

AUGUST 10, 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, August 10, 2023.

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Abshier and General Foreman Hunt

EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of July 13, 2023
- B. Minutes of July 20, 2023 Special Meeting
- C. Bills for July 2023
- D. Merit increase for Tim Houser, Field Foreman: Mr. Houser is being recommended for a salary increase to be effective August 1, 2023. The salary increase will be from step 5 to step 6 of the salary range schedule for Field Foreman.

Trustee Corazza asked to have consent agenda item A voted on separately, as he was not present for the July 13, 2023 Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Link and seconded by Ghag approving consent agenda items B, C & D. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Link and seconded by Guzman approving consent agenda item A. The motion was approved with Schmidl, Sanbrook, Link, Kirchner, Guzman, and Ghag voting in favor of and Corazza abstaining.

APPROVAL OF THE SUTTER-YUBA MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT'S DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AND DETERMINATION OF THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION FOR THE PLAN YEAR JULY 1, 2023-JUNE 30, 2024: Abshier referenced the Evergreen Actuarial Valuation Report, which recommended a contribution of \$15,916 for the current plan year. We budgeted for a \$30,000 contribution. Abshier noted the portfolio balance as of 6-30-23 was \$2,746,732.63, an increase of \$293,662.01 from July 1, 2022. The current plan obligation is \$1,895,385. The defined benefit plan is currently funded at 145% as of July 1, 2023. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Link to approve the report and the recommended annual contribution of \$15,916 to the defined benefit plan. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO SEND DISTRICT STAFF/TRUSTEES TO THE MVCAC FALL QUARTER MEETING, OCTOBER 2nd-4th, 2023. Approval to send two District staff was discussed. Abshier noted that District Entomologist, Blosser and he are planning to attend. The hotel rate is \$195 per night plus tax and fees. Airfare will be approximately \$275 per person round trip plus transportation to and from the airport. There is no cost for the meeting registration. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Kirchner to approve sending two District staff to the MVCAC Fall Quarter Meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL RATES FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024: Abshier noted the amount budgeted in July was for a 10% increase. The actual health insurance rate increase came in at 15.4%, which would increase the premium from \$35,365.05 to \$40,805.51 monthly, for all permanent District employees. Abshier noted, after exploring other health insurance options as directed by Trustees last year, SDRMA premiums were identical to Golden State Risk Authority, the broker used by the Butte County MVCD. We received a very good quote from Keenan & Associates for Blue Shield of California. This plan would place us in a class with a Fire District Association, a healthy and active group. A three year minimum agreement is required. The Blue Shield of California plan

through Keenan is similar to our existing plan, except that it has significantly higher deductibles and annual maximum out of pocket amounts than the Anthem Blue Cross plan we currently have through SDRMA. To make up for the differences, Abshier is proposing an employee Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). This would be similar to the Health Savings Account (HSA) we had many years ago, when the District saved money on premiums by going to a high deductible health plan. At that time the District funded each HSA at \$3,600 annually. HRA accounts are employer funded, do not have expiration or time limits on when funds must be spent, and can only be spent on medical bills/items as allowed by IRS rules. Abshier is proposing funding the HRA at \$2,000 for single employees, \$3,280 for employee plus one, and \$4,560 for employee plus family to make up for the plan differences. The cost of the new health insurance plan, including funding the HRAs, saves the District \$98,430.96 annually. In order to get the rates quoted by Keenan, a Board resolution will be needed in order to join the Fire Risk Management Services JPA. Guzman asked to make all employees aware of a stipulation that the annual funding of the HRAs would last only as long as we continue with this health insurance agreement. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Guzman approving health insurance coverage for 2024 with Blue Shield of California through Keenan and Associates at \$32,602.92 per month, which includes funding the Health Reimbursement Arrangement as proposed. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

DENTAL INSURANCE RENEWAL RATES FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024: The new monthly cost from our current provider, SDRMA, is \$1,193.85 per month, a 2.2% decrease. Proposed dental coverage for 2024 with Keenan & Associates would be \$995.01 monthly for all full time employees, a decrease of 18.4% from what we are currently paying. Both plans have similar coverages. A motion was made by Kirchner and seconded by Link approving the \$995.01 monthly premium for dental coverage with Principal Financial through Keenan & Associates. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

VISION INSURANCE RENEWAL RATES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2024 THOUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024: Our current provider, SDRMA is proposing no premium increase in vision coverage for 2024. The current monthly rate with SDRMA is \$168.74. Keenan & Associates is proposing a rate of \$131.59 per month, a 22.02% decrease for all full time District employees. The plans have similar coverages. A motion was made by Link and seconded by Schmidl approving the vision insurance premium of \$131.59 per month with VSP through Keenan & Associates. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MANAGER COMMENTS: Statewide there have been eight human cases, 181 dead birds, 1,582 mosquito samples, 27 sentinel chickens, and two horses test positive for WNV.

Abshier reported on West Nile virus activity in the District. In Sutter County, the State is reporting no human cases, three positive dead birds and forty-two positive mosquito pools. Two sentinel chickens have sero-converted. In Yuba County, none of the tested dead birds have tested positive, while sixteen mosquito pools have come back positive. No sentinel chickens have sero-converted thus far. The *Culex tarsalis* numbers are coming down and *pipiens* numbers are low compared to the ten year average. *Anopheles* numbers are heading up, but had a drop last week possibly due to the higher temperatures causing mortality with the adult mosquitoes. The *Anopheles* mosquitoes typically peak near the Labor Day holiday. Our aerial larviciding program has been completed with 106,999 acres treated. We have treated 128,742 with ground truck adulticide applications. Thus far 235,129 acres have been treated with adulticides by air. We switched from Pyronyl to Trumpet by air, the week of July 24th. Trumpet is the most effective material we have. It is a heavier material, coming down to hit target areas more predictably.

- Our aerial swimming pool surveillance program is nearing completion. In Sutter County we had 272 suspect pools with 59 requiring treatment thus far. Eight pools remain to be inspected. Yuba County had 150 suspect pools with 26 requiring treatment. No warrants were needed to gain entry to inspect suspect pools in Yuba County.

- The 2023 mosquito fish harvest netted 905 pounds. The total amount harvested was lower than last year possibly due to cooler spring temperatures delaying growth and reproduction.
- A field cage test was conducted to evaluate the efficacy of Evergreen 525 Air, a natural pyrethrin adulticide, on *Culex tarsalis*. The product was applied by our contractor. The results were at 52% -100% mortality rates, for an average control level of 75%.
- A field cage test using Trumpet applied by air resulted in nearly 100% kill in all cages.
- Bottle bio-assays have been performed using malathion, naled, and permethrin. The assays are a method of testing for resistance in the District, using lab reared and wild caught mosquitoes. Test results showed the efficacy of permethrin, malathion, and naled. Malathion results showed 94-96% mortality at diagnostic time, while permethrin was 92% in mosquitoes collected in Sutter County at 180 minutes. For mosquitoes collected in Yuba County, permethrin showed a 99% kill at 75 minutes. Naled resulted in 94.6% control in all wild caught mosquitoes control at diagnostic time.
- Invasive *Aedes aegypti* detections this year have shown in many new areas compared to last year. In the detection areas we will be performing weekly, wide area larviciding (WALS) treatments for three consecutive weeks followed by bi-weekly treatments for an additional three treatments. The WALS treatments target cryptic or hidden sources where the invasive mosquitoes prefer to lay their eggs. Additionally, adulticiding missions in these areas will be increased to twice per week.
- The MVCAC summer meeting was held July 28, 2023. Topics included exploring a 2.5% annual increase in MVCAC dues. Funding in the State budget for CalSurv has been secured for this fiscal year. The MVCAC was unsuccessful in getting funding for invasive *Aedes* control reimbursement. The MVCAC Annual Conference will be held January 21-24, 2024 in Monterey.
- Abshier noted he has been in contact with our local health departments concerning WNV human cases.
- Abshier advised that our media outreach is ongoing. Abshier participated in an interview on KUBA/KKCY on July 26th and with 93Q on August 1st. West Nile Virus was the primary topic. Several articles have appeared in the Appeal-Democrat. Advertising continues on radio stations, KUBA, KKCY, 93Q and Rhythm 105.
- Local transmission of malaria in Florida and Texas has been in the news recently. Nearly all cases in California are imported, more than 100 annually. The last local transmission in California occurred in 1990. Malaria is reportable to the local health departments. We treat at homes of any of Yuba/Sutter human cases that are reported to us.
- We have started losing some of our summer employees, as they are returning to school.
- We took delivery of the F-350 from Downtown Ford.
- Butte County MVCD is reporting a WNV human case today.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS: None

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

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary