

## **JULY 8, 2021 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, July 8, 2021.

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

**ABSENT:** Guzman

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

**EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEM:** None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Minutes of June 10, 2021
- B. Bills for June 2021
- C. Merit increase for Jessica Farrell, Administrative Assistant. Farrell has completed her one year probationary period and is being recommended for a salary increase effective July 1, 2021. The salary increase will be from step 1 to step 2 for Administrative Assistant in the salary range schedule.

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

**925 MARKET STREET PROPERTY LEASE AGREEMENT:** Board approval to lease the 925 Market Street property to Sharpe Software, beginning July 1, 2021. Abshier noted he had recently spoken with Mr. Ontiveros, owner of Sharpe Software. He explained since the Covid 19 shutdowns his staff is working remotely. He added, he is hopeful the in person software training may resume soon. Due to the uncertain future, he is asking for a one year lease at the current rate of \$1,696 per month. Abshier noted Sharpe has leased the 925 Market Street property since 1999 and has been a great tenant. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Link approving a one year lease of 925 Market Street property to Sharpe Software for \$1,696 per month. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN INVESTMENTS AS OF JUNE 29, 2021:** Ken Meyers of Meyers Investment Group was unable to attend; he provided a snapshot of the District's portfolio. The District's portfolio year to date is up 9.55%. Meyers noted Hahn MID Cap was the top performing stock, up 17.1% followed by SunCoast up 16.11% and the DFA fund portfolio which is up 12.93%. The Pimco bond portfolio has had modest losses down 1.39% this year. Long term bonds have been hit hard; down 9% for the year. Meyers noted overall we are doing well and recommended we make no changes at this time. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Ghag approving the quarterly review of the District's Defined Benefit Plan. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**PROPOSITION 4 APPROPRIATION LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022:** A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Harris to open the Proposition 4 Appropriation Limit public hearing. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Board President Harris opened the public hearing. No members of the public were present. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Ghag to close the Proposition 4 Appropriation Limit public hearing. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Board President Harris closed the public hearing. Abshier explained that the 2020-2021 appropriation limit was \$6,373,202. The limit for the 2021-2022 budget is \$6,811,041. CPI is one of the factors used in setting the limit. CPI is the change in personal income. Our budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 is based on projected revenue and is far below the appropriation limit.

**FINAL BUDGET APPROVAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022:** Board members were provided with the 2021-2022 final budget. The Salaries and Benefits portion of the budget reflects a 5.2% decrease or \$107,748 lower than the approved budget for 2020-2021. The decrease is largely due to a significantly lower contribution than last year for fully funding the defined benefit plan. The pension contribution amount is set at \$75,000, up from \$25,000 in the preliminary budget. The actuary is recommending \$37,496 to remain at the 100% fully funded level. The final budget has a COLA increase of 3.5%, including a 3.5% COLA for the manager. The budget for Health, Dental and Vision includes a 3.3% increase to health insurance rates, a 0.7% increase to dental rates and no increase to vision insurance rates. The Services and Supplies portion of the budget reflects a 5.3% increase, or \$84,856 over the approved budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Increasing pesticide costs, some services, insurance costs and earlier timed applications for *Culex* mosquitoes can be attributed to the increase. The Fixed Assets

portion of the budget reflects a 40% increase or \$77,150 higher than the approved budget for 2020-2021. The majority of the increase can be attributed to the cost of the asphalt restoration project. The 2020-2021 asphalt project Appropriated Reserve amount of \$85,000 will be brought into the operating budget. These changes increased Total Expenditures by 1.4% or \$55,808 over 2020-2021, to \$4,049,590. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Link approving the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget of \$4,049,590. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL TO RENEW THE CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP WITH THE MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (MVCAC) FOR THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR:** Abshier stated we are in a tiered system where Districts with operating budgets between three million and five million pay \$10,500 in annual dues. We get a lot of value with our membership. Abshier noted it is a well-run program, providing research, lobbying and the data collection program Calsurv. The MVCAC was instrumental in securing state funding for the Calsurv program which we rely on for District data collection of mosquito abundance, dead bird surveillance and our pesticide applications. Other states are using Calsurv as a model in implementing similar programs. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Schmidl approving renewal of our Corporate Membership in the MVCAC at \$10,500. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL TO RENEW THE AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION (AMCA) MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR:** Annual dues are calculated through a formula using a percentage of the operating budget. The dues for 2021-2022 are \$2,075. Much of the AMCA's work involves lobbying Congress for members. The association was instrumental in securing funding for the SMASH act. We are able to watch required continuing education videos free of charge. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Ghag approving the renewal of our membership with the AMCA for \$2,075. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF A CAL CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR;** Abshier noted Cal Chamber is a valuable resource for HR issues and legislation, free or low cost webinars and a free workplace poster. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving a membership with Cal Chamber for \$649, for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A SIDE BY SIDE MULTI USE VEHICLE;** Two bids were received for a Honda Pioneer 700 SXS. One bid from Work and Play Powersports in Yuba City came in at \$12,761.94 with Gridley Honda bidding \$13,234.43 for the Honda Pioneer 700. Additionally Yuba City Motorsports provided a bid for a Kawasaki Mule Pro MX at \$12,029.77. Abshier noted the Honda weighs 300 hundred pounds less and has a 400 hundred pound higher payload than the Kawasaki. The lower vehicle weight and higher payload is a plus given the muddy conditions in which we typically use the SXS. The new SXS will be replacing a 2008 Polaris which has a variable power transmission that tends to burn drive belts when it loses traction in muddy conditions. The Polaris also lacks a speedometer and is experiencing some overheating issues. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Ghag approving the purchase of a Honda 700 Side x Side Multi Use Vehicle from Work and Play Powersports, Yuba City for \$12,761.94. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**MANAGER COMMENTS:** Statewide there has been one horse, thirty-five dead birds and 115 mosquito pools test positive for WNV. No WNV has been detected in our District although WNV activity has been detected in several surrounding counties. The New Jersey Mosquito Trap counts are at or below the 10 year average for *Culex tarsalis*, *pipiens* and *Anopheles freeborni*. Abshier reminded the Board that the *tarsalis* is the mosquito of concern for West Nile transmission. Abundance numbers from these traps drive the decision making on when to begin adulticide spraying. This year our strategy was to begin spraying early. There is evidence that suggests early spraying can dramatically reduce the number of mosquitoes at their normal peak. Drought conditions can typically result in higher mosquito densities and WNV infection rates with birds and mosquitoes being concentrated at the limited water supply.

Invasive *Aedes* trapping is ongoing; no detections have been made thus far this year. Oviposition traps are deployed in the areas where we had invasive detections last year. Additionally, we have expanded trapping to include all local plant nurseries. Mid-August is typical for detection in our area.

District staff has begun visiting neglected pools where photo evidence shows a potential for mosquito production. In Sutter County, 206 pools were marked as suspect. Inspections and or treatments have been made to 83 pools thus far. Staff has 123 pools left to be inspected. In Yuba County, 116 pools were marked as suspect. Inspections or treatments have been made to 18 pools. Staff has 98 pools left to be inspected.

Mosquitofish harvesting has been completed for planting of rice fields for mosquito control. We have harvested 1,152 lbs. of fish, lower than last year's harvest due primarily to heavy bird depredation. We are planning a project to cover four additional ponds this winter.

We are about one third through the Bti rice field larviciding program. As of Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 39,613 acres of rice has been treated. At the end of the program in early August, about 100,000 acres of rice will be treated.

Currently, adulticide spraying by ground truck has covered 28,256 acres. Adulticide spraying by air has covered 95,755 acres.

Field cage tests are planned for next week to evaluate the efficacy of our aerial adulticide. The tests are conducted by placing caged wild caught and lab reared susceptible mosquitoes side by side within the spray area. Spinning slides are used to monitor spray droplet deposition, for size and density. Field cage tests using ground application equipment will be done in the near future.

Bottle Bio Assays are planned for next week to test for resistance of Malathion, Permethrin and Pyrethrin. These tests are conducted by Blosser, District Entomologist, in the District lab.

A summer employee backed into a submersible pump at an almond orchard south of McGowan road in the Olivehurst area. The collision left the pump inoperable and caused upwards of \$9,000 damage to the vehicle. There was no reason for the employee to be backing up when the collision occurred, we met with the employee and he was dismissed. Abshier spoke with the orchard owner Karm Bains and his father Surrinder; he apologized and assured them we would take care of all expenses to return their pump to its original condition. Bains expressed concern as he was to begin irrigating his orchard that day and high temperatures were in the forecast. The PVC portion of the damage of the pump has been repaired; the damage to the well portion will be evaluated at a later date. Abshier spoke to Franz Neiderholzer, UC Cooperative Extension Service orchard expert, concerning possible damage to the trees due to the delay in irrigation. Mr. Neiderholzer is planning to meet with Bains to inspect for possible damage; the irrigation was delayed by three days before the pump was repaired.

Ten of California MVCD's signed on to a letter seeking EPA approval for a trial with OxiTec. OxiTec provides eggs of the *Aedes aegypti* that will produce sterile males. Nearby Districts which have signed on include Shasta, Sac/Yolo and San Joaquin. The EPA has previously approved OxiTec use in Florida and Texas.

Abshier also noted:

- Staff is busy answering requests for service, planting mosquitofish in miscellaneous sources, checking green swimming pools, and monitoring pastures for mosquito production.
- The MVCAC meeting will be held July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via teleconference.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:** None

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

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John Sanbrook, Board Secretary