

## **AUGUST 12, 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, August 12, 2021.

**PRESENT:** Secretary Sanbrook, Link, Kirchner and Guzman

**BY TELEPHONE:** President Harris, Ghag and Schmidl

**ABSENT:** None

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

**EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS:** None

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Minutes of July 8, 2021
- B. Bills for July 2021
- C. Merit increase for Tim Houser, Field Foreman: Mr. Houser is being recommended for a salary increase to be effective August 1, 2021. The salary increase will be from step 3 to step 4 of the salary range schedule for Field Foreman.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE SUTTER-YUBA MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL ACTUARIAL REPORT AND DETERMINATION FOR THE PLAN YEAR JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022:** Abshier referenced the Evergreen Retirement Plan Consulting report, which recommended a contribution of \$37,496 for the current plan year. The Board previously approved a \$75,000 contribution in the 2021-2022 budget in July. Abshier noted three plan participants remain, with one having reached regular retirement age and no longer earning benefits. The Defined Benefit Plan is currently funded at 136%. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Ghag to approve the report and the budgeted annual contribution of \$75,000 to the Defined Benefit Plan. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL RATES FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022:** Abshier noted the preliminary amount budgeted for in June was for a 10% increase. The actual health insurance rate increase came in at 3.3% and the final budget was amended to accommodate the smaller increase. This increase is being attributed to recent high dollar claims and increased costs associated with Covid 19. Abshier noted after exploring other health insurance options as directed by Trustees last year, SDRMA premiums were identical to Golden State Risk Authority, the group used by the Butte County MVCD. Abshier added we are fortunate to have joined the SDRMA, providing the purchasing power of a group rather than purchasing insurance on our own. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Kirchner approving the 3.3% increase in health insurance rates for 2022. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**DENTAL INSURANCE RENEWAL RATES FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022:** A proposed increase of 0.7% is planned for dental coverage for 2022. The premium is guaranteed through January 1, 2023. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Link approving the 0.7% premium increase for dental coverage. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**VISION INSURANCE RENEWAL RATES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022:** No premium increase is proposed for vision coverage for 2022. The rate is guaranteed through January 1, 2026. A motion was made by Kirchner and seconded by Guzman approving the annual vision insurance premium. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL TO RENEW THE AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION (AMCA) MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR:**

We were notified of an increase in our annual dues over the amount approved at the July Board meeting. The renewal amount is \$2,733.47 an increase of \$658.47 or 31.7% over last year. The dues are based on the District's annual budget. 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, which over a two year cycle amounts to hundreds of dollars of savings for the District. Trustees expressed concern over the 30% increase, stating it was a huge one year increase. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Link to approve the renewal of the AMCA membership for 2021-2022 fiscal year. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**MANAGER COMMENTS:** Statewide there have been eight human cases, 109 dead birds, 770 mosquito samples, ten sentinel chickens and one horse test positive for WNV.

Abshier reported on West Nile virus activity in the District. In Sutter County, the State is reporting no human cases, zero positive dead birds and nine positive mosquito pools. No sentinel chickens have sero-converted. In Yuba County, none of the tested dead birds have tested positive, while four mosquito pools have come back positive. No sentinel chickens have sero-converted. The *Culex tarsalis* numbers are coming down and *pipiens* numbers are low compared to the ten year average. *Anopheles* numbers are low with the peak typically coming near the Labor Day holiday. Our aerial larviciding program has been completed with 99,271 acres treated. We have treated 116,652 with ground truck adulticide applications. Thus far, 243,163 acres have been treated with adulticides by air. We switched from Evergreen to Trumpet by air the week of the August 26th. Trumpet is the most effective material we have. It is a heavier material, coming down to hit target areas more predictably.

- Our aerial swimming pool surveillance program is complete in Sutter County which had 210 suspect pools with 39 requiring treatment. Yuba County had 112 suspect pools with 11 requiring treatment. No warrants were needed to gain entry in either county.
- Field cage tests to evaluate the adulticide Evergreen, applied by truck mounted fogger and by air was conducted. The results were really good with 90% control by ground application. The aerial test was not very successful due to poor wind conditions at the time of application.
- A field cage test was conducted to evaluate the efficacy of Pyronyl, a natural Pyrethrin adulticide. The product was applied by air. The results were excellent with over 90% control.
- Bottle bio-assays have been performed using Malathion, Pyrethrin and Permethrin. The assays are a method of testing for resistance conducted in the District lab using wild caught mosquitoes. The results are still being analyzed and should be available soon.
- Abshier advised that our media outreach is ongoing. Several articles have appeared in the Appeal-Democrat. Advertising continues on radio stations, KUBA, KKCY, 93Q and Rhythm 105. Many people are sharing our posts on Facebook which are viewed by thousands.
- Smith and Newell's annual audit is set for August 24th.
- As of June 30, 2021, the VCJPA Member Contingency Fund balance was \$367,010, an increase of \$1,750 over last quarter.
- An invasive *Aedes aegypti* detection has been made in the Tierra Buena area. The detection resulted from a report of an odd mosquito by a resident. We will begin wide area larviciding treatments (WALS) next week. The WALS treatments target cryptic or hidden sources where the invasive mosquitoes prefer lay their eggs. A total of six treatments are planned for the detection area. The treatments will be made weekly for four weeks, then bi-weekly for two more treatments. The adulticing route in the area will also be increased to twice per week.
- Next week, we will lose some of our summer help, as they begin returning to school.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:** Guzman asked if we were spraying individual houses in the Wheatland area. Abshier advised that individual houses that are within town fogging areas, District wide, were not being treated.

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

---

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary