen dead birds have tested positive, two each in Alameda, Los Angeles and Sacramento Counties. One dead bird tested positive in Riverside County with seven birds testing positive in Santa Clara County. All chickens have tested negative, statewide. No human cases have been reported. Our New Jersey Light Trap counts for *tarsalis* mosquitoes are moving upwards with their peak typically the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. *Pipiens* numbers are close to the ten year average. *Anopheles* numbers continue to be low.

Abshier also noted:

- The aerial green swimming pool surveillance flight is slated for early June.
- *Aedes aegypti* has been detected for the third year in a row in a north Yuba City neighborhood. Specialized traps have been deployed and other control measures will soon be implemented.
- Pool inspection warrants for both counties are in place.
- Spraying by ground of the agricultural areas will begin next week. Town fogging is slated to begin June 29<sup>th</sup>. Aerial larviciding will begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June.
- An Adventist Health class on reasonable suspicion, a training to identify employees possibly under the influence of drugs or alcohol and how to respond appropriately, was attended by all supervisors.
- Ads outlining our 2023 spray programs will run in the Appeal-Democrat and the Territorial Dispatch the week of June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Abshier and Hunt interviewed with Q93 on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. The interview covered many topics including encouraging property owners to do their part eliminating sources on their property.
- We will have a District booth at the Yuba- Sutter Fair June 22-25.
- Miscellaneous surplus items are to be sold at Bidcal Auction, June 19-21.
- Catch basin treatments are almost complete in urban areas. In three months, basins will be checked again and treated as necessary.
- Staff is receiving training for respirators, labels, heat illness, and safe driving.
- Fogging began early in the Edgewater area due to large numbers of *Culex* mosquitoes. Edgewater and agricultural areas to the south have been targeted.
- One permanent employee passed Vector Control Technician exam categories A&B with CDPH. One seasonal employee unsuccessfully tested for category B.
- The Employee/Board member lunch will be held Monday, June 10, 2023 at noon.
- Board consensus is to add guidelines to the Public Comments section outlining the rules concerning public comment.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:** Link shared that he had recently attended a barbecue at a friend's house on Capri Drive in Yuba City. The homeowner had requested service from the District prior to the function. The homeowner related to Link that the crew was friendly, thorough and very helpful. Corazza noted he had viewed an online/radio interview on Q93 with Abshier and Hunt. He added the interview covered a variety of topics including what the public can do to help eliminate mosquitoes in their own yard.

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

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John Sanbrook, Board Secretary