

## MAY 12, 2022 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees was called to order by Board President Harris at 4:30 P.M., Thursday, May 12, 2022.

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

**ABSENT:** Trustee Link

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

**EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Minutes of April 14, 2022

B. Bills for April 2022

C. Merit increase for Kayla Valencia, Administrative Manager. Valencia is being recommended for a salary increase effective May 1, 2022. The salary increase will be from step 3 to step 4 Administrative Manager in the salary range schedule.

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

**RESOLUTION 05-12-22: REQUEST FOR THE 2nd INSTALLMENT OF YUBA COUNTY TAXES:** A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Ghag approving Resolution 05-12-22. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL TO DEPOSIT FUNDS FROM THE SALE OF SURPLUS ITEMS INTO DISTRICT REVENUE ACCOUNT:** Approval is needed to deposit proceeds from the sale of surplus items at Bidcal Auction in the amount of \$7,347.49. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Schmidl to deposit funds from sale of surplus items in the amount of \$7,347.49 into District Revenue account, number 47500; Other Revenue. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF A ROTH OPTION IN THE EXISTING DISTRICT 457B DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN:** This would provide an employee directed option, with no additional cost to the District. The CalPERS Board approved a Roth option plan that allows an employee to direct monies to a Roth retirement account. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving the CalPERS Roth option for employees. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**FISH FARM LEASE RENEWAL AND INCREASE IN ANNUAL LEASE AMOUNT PER ACRE:** Approval for a lease extension on the Barker fish farm property in Nicolaus with Mrs. Betty Barker and Mr. Larry Koshman, heirs to the original owners. The current lease for the Barker fish rearing facility ends June 30, 2022. Mrs. Betty Barker owns one parcel which consists of 10 acres of the facility, and is requesting a three year lease as she is undecided as to her future needs. Mr. Koshman owns two parcels, a total of 18 acres of the facility, and is interested in another five year lease. The lease rate for the previous five year lease period was \$400 per acre. Abshier noted we have done research on current cash lease rates for irrigated farm ground in the area. According to USDA, cash rent rates for cropland range from \$400-\$500 per acre. We have spoken with local rice growers that advised cash rent rates range from \$500-\$600 per acre for the current year, dependent upon water source and availability. The District has a first right of refusal should the family decide to sell the property. If the District decided not to purchase the property, the lease states that the District shall return the property to level which could be very costly. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Ghag to lease the Barker fish rearing property at a yearly rate of \$500 per acre. The lease with Mrs. Betty Barker for one, ten acre parcel shall be for a period of three years. The lease with Mr.Koshman for 18 acres in two parcels will be for a period of five years. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT TO REGRADE AND REPAVE DRIVING AND PARKING AREAS WITHIN THE DISTRICT YARD:** This item was tabled from the April Board meeting. A contract with Big S Asphalt has been reviewed by District legal counsel, Brant Bordsen. Bordsen was not satisfied with the language contained in the previous contract. Abshier noted he had contacted MHM Engineering to have a new contract drawn that includes the contract, work plan, and all required permits. The new contract has been reviewed and approved by Bordsen. The contract amount is set at \$205,730, which is \$6,000 lower than original contract of \$211,730 due to the District paying MHM Engineering for their services. Big S Asphalt agreed to remove this fee from their bid. The contract provides an itemized list of work to be completed including, grinding, paving, compacting, striping, ADA compliant parking, and disposal of waste materials. All required Workers Comp Insurance, Public Works Project Performance Bond, and a \$3,000,000 liability insurance policy are included in the contract. The project is slated to begin in late June. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Kirchner approving the regrading and repaving project with Big S Asphalt in the amount of \$205,730. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**MANAGER COMMENTS:** Three counties have detected West Nile Virus activity in California for 2022. Fresno, Orange, and Riverside counties have each reported one positive mosquito pool.

New Jersey Light Trap counts are pretty low and in line with our 10 year average. No increase was observed over last week. Sutter County rice acreage could be down as much as 50%, due to decreased water availability. Less rice acreage doesn't necessarily equate to fewer mosquitoes. Typically, we tend to see higher densities of mosquito larvae in years with a limited water supply.

Our invasive *Aedes* surveillance trapping program began this year in early May. In 2021, we had adult mosquito detections in six different locations in Yuba City. Oviposition cups have been placed in the areas that had the invasive detections in 2021.

Abshier also noted:

- Fog routes will begin as justified by trap data, town routes typically begin just before the Fourth of July. Agriculture area routes and aircraft missions begin a little earlier in June.
- Aircraft missions on the outskirts of Wheatland are in the plans for this season, targeting mosquitoes before they reach urban areas of Wheatland.
- The VCJPA Member Contingency Funds balance as of March 31, 2022 is \$350,142. The prudent balance recommended amount is \$172,114. The fund is designed to preserve funds. It typically earns .25% to .75%. There is no advantage to being over funded. Excess funds can be requested at any time and could be used in our retirement program.
- The replacement pickup for one that was a total loss last year was delivered April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Historically, two Board members have met with employee representatives, prior to the June Board meeting, to discuss personnel requests for the upcoming budget year. Employees have requested their representatives meet with the full Board. The Board requested Abshier contact Legal counsel Bordsen for an opinion concerning employees meeting with the full Board. If necessary Harris and Sanbrook volunteered to meet with employees one hour before the regular Board meeting, on Thursday, June 9 to hear their requests.
- The annual USFWS meeting via teleconference will be scheduled soon. Topics will include: approval/disapproval of new pesticides, personnel changes, and water outlook for 2022, which is projected to be cut by up to 50%. The lower water allotment will result in fewer cells being irrigated this summer and a slower, later fall flood up.

- A half page ad highlighting our green pool surveillance program will run in the Territorial Dispatch on May 27, 2022.
- A full page Appeal-Democrat ad highlighting our green pool surveillance program is set to appear in the May 28, 2022 weekender edition.
- The green pool surveillance flight is slated for late May.
- Three permanent and three seasonal employees will test with CDPH on May 19, 2022.
- Seasonal staff began work on May 2, 2022.
- Staff are inspecting spring sources, waste tires, catch basins, and preparing equipment for the spray season.
- Radio advertisement proofs have been received; they are ready for airing in mid-June.
- Staff is training several new seasonal employees.
- Most of the summer staff will begin work by May 23, 2022.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:** Trustee Guzman asked to have employee requests available to the Board in advance of the June Board meeting.

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

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John Sanbrook, Board Secretary