

## JULY 14, 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, July 14, 2022.

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

**ABSENT:** Guzman and Kirchner

**ALSO PRESENT:** Manager Abshier, General Foreman Hunt and Ken Meyers of Meyers Investment Group

**EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEM:** None.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Minutes of June 9, 2022
- B. Bills for June 2022
- C. Merit increase for Jessica Farrell, Administrative Assistant. Farrell is being recommended for a salary increase effective July 1, 2022. The salary increase will be from step 2 to step 3 for Administrative Assistant in the salary range schedule.
- D. Merit increase for Carlos Mendoza, Mosquito Control Technician I. Mendoza is being recommended for a salary increase effective July 1, 2022. The salary increase will be from step 1 to step 2 for Mosquito Control Technician I 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.

**QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN INVESTMENTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2022:** Ken Meyers of Meyers Investment Group provided a snapshot of the District's portfolio. The District's portfolio year to date is down 15.03%. Meyers noted BIM mid/Cap is down 29.47%, Hahn MID Cap is down 22.65% and Sun Coast is down 24.59%. One bright spot is Millennium/Partners up 1.9% YTD. Meyers noted, historically (1930-2021) after a down market in the first half of the year, the market has rebounded by an average of 23.78% in the second half of the year. Sanbrook asked Meyers if we should stay the course. Meyers advised he is recommending staying the course with one exception, moving \$70,000 from Rational Special Situations Income Fund to Cliffwater Corporate Lending Fund. Cliffwater lends to mid-sized companies. They are receiving 7.25% interest currently. Meyers added there is still a huge amount of cash on the sidelines waiting to be invested. Mr. Meyers is able to make investment changes without Board approval per the District's Investment Policy Statement. A motion was made by Link 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 2022-2023:** Board President Harris opened the public hearing on the appropriation limit. No members of the public were present. Board President Harris closed the public hearing. Abshier explained that last year's, 2021-2022 appropriation limit was \$6,811,041. The limit for the 2022-2023 fiscal year is \$7,351,157, an increase of 7.9%. CPI is one of the factors used in setting the limit. CPI measures changes over time, in the prices paid by consumers. Our budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 is based on projected revenue of \$4.4 million which is far below the appropriation limit. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Sanbrook approving the Proposition 4 Appropriation Limit of \$7,351,157 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**FINAL BUDGET APPROVAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023:** Board members were provided with the 2022-2023 final budget. The Salaries and Benefits portion of the budget reflects a 10.0% increase or \$209,178 higher than the approved budget for 2021-2022. The increase is largely due to adding two, Mosquito Control Tech I (MCT) positions. One will fill the vacancy left by the transfer of an MCT to fill the new Vector Ecologist position in April of 2022. The other will be a new MCT hire. The 2022-2023 final budget includes a 5% cost of living for all permanent employees. Included in the budget is a \$0.50 increase per hour for all seasonal and summer employees beginning July 1, 2022. Additionally included is a 10% increase for potential health insurance rate changes on January 1, 2023. The actuarially determined annual pension contribution amount was increased to \$61,122. The updated portfolio balance through June 30, 2022 changed the earlier calculation of \$52,968 that was provided for the preliminary budget. In the final budget, \$75,000 has been included for the pension contribution. As of July 1, 2022 the pension portfolio is 124% funded. The Services and Supplies portion of the budget

reflects a 10.7% increase, or \$180,025 over the approved budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. With some adult mosquito control pesticide manufacturers continuing to face raw material availability issues, finished product remains in short supply. This budget will allow us to purchase nearly all of our pesticide needs for the 2023 mosquito season. Increasing pesticide costs, some services, insurance costs and earlier timed applications for *Culex* mosquitoes and controlling invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes can also be attributed to the increase. The Fixed Assets portion of the budget reflects a 35% decrease, or \$94,500 lower than the approved budget for FY 2021-2022. The budget will cover costs to purchase the Cab and Chassis truck (approved last fiscal year, but not yet delivered), a new adult mosquito fogger, a fogger spray head motor, the remaining costs of the asphalt project and bird exclusion netting for the fencing project at the fish farm. The total budgeted District expenditures for fiscal 2022-2023 reflects an increase of 7.3% or \$294,253 over the approved budget amount for fiscal year 2021-2022. The total Final Budget for 2022-2023 is set at \$4,343,843. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Link approving the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget of \$4,343,843. 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 2022-2023 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, mosquito-borne virus surveillance, and our pesticide applications. Other states are using CalSurv as a model in implementing similar programs. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Link 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 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR:** Annual dues are calculated through a formula using a percentage of the member's operating budget. The dues for 2022-2023 are \$2,075, unchanged from last year. 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 Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving the renewal of our membership with the AMCA for \$2,075. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF A CAL CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2022-2023 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. Cal Chamber has been a tremendous source of Covid information pertaining to supplemental paid leave and exclusion pay. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving a membership with Cal Chamber for \$699, for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A CLARKE PROMIST DURA, ADULT MOSQUITO FOGGER:** California is on course to phase out the sale of new small gasoline powered equipment in the near future. We have been successfully using electric foggers for 20+ years. The Clarke ProMist foggers have performed well over the years. The foggers typically last us around seven to eight years. The customer service that we receive from Clarke has been outstanding. The only other electric fogger option is the Curtis L30. We had three of their units in the past and we were less than impressed with their customer service. The Clarke ProMist Dura is priced at \$19,650.36 with the Curtis L30 coming in at \$17,177.51. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Link approving the purchase of a Clarke ProMist Dura at \$19,650.36. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO AN AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR EVALUATING SUB-TENANT CANDIDATES: SUB-TENANT CANDIDATES INTERESTED IN SHARING SPACE AT 925 MARKET STREET WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE, AND MAY BE RECOMMENDED TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL:** Board members Guzman and Harris were selected to be on the Ad Hoc Committee to oversee the sub-tenant leasing of the 925 Market Street property. Schmidl was selected to be the alternate. We have a six month lease with Sharpe software which began July 1, 2022. All sub-tenant lease agreements will include a morality clause. Potential sub-tenants will be reviewed by the Ad Hoc committee and may be recommended to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Schmidl appointing Guzman, Harris and alternate Schmidl as members to the Ad Hoc Committee. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**MANAGER COMMENTS:** Statewide, no humans or horses have tested positive for WNV. Twenty dead birds and 222 mosquito pools have tested positive for WNV. We have had one dead bird and one mosquito pool test positive in Sutter County. No positive WNV detections have been made in Yuba County. 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. We have had four egg detections in Tierra Buena and one in Shanghai Bend areas. Weekly adulticiding and larviciding missions are being conducted in these areas. Additionally, In2Care traps are also being deployed.

District staff has begun visiting neglected pools where photo evidence shows a potential for mosquito production. In Sutter County, 216 pools were marked as suspect. Inspections and or treatments have been made to 198 pools thus far. Staff has 18 pools left to be inspected. In Yuba County, 198 pools were marked as suspect. Inspections or treatments have been made to 176 pools. Staff has 22 pools left to be inspected.

Mosquitofish harvesting has been completed for planting of rice fields for mosquito control. We have harvested 1,697 lbs. of fish, 545 pounds higher than last year's harvest. We will be beginning the project to cover four additional ponds this fall to exclude predatory birds.

We are about half way through the BTI rice field larviciding program. As of Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 61,232 acres of rice has been treated. At the end of the program in early August, about 102,000 acres of rice will be treated.

Currently, adulticide spraying by ground truck has covered 62,851 acres. Adulticide spraying by air has covered 95,343 acres.

Bottle Bio Assays are planned for the next few weeks to test for resistance in Malathion, Naled, Permethrin, Sumethrin, Deltamethrin and Entofenprox. These tests will be conducted by Erik Blosser, District Entomologist, in the District lab. An aerial Pyrethrin trial along with an Evergreen ground trial is planned for later this month.

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 summer meeting will be held July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 online.
- The Y-S Fair booth focused on invasive *Aedes*, West Nile Virus and our control measures. Attendance was low. We are planning to add a prize wheel, stickers, pencil/pens, and other promotional materials to increase engagement.
- Requests have been low so far this year.
- Big S asphalt has completed the asphalt project, on budget at \$205,730. They did a great job.
- The Feather River Levee West Assessment Ballot measure passed by a margin of 52%.
- The Annual Conference will be held in Anaheim, January 29-February 1, 2023. This conference will fill up fast when reservations open. Please let us know if anyone has interest in attending.

**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