

## JULY 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, July 13, 2023.

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

**ABSENT:** Corazza

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

**EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEM:** None.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Minutes of June 8, 2023
- B. Bills for June 2023
- C. Merit increase for Jessica Farrell, Administrative Assistant I. Farrell is being recommended for a salary increase effective July 1, 2023. The salary increase will be from step 3, Administrative Assistant I to step 3 Administrative Assistant II in the salary range schedule.
- D. Merit increase for Carlos Mendoza, Mosquito Control Technician I. Mendoza is being recommended for a salary increase effective July 1, 2023. The salary increase will be from step 2, Mosquito Control Technician I to step 2, Mosquito Control Technician II 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.

**QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN INVESTMENTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2023:** Ken Meyers of Meyers Investment Group provided a snapshot of the District's portfolio as of July 12, 2023. The District's portfolio year to date is up 6.75%. Meyers noted Sun Coast is up 19.44%, rebounding from being down 23.4% last year. The recently acquired Cliffwater Corporate Lending Fund which lends to mid-sized companies continues to grow, up over 11.3% YTD. Meyers noted the Pimco Bond Index is up 2%. As interest rates go down, bonds tend to rise. Sanbrook asked if we should stay the course. Meyers advised that we have a good mix now and he not recommending any changes at this time. No Board action was taken.

**PROPOSITION 4 APPROPRIATION LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024:** A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Kirchner to open the public hearing on the appropriation limit. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. No members of the public were present. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Ghag to close the public hearing. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Abshier explained that the 2022-2023 appropriation limit was \$7,351,157. The limit for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is \$7,731,212, an increase of 5.2%. CPI is one of the factors used in setting the limit. CPI measures changes over time, in the prices paid by consumers. Our budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 is based on projected revenue of \$4.7 million which is far below the appropriation limit. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Ghag approving the Proposition 4 Appropriation Limit of \$7,731,212 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**FINAL BUDGET APPROVAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024:** Board members were provided with the 2023-2024 final budget. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Ghag approving the final budget for Fiscal year 2023-2024 as presented.

**APPROVAL TO RENEW THE CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP WITH THE MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (MVCAC) FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR:** Abshier stated we are in a tiered system where Districts with operating budgets between three million and five million pay \$10,500 in annual dues, unchanged from last year. We get a lot of value with our membership. Abshier noted it is a well-run program, providing research, lobbying, and the data collection program, CalSurv. The MVCAC was instrumental in securing state funding for the CalSurv program, which we rely on for District data collection of mosquito abundance, mosquito-borne virus surveillance, and our pesticide applications. The MVCAC is currently working to secure an exemption for Mosquito Districts from the State's Beekeeper notification requirement. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Ghag approving renewal of our Corporate Membership in the MVCAC at \$10,500. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL TO RENEW THE AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION (AMCA) MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR:** Annual dues are calculated through a formula using a percentage of the member's operating budget. The dues for 2023-2024 are \$3,178.15, up from \$2,932.09, an 8.3% increase over last year. Much of the AMCA's work involves lobbying Congress for members. The association was instrumental in securing funding for the SMASH act. We are able to watch required continuing education videos free of charge. Non-members pay \$100 per person. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Kirchner approving the renewal of our membership with the AMCA for \$3,178.15. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE (2) CLARKE PRO-MIST DURA, ADULT MOSQUITO FOGGERS:** California is on course to phase out the sale of new small gasoline powered equipment in the near future. We have been successfully using electric foggers for 20+ years. The Clarke ProMist foggers have performed well over the years. The ProMist foggers typically last us around seven to eight years. The customer service that we receive from Clarke has been outstanding. The only other electric fogger option is the Curtis L30. We had three of their units in the past and we were less than impressed with their customer service. The Clarke ProMist Dura is priced at \$23,531.03 with the Curtis L30 coming in at \$17,177.51 plus shipping and does not include the auto-variable pump output. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Kirchner approving the purchase of (2) Clarke Pro-Mist Dura for a total of \$47,062.05. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A ONE TON CAB & CHASSIS:** This item was tabled due to lack of informal bids. We were informed the manufacture's order banks will open in September.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**MANAGER COMMENTS:** Statewide, no humans or horses have tested positive for WNV. Sixty-five dead birds and 238 mosquito pools have tested positive for WNV. We have had no positive WNV detections have been made in either County. Adjacent Counties Butte, Sacramento, Placer and Yolo have all detected the virus this year. The New Jersey Mosquito Trap counts are on pace with the 10 year average for *Culex tarsalis*. *Pipiens* are trending down and *Anopheles freeborni* remain low. Abshier reminded the Board that the *tarsalis* is the mosquito of concern for West Nile transmission. Abundance numbers from these traps drive the decision making on when to begin adulticide spraying. This year our strategy was to begin spraying early. There is evidence that suggests early spraying can dramatically reduce the number of mosquitoes at their normal peak.

Invasive *Aedes* trapping is ongoing. We have had two detections in Tierra Buena and our first detection for Yuba County in the Olivehurst area. Weekly adulticiding and larviciding missions in the Tierra Buena area have begun. More trapping in the Olivehurst area is ongoing to determine the area of infestation. Additionally, In2Care traps are also being deployed.

District staff has begun visiting neglected pools where photo evidence shows a potential for mosquito production. In Sutter County, 278 pools were marked as suspect. Inspections and/or treatments have been made to 139 pools thus far. Staff has 139 pools left to be inspected. In Yuba County, 151 pools were marked as suspect. Inspections or treatments have been made to 115 pools. Staff has 36 pools left to be inspected. A total of 429 suspect pools have been identified for both counties.

Mosquitofish harvesting is ongoing for planting of rice fields for mosquito control. We have harvested 680 lbs. of fish thus far. This year's fish harvest is 55% complete. We will be beginning the project to cover four additional ponds this fall to exclude predatory birds.

We are over half way through the BTI rice field larviciding program. As of Wednesday, July 13, 2023, 76,904 acres of rice has been treated. At the end of the program in early August, about 106,000 acres of rice will be treated.

Currently, adulticide spraying by ground truck has covered 66,207 acres. Adulticide spraying by air has covered 125,570 acres.

Our digital display advertisings on the internet have shown 146,041 impressions with 318 clicks, 0.22% CTR which is three times the national average of 0.07%. Viewers that click on the link are directed to our website.

Bottle Bio Assays have been completed for finished formulations, Evergreen and Pyronyl. Both materials performed well with 80% control at two hours, allowing price to be the determining factor on which product to purchase. Additionally, bottle Bio Assays will be conducted with assistance from CDPH using permethrin, malathion and bifenthrin. Bio Bottle Assay testing is planned for July 28 for naled, our silver bullet material. An aerial pyrethrin ULV trial in Sutter County showed good results with 75% mortality. An aerial trial with naled is planned for next month.

Abshier also noted:

- Staff is busy answering requests for service, planting mosquitofish in miscellaneous sources, checking green swimming pools, and monitoring pastures for mosquito production.
- The MVCAC summer meeting will be held July 25, 2023 online.
- The Y-S Fair booth July 22-25 focused on invasive *Aedes*, West Nile Virus and our control measures. Attendance was low but public engagement was very good.
- Requests have been comparable to last year, fairly low compared to mid-August.
- An R/A (Research Authorization), to test a new material, ReMoaTri is planned for August 1st. The material contains new active ingredients, formulated to be effective against resistant mosquitoes. This new material is not yet registered for use in California.
- One of the foggers, which was mounted to the one of the stolen ATV's, was recovered from the river bottoms by Sutter County Deputies. The fogger is operational, but has been thrashed. We will send the fogger to auction in the spring. The fogger has already been replaced.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:** Link commented on the tour of the District yard Abshier provided to Corazza and him. Link stated he was very impressed with the property, equipment and the wide array of projects which the employees handle in-house. He asked that we pass along his sentiment to the staff. Schmidl gave thanks for the technician's quick response inspecting his pasture for mosquitoes.

**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