

AUGUST 13, 2020 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 13, 2020.

PRESENT: Secretary Sanbrook, Schmidl, Guzman and Cleveland.

BY TELEPHONE: President Harris and Ghag.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Abshier and General Foreman Hunt

EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of July 9, 2020
- B. Bills for July 2020
- C. Merit increase for Tim Houser, Field Foreman: Mr. Houser has completed one year of service and is being recommended for a salary increase to be effective August 1, 2020. The salary increase will be from step 2 to step 3 of the salary range schedule for Field Foreman.

A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag 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, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021: Abshier referenced the Albion Actuarial report, which recommended a contribution between \$125,940 and \$249,856 for the current plan year. The Board previously approved a \$171,282 contribution in the 2020-2021 budget in July. This represents an increase of \$80,255 over the 2019-2020 contribution of \$91,027. The Defined Benefit Plan is currently funded at 101%. A motion was made by Cleveland and seconded by Schmidl to approve the report and the budgeted annual contribution of \$171,282 to the Defined Benefit Plan. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL RATES FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021: SDRMA notified us two days prior to the July Board meeting that if changes were to be made to the District plan, they would need them by August 13, 2020. Abshier noted the preliminary amount budgeted for in June was 7%. Two days before the July Board meeting, we were notified the actual increase will be 10.5%. The 10.5%, \$29,676 increase was included in the final budget approved at the July meeting. This increase is being attributed to recent high dollar claims and increased costs associated with Covid 19. The Board directed Abshier to explore other health insurance options for next year. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Guzman approving the health insurance rates for 2021 at \$310,500 annually. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

DENTAL INSURANCE RENEWAL RATES FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021: If changes are to be made to the District plan, SDRMA is requesting those by August 13, 2020. A proposed annual increase of 3.6% or \$428.40 would bring the new dental premium to \$12,201 annually. The premium is guaranteed through January 1, 2022. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Sanbrook approving the \$12,201 premium for dental coverage. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

VISION INSURANCE RENEWAL RATES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021: If changes are to be made to the District plan, SDRMA is requesting those be made by August 13, 2020. A 1% or \$15.48 annual premium increase is being proposed for vision insurance, bringing the annual premium to \$1,691.52. The rate is guaranteed through January 1, 2022. A motion was made by

Schmidl and seconded by Sanbrook approving the \$1691.52 annual vision insurance premium. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT: A draft aid agreement between Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Sutter-Yuba MVCD has been reviewed by VCJPA legal. Signors to the agreement would be able to request aid or respond to a request for aid, at the discretion of each District manager. A mutual aid agreement may be needed in the event we had a Covid 19 illness and were required to quarantine several employees. The agreement would allow for reimbursement of labor and all materials. We would not be required to provide assistance; but it would open an avenue if the need arose. Butte and Colusa have already approved the agreement and Glenn's Board will consider the measure this week. A motion was made by Cleveland and seconded by Sanbrook approving the mutual aid agreement with Butte, Colusa and Glenn MVCD's. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF NECESSARY 2019-2020 BUDGET TRANSFERS: Board action is required to transfer funds between Other Charges and Fixed Assets. A budget transfer is necessary to cover an increase in the amount Sutter County charges to collect the District's monies. The amount charged exceeded the amount budgeted by \$1,209. The transfer would be from Fixed Assets, Structures and Grounds 54502 to Other Charges, Treasury Fee 53401. The Board questioned how the fee is calculated. Abshier said he would inquire with Sutter County. The Board also directed Abshier to inquire with Yuba County to determine the amount they charge to collect the District's monies. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Cleveland approving the fund transfer of \$1,209 from Fixed Assets, Grounds and Structures 54502 to Other Charges, Treasury Fees 53401. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

BOARD DIRECTION ON THE CALIFORNIA RICELANDS WATERBIRD FOUNDATION, BID4BIRDS SHOREBIRD HABITAT PROGRAM: Participants will begin a 2-4 inch flood up on harvested rice or fallow fields as early as late August, creating the potential for increased vectors and mosquito-borne disease. Board approval is sought for the District to recover costs similar to agreements with local duck clubs. *Culex* species are typically found in large numbers in the late fall due to the lack of water sources. The landowner agrees to notify the District of planned flooding, provide access and pay for the cost of materials. The District agrees to cover all others costs incurred. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Schmidl approving landowner agreements for the California Ricelands Waterbird program to recover costs of materials. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MANAGER COMMENTS:

Abshier reported on West Nile virus activity in the District. In Sutter County, the State is reporting zero positive dead birds, eight positive mosquito pools plus three more today. No sentinel chickens have sero-converted. In Yuba County, none of the tested dead birds have tested positive, while one mosquito pool has 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 104,085 acres treated. We have treated 98,183 with ground truck adulticide applications. Thus far, 253,873 acres have been treated with adulticides by air. We switched from Evergreen to Trumpet by air last week. Trumpet is an organophosphate and is the most effective material we have. It is a heavier material, coming down to hit target areas more predictably.

- Our mosquitofish harvest has been completed with 1,811 pounds seined, slightly less than the 2,272 pounds harvested in 2019. A harvest between 1,800- 2,000 pounds is considered an excellent year. Thanks to Darrell Jew for the continued success of our fish program.
- Our aerial swimming pool surveillance program is complete in Sutter County which had 293 suspect pools with 28 requiring treatment. One pool required the use of an inspection warrant to gain access. Yuba County had 165 suspect pools with 21 requiring treatment thus far, 18 pools remain to be inspected.

- A field cage test to evaluate a new material Evergreen, applied by truck mounted fogger was conducted. The results were really good with 100% control out to 300 feet.
- A field cage test on our new town material Perm-X ULV 31-66 was conducted with mixed results. We didn't have good control possibly due to the low wind speed at the time of application (1.7 mph). The material that impinged on the spinner slides was very encouraging showing the material is getting where we want it and the proper amounts needed for control. A 2-3 mph wind is needed to push the material through the test cage material. We conducted a test using a handheld fogger which pushed the material through the cage and resulted in 100% control.
- We purchased BG counter mosquito trap which is able to count and record mosquito numbers in 15 minute increments. This will allow us to monitor peak feeding activity of certain species.
- We received the A1 aerosolizer machine which would be used in the case of invasive mosquito detection.
- The District's new sign has been installed.
- We received one new ProMist Dura fogger replacing an old unit.
- 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, 2020, the VCJPA Member Contingency Fund balance was \$368,152. The balance increased 1.5% from last quarter.
- Abshier participated in a phone meeting with neighboring mosquito District's and Lundberg Family Farms to discuss tolerance levels and pesticide residues found on organic crops. Lundberg wants to sell crops that can test at zero detect levels. The crops are being tested to levels 30 to 100 times below allowable tolerances for organic crops. PBO remains the material of importance in the testing. No detections were made this year in Sutter County.
- We have received five spray complaints this year on evening town fogging missions, an unusually high number. We have decided to return to early morning town routes to help eliminate complaints. The routes will begin at approximately 4 am and be completed by 6 am. Placer County Mosquito District has determined that they have higher mosquito activity in the morning. Radio ads and Facebooks posts have been changed to notify the public of the changes.
- We have not had any Covid 19 cases at the District, some employees have had a 14 day quarantine because of off work exposures.
- Next week, we will lose some of our summer help, as they begin returning to school.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS:

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

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary