

OCTOBER 12, 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, October 12, 2023.

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

ABSENT: None

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

EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of September 14, 2023
- B. Bills for September 2023
- C. Merit increase for Bill Lanier, Mosquito Control Technician I. Lanier has completed two years with the District and has obtained his Vector Control Technician Certificate in categories A and B and is being recommended for a salary increase effective October 1, 2023. The salary increase will be from a Mosquito Control Technician I, step 2 to Mosquito Control Technician II, step 2 in the salary range schedule.
- D. Merit increase for Zach Samay, Vector Ecologist. Samay is being recommended for a salary increase effective October 1, 2023. The salary increase will be from step 4 to step 5, Vector Ecologist in the salary range schedule.

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

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN INVESTMENTS AS OF OCTOBER 11, 2023: Ken Meyers, of Meyers Investment Group noted the District's portfolio is up 3.4% year to date. Meyers reported the bright spots YTD are Millennium Partners up 3.4%, Baird Midcap up 2.6% and Suncoast which is heavily weighted with Tech companies is up 21.20%. Suncoast has rebounded from a 23.40% drop the previous year. Meyers also noted bond funds are still not doing well. They are down for the third year in a row. Meyers said the cash and equivalents in the portfolio are earning 2.7%. Schmidl questioned if Meyers is suggesting any changes. Meyers stated he is not recommending any changes at this time. He added that towards the end of the year the market traditionally trends higher. Typically, November and December are the best performing months of the year. A motion was made by Link and seconded by Guzman accepting Meyers Quarterly Review. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL TO ATTEND THE MVCAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN MONTEREY, CA JANUARY 21-24, 2024: Approval is needed to send three employees and up to three board members to the annual conference. Abshier noted there will be a keynote speaker and personnel from several Districts will be giving presentations. Abshier inquired if any Board members would be interested in attending. Trustees Ghag and Sanbrook expressed interest in attending the conference. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag to approve sending three employees and up to three Board members to the MVCAC annual conference January 21-24, 2024 in Monterey Ca. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 10-12-23 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRE RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES: Abshier explained that the Board approved a resolution at the September meeting, however the recent name change for the JPA from Fire District Association of California to Fire Risk Management Services requires approval of this resolution as well. The resolution affirms our desire to become a member for the purposes of receiving health benefits. Abshier will be executive officer, authorized to take actions or facilitate installation of the health plan. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Ghag approving Resolution 10-12-23. The motion was approved by 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 Guzman to go into a closed session to discuss Board member's written performance reviews for District Manager Abshier. The motion was approved unanimously. A motion was made by Link and seconded by Ghag to go out of a closed session. The motion was approved unanimously. There was no reportable action.

BOARD APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER CONTRACT FOR STEPHEN ABSHIER FOR THE PERIOD OF NOVEMBER 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2028: At the September Board meeting, Sanbrook asked that some language in the contract be clarified. Section 5 and 6.4 had some contradictory provisions, making the intent murky. Abshier worked with Bordsen to clarify those sections regarding severance pay in scenarios where Abshier would be terminated with cause, and also terminated without cause. Clarifying language was also inserted providing when Abshier would be entitled to sick leave payout. Board consensus was that Abshier continues to grow as Manager and is doing a great job. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Link to approve the new District Manager contract for the period of November 1, 2023 through December 31, 2028. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MANAGER COMMENTS: In Sutter County, there have been five human cases of WNV, with an additional case under investigation. Sutter County had 66 mosquito pools test positive, compared to 31 positive pools, at this time last year. Nineteen sentinel chickens have sero-converted compared to last year, which had 16 at this time. Additionally, six dead birds tested positive in Sutter County. In Yuba County, 26 mosquito pools have tested positive. Seven sentinel chickens have sero-converted, compared to 13 at this time last year. There have been five human WNV cases in Yuba County this year. No dead birds tested positive this year. Last year there was one WNV human case in Yuba County, with none in Sutter County. Statewide there have been 205 human cases year to date, compared to 90 total human cases last year.

For our New Jersey light traps, *Culex tarsalis* numbers are below the ten year average. This species is our biggest transmitter of West Nile Virus. They are typically more prevalent in the earlier part of the season. The *pipiens* numbers are low, at or near the 10 year average. *Anopheles freeborni* numbers are way down now, following a huge disease week 34 peak.

The invasive *Aedes aegypti*, wide area, A-1 treatments, targeting cryptic, larval sources have ended for the season. We will continue to answer calls for service in the detection areas and treat as necessary with handheld foggers. Treatments at individual homes have seemed to be most effective. The adult mosquitoes typically have a range of approximately 1,000 feet.

Additionally, the Manager reported on the following:

- All spray routes have ended.
- All remaining temporary staff has been laid off as of September 30th.
- The field investigation part of our audit, on October 5th went well. The final audit report should be available in December.
- Staff is currently monitoring duck clubs, including Sutter National Wildlife Refuge and North Butte areas, which are typically impacted by the flooding of the Butte sink.
- Abshier applied for a grant in the amount of \$27,700 from the Yuba Water Agency, for a share of the cost of the new fish truck. The fish truck is used in both Sutter and Yuba Counties. The cost share is determined by the percent of usage delivering mosquito fish to areas of Yuba County. Successful applicants will be announced in late November or December.
- The 905 Market Street warehouse lease with Jeff Helm will automatically renew on November 1st with the rent increasing from \$1,625 to \$1,675 per month.
- Staff members will be attending C.E. meetings at the Sutter County Ag Department in November and December for DPR credit. The MVCAC Sac Valley Region will be hosting its first in-person C.E. meeting since Covid-19 on November 15th at the Sutter County Vet's Hall.
- 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.
- One seasonal employee is taking the CDPH Vector Control exam on November 16th.
- District staff is working through an extensive list of winter building and maintenance projects.
- A pre-Thanksgiving lunch is planned for November 9th. Trustees are invited to attend.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS: Ghag asked what the total management cost is for Meyers Investments handling the District's Defined Benefit Plan accounts. Abshier noted he would research what we pay in fees and report at the November meeting. Guzman asked if the Trustee reimbursement could be increased due to increased fuel costs. Abshier explained the Health and Safety code provides for either reimbursement for business related expenses or \$100 monthly in lieu of actual expenses. An increase would require a change to the Health and Safety Code. Corazza recalled hearing a radio interview with Abshier, where the interviewer was unsure about Abshier's job title. Corazza asked that Abshier refer to his position as "District Manager".

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.

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary