



## SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

March 15, 2022

District Office, 19200 Latona Road, Anderson, CA 96007

### MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. Call to Order: District Board President Cramer called the board/zoom meeting to order at 1:01 P.M.  
Roll Call

Trustees Present: Philip Cramer, President  
Dave Maron, Vice President  
Ann Morningstar, Secretary  
Benjamin Hanna, Trustee

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present: Peter Bonkrude, District Manager  
Darcy Buckalew, Administrative Manager  
John Albright, Vector Ecologist

2. Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. **President Cramer led the pledge.**
3. AB361: Discussion and or Approval to consider finding by a majority vote under Government Code § 54953, subd.(e)(1)(B) that as a result of the COVID-19 emergency: (i) meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and (ii) the meeting is authorized to be held by teleconference pursuant to Gov. Code, § 54953, subd. (e)(1)(C). The District Manager stated in light of the Governor's declaration that a state of emergency exists due to the incidence and spread of the novel coronavirus (attachment A), and the pandemic caused by the resulting disease COVID-19, the board should consider whether meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of meeting attendees. The Centers for Disease Control indicates that COVID-19 is a highly transmissible virus that is spread when an infected person breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus, and such droplets and particles are breathed in by other people. More infectious variant of the virus, known as Omicron, has emerged and now accounts for most COVID-19 cases and is spreading rapidly nationwide. Conducting meetings by teleconference would directly reduce the risk of transmission among meeting attendees, including members of the public and agency staff, which has the ancillary effect of reducing risk of serious illness and death as well as reducing community spread of the virus. If the authorization to meet by teleconference is not approved by a majority vote, then the meeting will adjourn after this item and the remaining agenda items will be rescheduled to a future in-person meeting. Staff recommends that the board find that, as a result of the

COVID-19 emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and the meeting should be continued to be offered a teleconference option as authorized by subdivision (e)(1)(C) of section 54943 of the Government Code. If the vote to authorize the option to meet by teleconference under AB 361 passes, then the board may (a) proceed to hold the rest of the meeting by teleconference under AB 361, and (b) continue to meet by teleconference under AB 361 for up to 30 days. **A motion was made by Secretary Morningstar and seconded by Trustee Hanna and it was agreed to unanimously approve under Government Code § 54953, subd.(e)(1)(B) that as a result of the COVID-19 emergency: (i) meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and (ii) the meeting is authorized to be held by teleconference pursuant to Gov. Code, § 54953, subd. (e)(1)(C) to continue to meet by teleconference under AB 361 for up to 30 days.**

A moment of silence was observed for Trustee Bellinger who passed away last month.

4. Approval of Agenda: **A motion was made by Trustee Hanna and seconded by Secretary Morningstar, and it was agreed to unanimously to approve the agenda.**
5. Public Comment: President Cramer stated that this is the time for any person wishing to address the Board to do so. President Morningstar 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.
6. Consent Calendar –
  - a) Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held February 15, 2022.
  - b) February/March Payables in the amount of \$170,251.99.  
**A motion was made by Secretary Morningstar and seconded by Vice President Maron 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.**
7. Correspondence/Informational:
  - a) Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District Financial Reports at 2/28/2022-The District Manager stated income and expenses are where they should be.
  - b) VCJPA Member Contingency Fund 12-31-2021- The District Manager stated this is the fund held by VCJPA. The Member contingency fund currently sits at \$260,937.
  - c) Outreach Update- The District Manager stated this update is for February and March. The District website had a total of 1,634 page views. Top referrals came from Facebook, MVCAC, Twitter and LinkedIn. In the months of February and March we had 20 posts which reached 14,880 views on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. We've been approved to participate at the Shasta County Certified Farmer's Markets as an educational booth, starting as early as 4/2/22, pending staff availability. We scheduled a Spring Break Camp presentation at Turtle Bay the week of 4/11-4-15/22. California Mosquito Awareness Week is 4/17/22-4/23/22 this year. Lighting of the Bridge – The Sundial Bridge will be lit up green on Thursday and Friday of California Mosquito Awareness Week, 4/21/22-4/22/22. The District will staff a booth for California Mosquito Awareness Week in front of the Sundial Bridge at the Domke Plaza on Friday 4/22/22 from 5:30-8pm. We are partnering with Turtle Bay to have a booth at their museum on Saturday 4/23/22 from 11am-2pm. We are partnering with KIXE and the Shasta Public Libraries to bring mosquito awareness to the community through a bookmark coloring contest and mosquito

awareness PSAs. New campaigns include NorthState Parent Magazine look for 1/3-page ads running in the Spring (March) and Summer (July/August) printed Activity Guides, and a digital 1/3-page ad in April covering California Mosquito Awareness Week. In May, the Summer camp issue, they will be running an article about our District and how families can prevent mosquito breeding and stay bite-free through the summer. Lastly Redding Recreation Activity Guide look for ½ page ads in the Spring and Summer Activity Guides with details on where to look for water to prevent mosquito breeding around the home.

- d) NPDES- The District Manager stated he submitted the NPDES Annual Report to the Division of Water Quality State Water Resources Control Board. The District did not observe any adverse impacts from pesticide applications made and covered by the state issued permit.
  - e) Strategic Plan Update-The District Manger stated that there are some items that have been updated.
  - f) Trustee Wade Bellinger Obituary- The District Manager stated that Trustee Bellinger’s passing was unfortunate and untimely. Trustee Bellinger clearly cared about his community and family and we appreciate the time he was able to serve the District. A celebration of life for Trustee Bellinger will be April 23, 2022, at the Cottonwood Community Center at 1pm.
8. Manager’s Report – The District Manager stated during this report period I have been attending several meetings and conferences as discussed below, finalizing the District’s Annual NPDES permit report, prepping for the District’s winter pool project, and preparing the draft 2022-2023 District Budget. We also have posted the Operations Manager (OM) position, the Vector Biologist (VB) position and the Seasonal Vector Technician positions. We are closing the OM and VB positions on March 28<sup>th</sup> and hope to begin interviews soon after that date. Finally, we are finalizing the contract with NearMap for a pilot project focused on updated high resolution aerial imagery and as a potential replacement for our current pool program. For an introductory price of \$4,000 the District will get access to the map and pool asset AI, in exchange we will be assisting NearMap with a neglected pool AI. I will prepare a full presentation for the Board when we gain access to the imagery and detail our usage.
9. Department Reports:
- a) Peter Bonkrude, District Manager - Operations Report – The District Manager stated he would be submitting the Operations Report until the position is filled. During this report period the Operations Department continued work on winter projects including tick surveillance, cleaning, and draining equipment, brushing, and continuing education. Staff also started some limited inspection and larviciding, including a wide area larviciding application for *Aedes sierrensis* at Kids Kingdom Park. The district received 26 service requests during this report period. 111 mosquito inspections or treatments were made during this report period, and of those treatments 86 were made to sources.
  - a) John Albright, Vector Ecologist – Vector Ecology Report –The Vector Ecologist stated the adult mosquitoes populations as indicated by trap counts from the District’s 3 off season New Jersey-style light traps and 4 – 6 weekly Co2-baited encephalitis virus surveillance (EVS) traps, on average, have been very similar to seasonal averages and 2021 levels so far in 2022. Currently we are setting only small numbers of weekly traps, as mosquito populations are still low. However, recent rising population numbers and historical precedent tend to suggest that we are within a few weeks of significant increases in mosquito populations. As populations

rise, the number and geographical distribution of weekly surveillance traps will rise as well. By the next Board meeting we will most likely be very near our full operational level of weekly traps within the District. A very few *Aedes sierrensis* male mosquitoes (aka western treehole mosquitoes) have begun to show up in the traps. *Aedes sierrensis* mosquitoes are a significant pest species because of their aggressive feeding behavior on humans. They generate more mosquito nuisance service requests than any other mosquito species within the District. Also, these mosquitoes are known to be an important vector of canine heartworm in this area. Typically, they are only found in great abundance within the District from late March through about mid-June. The mosquito-borne diseases that are most likely to spread annually within California, West Nile virus and Saint Louis encephalitis, are not expected to be found within the District until summer. However, the *Culex spp.* mosquitoes that spread these diseases are coming out of aestivation (hibernation for bugs) and their numbers are increasing in our adult mosquito trap counts. The minimum mosquito sample size to test for mosquito-borne viruses is 12. One sample of 25 *Culex pipiens* mosquitoes was collected from a trap set on March 7 in south Redding. No samples have been sent to UC Davis for testing so far in 2022. Persistently dry, warm weather that has been in place since about Thanksgiving has suppressed adult tick populations, keeping them at or below seasonal averages. As spring approaches, the proportion of *Dermacentor spp.* ticks is rising among the total ticks throughout the District. *Dermacentor spp.* ticks are more tolerant of heat and drier conditions than *Ixodes pacificus* and will be found commonly in riparian areas at low and moderate elevations well into the summer. So far in the 2021 – 2022, tick collecting season the District has submitted 281 samples (pools) of from 3 to 5 *Ixodes pacificus* ticks each to Placer County MVCD to be tested for the presence of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causative agent for Lyme disease and *Borrelia miyamotoi*, a type of bacteria that can cause a relapsing fever disease. Test results are summarized at the very end of this report. The Scientific Operations Manager appeared as a guest on the Morning Show on KQMS radio, as he has on occasion for several years now, to talk about mosquito and vector issues and District activities. He was asked by the hosts if he would be willing to come on as a regular monthly guest on the program. He has agreed to come on the third Thursday of every month beginning on March 17. A great deal of time has been spent by the Scientific Operations Manager and Vector Biologist on new trap designs that are beginning to be incorporated into our weekly trapping routine. The Vector Biologist worked with a Vector Technician on developing a solar panel and protective structure for a BG Pro trap that is fitted with a device called a BG Counter. This trap can theoretically be permanently placed in the field where it can automatically count mosquitoes in real time. Mosquito counts are uploaded at 15-minute intervals to the cloud where they can be retrieved from an easily accessible website without the need to constantly visit the trap site. The Scientific Operations Manager has been working with the 3D printer to develop new, simple, compact, and inexpensive EVS trap. The traps are made of components that can be interchanged for use in other trap types, which are also being upgraded.

## 10. Committee Reports

- a) Executive – no report
- b) Financial –The Committee met to review the preliminary draft budget; we will refine some aspects of the budget for the next meeting. Due to contract negotiations, there will be an increase in Salaries and Benefits. Revenue looks to be positive for this coming fiscal budget. The full board will see the draft at the May board meeting.
- c) Personnel Committee- no report

## 11. Old Business:

## 12. New Business:

- a) Discussion and/or approval of the passage of a local resolution 2022-02 declaring April 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> California Mosquito Awareness Week– The District Manager stated California Mosquito Awareness Week is a good opportunity to promote mosquito and vector control and the important public health service they provide. With the passage of this Resolution by the District and the State legislature, we will reach out to other local government bodies to pass similar resolution language. We intend to also send a press release to correspond with the selected week. **A motion was made by Vice President Maron and seconded by Secretary Morningstar and it was agreed unanimously to approve of the passage of a local resolution 2022-02 declaring April 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> California Mosquito Awareness Week.**
- b) Discussion and/or Approval for the District Manager to attend the MVCAC Spring Quarterly Meeting in Sacramento, April 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at a cost not to exceed \$600.00 from the following accounts: #35949-Meals and #35950-Lodging -The District Manager stated the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) Spring Quarterly Meeting will be held in Sacramento, CA on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The quarterly meeting is an education and networking opportunity that consists of a Board of Directors and Committee meetings. This meeting provides ample opportunities to network with vector control professionals, researchers and educators. Currently the District Manager serves as the Association Past President and is a member of the IT committee and a member of the Regulatory Affairs Committee. **A motion was made by Trustee Hanna and seconded by Secretary Morningstar and it was agreed unanimously to approve the District Manager to attend the MVCAC Spring Quarterly Meeting in Sacramento, April 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at a cost not to exceed \$600.00 from the following accounts: #35949-Meals and #35950-Lodging.**
- c) Discussion and/or approval to sign the resolution for the Terms and Conditions of Employment for Exempt, Confidential Management Position(s). - The District Manager stated the District recently ratified the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for employees represented by UPEC Local 792. Therefore, the District typically amends the unrepresented employee terms and conditions of the employment to align with the MOU changes. We have been maintaining two separate agreements for confidential and exempt but are proposing to combine those agreements together with the recent realignment of the Operations Manager, Scientific Operations Manager, and the Administrative Manager. These terms will be in effect from March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Trustee Hanna stated he agreed with the alignment and confirmed that is how Shasta County approaches the unrepresented. **A motion was made by Secretary Morningstar and seconded by Trustee Hanna and it was agreed unanimously to approve to sign the resolution for the Terms and Conditions of Employment for Exempt, Confidential Management Position(s).**
- d) Discussion and/or Approval for the District Manager to attend the annual meeting of the Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases April 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Sacramento in an amount not to exceed \$850 per person from the following account numbers #35950 Lodging, and #35949 Meals. The District Manager stated the Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases (PacVec CoE) is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CoE is at both University of California, Davis, and Riverside. The center addresses the urgent public health challenges presented by ongoing spread of invasive vectors, exotic pathogens such as Zika virus, and several endemic pathogens transmitted by mosquitoes and ticks. PacVec investigators, along with public health and vector control partners, aim to increase the capacity of the United States to respond to vector-borne disease threats by applied research, training, and collaboration. **A motion was made by Trustee Hanna and seconded by Vice President Maron and it was agreed unanimously to approve the District Manager to attend the annual meeting of the**

**Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases April 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Sacramento in an amount not to exceed \$850 per person from the following account numbers #35950 Lodging, and #35949 Meals.**

- e) Discussion and or Approval to adopt the 2022 COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave Law (SB 114) during the period January 1st, 2022, to September 30th, 2022. The District Manager stated on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Governor Newsom signed the 2022 COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave Law (SB 114), which applies to all employers with 26 or more employees. The law is effective on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Employers are required to provide COVID-19 supplemental paid leave for qualifying leaves during the period January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The COVID-19 Supplemental Sick Leave (SPSL) applies when an employee is unable to work or telework due to one or more of the following reasons: The employee is subject to a quarantine or isolation period related to COVID-19, The employee has been advised by a healthcare provider to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. The employee is attending an appointment for themselves or a family member to receive a vaccine or vaccine booster for protection against COVID-19, subject to some limitations. The employee is experiencing symptoms or caring for a family member with symptoms related to a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine booster that prevents the employee from being able to work or telework. An employer may limit an employee's total leave for this reason to 3 days or 24 hours per vaccine or booster dose, including time taken to get a vaccine or booster under reason #3. The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and is seeking a medical diagnosis. The employee is caring for a family member who is subject to an order or guidance or who has been advised to isolate or quarantine. The employee is caring for a child who school, or place of care is closed related to COVID-19. The employee, or a family member for whom the employee is providing care, tests positive for COVID-19. Full-time employees are entitled to up to 40 hours of COVID-19 SPSL. Full-time employees are entitled to an additional 40 hours of SPSL upon showing a positive COVID-19 test for the employee or a family member. Although our District falls under the 26-employee mark, when seasonals are hired we do reach 22-23 employees. Additionally, for the safety and well-being of District staff it seems reasonable to encourage people to take necessary steps and precautions when sick. **A motion was made by Vice President Maron and seconded by Secretary Morningstar and it was agreed unanimously to approve to adopt the 2022 COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave Law (SB 114) during the period January 1st, 2022, to September 30th, 2022.**
- f) Discussion and or Approval to move meetings to include an in-person option- The District Manager stated with restrictions lessening and hopefully COVID transmission slowing, it is prudent for the Board to begin discussions regarding Board and Committee meetings with in-person attendance options. Staff have discussed the potential options and would offer the following for Board discussion. Continue with meetings as 100% remote with an agenda item on each Board agenda regarding the decision for the next meeting. Return to 100% in-person meetings. Provide a hybrid option, where attendees can either attend in-person or continue from a remote location. This option would also require an agenda item as each board meeting to discuss whether to continue this option for the next meeting. Staff can support any of the three options that are being presented. District staff currently have all the needed technology and licenses to facilitate all the presented options. Discussion followed. It was agreed upon that the board will continue with a hybrid model for the foreseeable future.

**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).* Secretary Morningstar stated that she attended City of Shasta Lake board meeting and they discussed water restrictions and they may not allow filling of pools. The District Manager stated we will reach out to the city as well as other entities to find out what they will be implementing and find a way for us to get our messaging out about mosquitoes. The District Manager added that ACID will have a 25% reduction of water flow as well as not filling canal.

**14. ADJOURNMENT –**

**Upcoming Events and SMVCD Office Schedule:**

- *April 17-23, 2022, California Mosquito Awareness Week*
- *April 19, 2022, SMVCD Regular Board of Trustees Meeting*
- *April 22, 2022, Lighting of the Bridge & Booth*
- *April 23, 2022, Turtle Bay Museum Booth*
- *May 17, 2022, SMVCD Regular Board of Trustees Meeting*

*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 2:07 p.m.**

MINUTES APPROVED:

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