

## MARCH 14, 2024 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, March 14, 2024.

**PRESENT:** Board President Schmidl, Board Secretary Sanbrook, Trustees Ghag, and Guzman

**ABSENT:** Trustees Kirchner and Link

**ALSO PRESENT:** Manager Abshier, General Foreman Hunt

**EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2024
- B. BILLS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

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

**APPROVAL OF A MEDIA OUTREACH PROGRAM: A COMPREHENSIVE MEDIA OUTREACH PROGRAM TO ALERT RESIDENTS CONCERNING AERIAL SWIMMING POOL SURVEILLANCE, INVASIVE *Aedes* MOSQUITOES, WEST NILE VIRUS AND DISTRICT SPRAYING.** Abshier is planning a comprehensive media outreach program to alert residents regarding District programs and activities. Last year the Board consensus was to investigate alternative advertising sources. Abshier presented a summary specifying two, half page, color ads in the Appeal-Democrat. The Appeal-Democrat proposal for 2024 came in at \$1,960, unchanged from last year. Additionally, the Territorial Dispatch newspaper proposal for three, half page, color ads running in May, June and July is \$1,875. One additional ad over last year and a per ad increase of \$25 resulted in an increase of \$675 for 2024. The total cost for print advertising would be \$3,885, a \$675 increase from 2023. The summary also detailed radio advertisements and their costs. A 12-week campaign, using radio stations KUBA, KKCX, Rhythm 105, and 93Q was proposed again. The 2024 radio proposal would come at a total cost of \$6,748, a \$564 increase over last year. In addition, this year we are proposing public transportation/bus stop ads by Lamar Transit Advertising to run for eleven weeks. The ads would appear on three transit buses, three shelters, and three benches at a cost of \$6,000. Additionally, paid boosts are proposed for the social media platform Facebook, at a cost of \$1,500. Results Digital ads were dropped this year. Last year's campaign of 450,000 impressions over a three-month period, June 1 through August 31, at a cost of \$4,500 resulted in a total of 1,035 clicks at a cost of \$4.50 per click. We felt we did not receive a lot of results for the money spent. Trustee Ghag suggested we inquire with Punjabi Radio as an additional tool to reach another sector of our community. Abshier noted he would contact them, and those advertising costs would be presented at the April Board meeting. The total comprehensive media outreach program for print, radio, social media, and Lamar Transit would cost \$18,083, a 30.6% increase from 2023. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Ghag approving the media outreach program for \$18,083. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL TO RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY: LOCATING BACKYARD SOURCES IN URBAN AREAS OF THE DISTRICT.** Board approval is needed to renew the contract with Aerial Services for the 2024 season. The Aerial Services bid for the 2024 season is \$7,250.04, no increase from 2023. Other potential bidders, Ron O'Hanlon, a helicopter pilot, advised he has retired and would not be bidding. EcoBridges is no longer performing this type of work. A satellite photography service called Near Map is no longer working with mosquito districts. Lastly, Butte MVCD advised they used Deer Creek Resources last year with higher cost and less than desired results. The urban areas to be surveilled include Yuba City,

Marysville, Linda, Plumas Lake, Wheatland, Olivehurst, Live Oak, and Sutter. Aerial Services contracts with multiple mosquito control agencies across the State of California. Abshier added we get some false positives using Aerial Services, but overall they do a very good job and we are able to have the mission completed within our preferred time period. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving Aerial Services bid of \$7,250.04 for aerial green pool surveillance. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**RESOLUTION 3-14-24: RESOLUTION TO AMEND AND RESTATE THE MIDAMERICA ADMINISTRATIVE & RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT.** As an employee benefit at early and regular retirement, the cash value of a retiree's eligible, unused sick leave will roll into their HRA account. The eligible, maximum amount of sick leave an employee may be paid is defined as 50% of their unused sick leave, capped at a maximum of 480 hours. Early retirement is defined as age 55 with 10 years of service with the District. Regular retirement is age 62. Funds diverted to an HRA have no tax consequence, and may be used for qualifying health costs, as defined by IRS rules. There are no additional costs to the District. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Guzman to amend and restate the MidAmerica Administrative & Retirement Solutions Health Reimbursement Arrangement to direct a qualified retirees' eligible, unused sick leave, (50% with a 480-hour maximum) to be diverted to their HRA account. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

#### **MANAGER COMMENTS:**

- The VCJPA Member Contingency Fund balance as of December 31, 2023, stands at \$305,077, an increase of \$11,158 in interest. A change of strategies in investments resulted in a larger interest return.
- Valencia and Farrell attended the VCJPA Annual Workshop, held February 29-March 1, 2024. Reports from the workshop were provided by Valencia and Farrell. One topic of concern highlighted by Jessica Farrell was AB 520. Public entities are now liable for unpaid wages, including interest, pertaining to property services (janitorial, security, landscaping etc.), if the service provider fails to pay an employee's wages. Where the employee files a complaint, the public entity where the work was performed would be held liable for unpaid wages plus interest. The District's janitor, Santa Ana Cleaning, is our only property service contractor. Santa Ana Cleaning is an owner operator business with no employees. A topic of concern noted by Kayla Valencia was an overview by Will Portello, litigation manager for the VCJPA. Portello reviewed the steps of the liability claims process, should the member District receive a claim. The main takeaway was to have a resolution in place for the Board to delegate authority to respond to certain claims in place of the Board. Some responses, such as a Notice of Insufficiency, have time limits of 20 days from the date of postmark, if the claim is received by mail. Sanbrook noted that where the District response to a claim is untimely, the claim is denied by default. He asked to have Bordsen review the need for a resolution.
- The MVCAC Spring meeting will be April 26-27, 2023.
- Abshier and Ghag attended the MVCAC Legislative Day held on February 21, 2024. Meetings were attended with Niello and Gallager staffers. Topics included local Dengue transmission and funding for CalSurv.
- Senate bill SB1251, would require electrical companies to provide vault locations, access for inspections, treatment, and post treatment inspections. Electrical companies would be required to enter into a vector management agreement with mosquito abatement, vector control districts or health departments within 72 hours of a request being made.

- The annual USFWS meeting date has yet to be determined. Annually, we discuss plans and goals for the refuges in the Sac Valley Complex, as well as mosquito control challenges, water outlook, costs, and disease from the past year.
- Surplus items are being prepared for the April BidCal auction, including the old John Deere 4310 tractor and miscellaneous obsolete parts and tools.
- The annual Waters of the U.S. Report was submitted February 28, 2024.
- One new F-150 pickup was delivered today, the other unit is expected within the next two weeks.
- Staff are monitoring riparian areas along the Sacramento and Feather Rivers due to high water flows which inundate these areas.
- Staff is busy performing vehicle, equipment, fogger, and landscape/building maintenance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

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

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John Sanbrook, Board Secretary