



SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

August 18, 2020

District Office, 19200 Latona Road, Anderson, CA 96007

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. Call to Order: District Board President Hanna called the zoom meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Trustees Present: Ben Hanna, President
Vickie Marler, Vice President
Ann Morningstar, Secretary
Philip Cramer, Trustee

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present: Peter Bonkrude, District Manager
Darcy Buckalew, Administrative Office Manager
Guangye Hu, Assistant Manager
John Albright, Vector Ecologist

2. Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. **Secretary Morningstar led the pledge.**
3. Approval of Agenda: **A motion was made by Secretary Morningstar and seconded by Vice President Marler to unanimously approve the agenda.**
4. Public Comment: President Hanna stated that this is the time for any person wishing to address the Board to do so. President Hanna asked if anyone had mailed or emailed any comments to the District per the instructions posted for the Zoom meeting due to State of California Executive Order N-33-20 stay at home. The Administrative Manager stated she did not receive any correspondence prior to this meeting.
5. Consent Calendar –
 - a) Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held June 16, 2020.
 - b) July/August Payables in the amount of \$599,922.25. **A motion was made by Vice President Marler and seconded by Secretary Morningstar and it was agreed to approve the consent calendar and give the District Manager the authority to approve the board approved payables through the financial system due to State of California Executive Order N-33-20 stay at home.**

6. Items Removed from the Consent Calendar –

7. Correspondence/Informational:

- a) Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District Financial Reports at 7/31/20-The District Manager stated income and expenses are right on track. We will have some accruals of expenses and income into August. Overall, it looks like we are under budget on expenses and slightly over on income. We have a lot of large expenses starting off the new fiscal such as the Unfunded Liability as well as various insurance payments. The District Manager added we hope to have a 2019-2020 year-end summary at the October board meeting.
- b) CA Arbovirus Bulletin #17, Week of August 7, 2020- The District Manager stated that the Bulletin shows as of August 7, 2020. The District Manager stated there 81 WNV positive bird from 14 counties and 675 WNV positive mosquito pools in 23 counties. So far, we have received 6 WNV positives in Shasta county. There are 10 WNV positive humans as of this date in 3 counties. We are also seeing elevated St. Louis Encephalitis virus positives in 6 counties for a total of 178 positives so far. There have been 21 WNV seroconversion from 4 counties. Overall, the state seems to be slightly lower than normal at this time of year.
- c) Shasta County Pooled Investments June 30, 2020- The District Manager stated this is our pooled investment fund held by the county.
- d) VCJPA Member Contingency Fund June 30, 2020- The District Manager stated this is our contingency fund as of June 30, 2020. Currently we have \$263,578 which showed a slight gain from the losses experienced earlier in the year.
- e) Compliments to the District- The District Manager stated the office received calls and emails complimenting staff as well as the District and we like to share them with the trustees. The District received a call from Edward thanking Corey for his service in the area. Kudos Corey!
- f) Truck Bid Award- The District Manager stated we awarded the bid to Crown Motors and we are hoping to receive the trucks before the end of the year. President Hanna asked why it takes so long. The District Manager stated that due to this being fleet pricing these vehicles are made last on the line therefore they are delivered last as well as a delay for Covid-19. We also had an accident last month that totaled one of our trucks and were able to contact Crown to add another truck to this order so we will be receiving three new trucks. Insurance of course pays for one of the trucks, minus our \$1,000 deductible.

8. Manager's Report – The District Manager stated during this report period there is continuing work from the previous report period, the truck bids came in and we selected Crown Ford to supply the requested (2) compact pickup trucks. Although they came close to the CMAS list, the ease of having a local supplier has shown benefits in the past. Coincidentally, a vehicle involved in an accident last month is being identified as “totaled” so in addition to the two trucks we ordered, we also ordered a replacement vehicle from Crown Motors Ford which will be covered by our insurance less the \$1000 deductible. We also received the 15 laptops that were ordered last month and have sent them to Apex, Inc to do the initial “rollup” of the machines. We hope to have them in the field before the season really starts to slow down to iron out any issues we may encounter for next year. Other projects that are progressing are the outside raceways for additional fish storage, the raceways have been dug and some preliminary piping installed; the pond liner has been ordered and should be at the District in 2-3 weeks. During this report period we found our first and then additional West Nile virus positives. In response to the positive mosquitoes, we had staff increase larval surveillance in those areas and enhanced our adult control activities to quickly reduce adults that have the potential

to transmit the virus. Interestingly, we do not always see a reduction in the trap counts during these intensive control strategies due to the nature of mosquito ecology, however research suggests that by reducing the older adult female mosquitoes present in the environment, transmission can be slowed or interrupted. We received a detection of an invasive aedes *Aedes aegypti* adult female in a trap in our District. This is the first detection of this species in Shasta County and would be the furthest north detection to date. We have already started some increased immature surveillance and adult surveillance in the area of the trap. On Monday, we increased our efforts with door to door information and adult mosquito control sprays. I reached out to Shasta County Public Health Officer Dr. Ramstrom as well as CDPH and our stakeholders. We issued a press release midday Monday to help with our efforts. We are focusing teams on the initial find; Additionally, we will be going door to door looking for potential habitat. Finally, we will be spraying those neighborhoods Monday night, Tuesday morning and Thursday night. Vice President Marler asked if we have found any nearby before. The northern most county to have found this mosquito has been Placer county and Sacramento-Yolo County and it was last season they found them. Winter months will help with adults, but these eggs can lay dormant and that raises concern. Trustee Cramer asked about micro populations. The District Manager stated the thought is they came from potted plants that were brought to the area. The lab has increased their surveillance in this specific area and will continue to do so. Trustee Cramer asked about how malaria was contracted here. The Vector Ecologist gave a historical run down of malaria and the eradication of it locally.

9. Department Reports:

- a) Guangye Hu, Ph.D., Assistant Manager - Operations Report – The Assistant Manager stated during this report period, our department focused on inspecting and treating West Nile transmitting mosquitoes – the *Culex*. We also carried out our aerial pool inspection and treatment and conducted augmented larviciding and adulticiding in the areas with mosquito samples testing positive with West Nile virus. In order to reduce the exposure of employees to Covid-19, we continued to follow our district, state, and local government guidelines, such as practicing physical distancing at least 6 feet, wearing fabric face coverings wherever social distancing is a challenge, rotate-using changing facilities, mitigating contact when exposed to other people, and having employees take time off without requirement for the 36-hr prior authorization when feeling sick or having concerns for exposure. The District received 33 service requests from 5 communities: 48.5% from Redding, 18.2% from Anderson, 12.1% each from Shingletown and City of Shasta Lake, 6.1% from Lake Head, and 3.0% from Cottonwood. We conducted a total of 2,439 inspections, of which Redding had 42.2%, followed by Anderson (26.6%) and Cottonwood (18.1%), and the rest 12 communities had a total of 13.1%. We conducted a total of 402 treatments in 12 communities, of which Redding had 42.0%, followed by Anderson (28.6%) and Cottonwood (13.2%), the rest 9 communities had a total of 16.2%. For the target treated, 72.3% were larviciding to kill mosquito larvae and 27.8% adulticiding to control adult mosquitoes. Response to West Nile virus Positive Mosquito Samples. In late July and early August, we responded to 6 mosquito samples/pools in West Cottonwood, East Cottonwood, and north of Anderson by enhanced adulticiding and increased search effort for larval sources. We fogged the areas multiple times consecutively and sent a team of technicians with fresh eyes (those who do not routinely patrol the areas) to each of the locations to search for and treat mosquito sources. Invasive *Aedes* response currently is canvassing the area and handing out flyers and doing as many inspections of yards and areas as possible. We are also fogging more in the area and will continue to canvass surrounding areas and hand out flyers and inspect sources.
- b) John Albright, Vector Ecologist – Vector Ecology Report –The Vector Ecologist stated mosquito numbers as indicated by the District’s six new Jersey-style light traps and sixty CO2-baited encephalitis virus surveillance (EVS) traps rose overall during this report period, which

is typical for this time of year. A prolonged period of days with temperatures above the century mark led to a particularly large increase in the EVS trap counts which had numbers above 2019 and 5-year average levels throughout the report period. The predominant mosquito types seen during this period were mosquitoes of the genus *Culex spp.* This is important because these are the mosquito species responsible for the spread of West Nile virus (WNV) and Saint Louis encephalitis (SLE) which are the mosquito-borne diseases most commonly found in California every summer. If normal trends are followed the numbers of these mosquitoes will decrease over the next report period. The first detections of West Nile virus (WNV) within the District were in three mosquito samples collected near the District office and in the west Cottonwood area near the Tehama County border. In the last week of the report period additional samples were found in central Cottonwood (1), east Cottonwood (1) and north Anderson (2). The infection rate among the mosquito samples submitted since the first WNV+ sample is very close to 1 per 1,000 mosquitoes submitted for the District as a whole. In the portion of the District where the positive samples have been found the infection rate is approximately 2.4 per 1,000 mosquitoes sampled. By way of comparison, the infection rate among mosquitoes throughout the District in 2015, which had our highest number of positive mosquito samples, was nearly 6 per 1,000. Blood samples were taken from the District's 4 chicken flocks on July 17 and 31 and submitted for testing to the California Department of Public Health's lab in Richmond. All sentinel chicken samples so far in 2020 have been negative for the presence of antibodies to any mosquito-borne virus diseases. Blood samples will be taken on August 14, and results will be pending at the time of this Board meeting. No dead birds suitable for testing for WNV have been reported from within the District so far in 2020 so none have been tested. Vector Ecology lab provided mosquito larvae from the insectary for use in an ongoing research project by the Operations Department on the effects of a mosquito larvicide on non-target aquatic arthropod species. Invasive *Aedes* has been our focus this week with setting specific aedes traps in the high-risk areas such as mobile home parks because they tend to have more potted plants which make for ideal breeding areas. We found this mosquito in Gravid trap which is set to collect WN mosquitoes. We are using BG-Sentinel traps for collection of these mosquitoes. These traps are filled with stinky water and grasses to attract these mosquitoes they get stuck on sticky stuff inside and then we collect and examine them. One positive is these mosquitoes tend to be weak flyers so they can't fly as far. We are running parallel programs right now. WNV response as well as *Aedes* response. President Hanna asked about the *Aedes* and their preference. The Vector Ecologist stated the *Aedes* very much prefer human blood over anything else. WNV mosquitoes prefer birds over humans but will use humans for blood source.

10. Committee Reports

- a) Executive – no report
- b) Financial – no report
- c) Personnel Committee- no report

11. Old Business:

12. New Business:

- a) Discussion and/or Approval to cancel the September 2020 Board of Trustees meeting and cancel the December 2020 Board of Trustees meeting and also give the District Manager the authority to approve and pay claims up to the limit of \$10,000 per claim including, but not limited to, US Bank-CalCard, and all normal invoices during the period of August 19, 2020 through September 31, 2020 and during the period of November 18, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The District Manager stated Due to lack of agenda items, out of town trainings/conferences and holidays approaching, staff is recommending cancelling the September and December 2020 meetings. Currently, the District Manager has the authority to

approve and pay claims up to \$5,000. To insure the uninterrupted payment of District bills should the Board vote to cancel the September 2020 and December 2020 meeting, staff is asking that the Board give the District Manager the authority to approve and pay claims up to the limit of \$10,000 per claim for the period in which the Board will not meet to approve such claims. The Board will still get the opportunity to review those claims at the October and January Board Meetings. Additionally, if so requested, the finance committee could review a draft claims list and be provided an opportunity to comment. This process could be handled electronically. Staff recommendation would be to cancel the September 2020 and December 2020 Board of Trustees meeting and give the District Manager the authority to approve and pay claims up to the limit of \$10,000 per claim including, but not limited to, US Bank-CalCard, and all normal invoices during the period of August 19, 2020 through September 31, 2020 and during the period of November 18, 2020 through December 31, 2020 . **A motion was made by Secretary Morningstar and seconded by Vice President Marler and it was agreed unanimously to cancel the September 2020 Board of Trustees meeting and cancel the December 2020 Board of Trustees meeting and also give the District Manager the authority to approve and pay claims up to the limit of \$10,000 per claim including, but not limited to, US Bank-CalCard, and all normal invoices during the period of August 19, 2020 through September 31, 2020 and during the period of November 18, 2020 through December 31, 2020.**

- b) Discussion and/or approval for up to (1) staff member to attend the 2020 Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) Fall Meeting in Costa Mesa, CA, November 5-6th, 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$900.00 per person from accounts #35950 Lodging, #35949 Meals, #35900 Travel. The District Manager stated the MVCAC Fall Meeting is an educational and networking opportunity consisting of training, workshops, committee meetings and a Board Meeting. The District Manager currently serves on the IT Committee, the Regulatory Affairs Committee and is the President on the MVCAC Board. It is unclear at this time if the meeting will be held via zoom or hybrid. If it turns out to be zoom this expense will not happen this fiscal year. **A motion was made by Trustee Cramer and seconded by Vice President Marler it was agreed unanimously to approve for up to (1) staff member to attend the 2020 Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) Fall Meeting in Costa Mesa, CA, November 5-6th, 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$900.00 per person from accounts #35950 Lodging, #35949 Meals, #35900 Travel.**
- c) Discussion and/or approval for the District Manager to attend the MVCAC Planning Session December 1-2, 2020 in Emeryville, CA at a cost not to exceed \$650 from the following accounts: #35949- Meals and #35950-Lodging. The District Manager the MVCAC will hold its annual planning session in Emeryville December 1-2, 2020. The attendees of the MVCAC Planning Session will discuss tasks and goals for the upcoming year for the MVCAC as a whole and for individual committees. The District Manager serves as the MVCAC President and on the IT Committee and the Regulatory Affairs Committee. This meeting may also be hybrid or on zoom. Currently, it is unclear the direction of the meeting. **A motion was made by Secretary Morningstar and Seconded by Trustee Cramer and it was agreed unanimously to approve for the District Manager to attend the MVCAC Planning Session December 1-2, 2020 in Emeryville, CA at a cost not to exceed \$650 from the following accounts: #35949- Meals and #35950-Lodging.**
- d) Discussion and/or approval to vote for up to three candidates to hold position of Regular Commission Members to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). The District Manager stated the Shasta Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is a legislatively established commission responsible for coordinating logical and timely changes in local governmental boundaries, conducting special studies that review ways to reorganize, simplify,

and streamline governmental structure, and preparing a sphere of influence for each city and special district within each county. Whether independent or dependent, formation of a special district, as well as changes of organization and reorganization proposed by special districts is subject to LAFCO approval unless the principal act under which the district was formed specifically excludes LAFCO involvement. The term for these positions will expire January 2024. Each independent district may vote for up to three candidates. Due date for ballots is September 25, 2020. Discussion followed. **A motion was made by Vice President Marler and Seconded by Trustee Cramer and it was agreed unanimously to vote for Ann Morningstar, Brenda Haynes, and Patricia Clark. Secretary Morningstar recused herself.**

13. Trustee Comments, Requests for Future Agendas Items and/ or Staff Actions: *The Board may not legally take action on any item presented at this time other than to direct staff to investigate a complaint or place an item on a future agenda unless (1) by a majority vote, the Board determines that an emergency situation exists, as defined by Government Code Section 54956.5, or (2) by a two-thirds vote, the board determines that the need for action arose subsequent to the agenda being posted as required by Government Code Section 54954.2(a).* President Hanna asked the District Manager to keep the board apprised of the *Aedes* development. The District Manager stated he would be sending out updates.

14. ADJOURNMENT –

Upcoming Events and SMVCD Office Schedule:

- *September 7, 2020 Closed in Observance of Labor Day*
- *September 15, 2020 SMVCD Regular Board of Trustees Meeting (SMVCD Boardroom/Zoom)*
- *October 20, 2020 SMVCD Regular Board of Trustees Meeting (SMVCD Boardroom/Zoom)*

Upcoming Training:

- ***Available anytime: web-based, required (every 2 years) Ethics Compliance Training – AB1234 - Paste the following link into browser: <http://fppc.gov/index.php?id=477>. Once you have completed this course, be sure to print out your certificate of completion and bring a copy to the office for our files.***

The Board meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED:
