

## October 8, 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, October 8, 2020.

**PRESENT:** Sanbrook and Guzman

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

**ABSENT:** None

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

**EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS:** None

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Minutes of September 10, 2020
- B. Bills for September 2020
- C. Affirmation of FY 2020-2021 COLA applying to manager's wages.

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

**905 MARKET STREET PROPERTY LEASE AGREEMENT:** The District's lease with Jeff T. Helm Inc. ends on October 31, 2020. Abshier noted he had discussed the lease arrangement with Mr. Helm and he had expressed a desire to continue with a six month lease at \$1,500 per month. A motion was made by Harris and seconded by Ghag approving a six-month lease with Jeff T. Helm Inc. at their current rate of \$1,500.00 per month. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

**QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN INVESTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2020:** Ken Meyers, of Meyers Investment Group, did not attend the meeting. The Board directed Abshier to speak with Mr. Meyers to inquire if he is recommending any changes at this time. The Board requested that Mr. Meyers attend the November meeting. No action was taken.

**APPROVAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE, 2020/2021 2-WHEEL DRIVE, 1/2 TON PICKUPS:** Three pickups were included in the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Bids have been received from three dealers. The bids received are Geweke Ford, at \$24,333.05, Downtown Ford at \$26,070.50 and Winner Chevrolet at \$24,681.61. Larry Geweke Ford consistently comes in at the lowest price. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving the Larry Geweke Ford bid of \$24,333.05 per unit, for a total of \$72,999.15 for three, 1/2 ton pickups. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

**CLOSED SESSION - TO DISCUSS THE FINDINGS OF THE WRITTEN PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER:** A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Schmidl to go into a closed session to discuss Manager Abshier's written performance review. The motion was approved unanimously. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Guzman to go out of a closed session. The motion was approved unanimously. There was no reportable action.

**APPROVAL TO CONTINUE THE DISTRICT MANAGER'S CONTRACT FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021:** This would be year three of the five-year contract for District Manager Abshier. Board consensus was, they made a very good choice in selecting Abshier as manager; Abshier is doing a fantastic job. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Sanbrook to continue the District Manager's contract for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL FOR DISTRICT MANAGER ABSHIER'S MERIT INCREASE:** Abshier is eligible for a 2.5 % merit increase from step 5 to step 6 of the salary range schedule. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Sanbrook to approve a merit increase from step 5 to step 6 on the salary range schedule. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**MANAGER COMMENTS:** We have one confirmed human case and one suspected human case of West Nile in Sutter County. Additionally, our mosquito pools for Sutter County had twenty positives, compared to this time last year we had fifteen positive pools. Twenty-four sentinel chickens have tested positive compared to last year which had eleven at this time. In Yuba County we had two mosquito pools test positive, compared to twenty two at this time last year. One sentinel chicken has tested positive, three tested positive last year at this time. There have been no dead birds test positive in Sutter or Yuba Counties this year.

For our New Jersey light traps, *Culex tarsalis*, which are the biggest transmitter of West Nile Virus, are below the ten year average. They are typically more prevalent in the earlier part of the season. We have been low on *pipiens* for most of the year as well. *Anopheles freeborni* typically peak around Labor Day, but they are way down now. Additionally we performed aerial missions in several orchard areas in an attempt to lower overwintering numbers that typically cause a large number of service calls in early spring. It is difficult to control *Anopheles* in the early spring because of unfavorable weather conditions.

The invasive *Aedes agegypti* has been detected in Sutter, Yolo, Butte and Shasta counties, with Shasta County also detecting an *Aedes albopictus* mosquito. Since our initial detection on August 14<sup>th</sup>, we have implemented three additional surveillance methods, the BG trap, ovi position cup and the In2Care traps. Two methods are designed to attract the female mosquito looking for a site to lay her eggs. The ovi cup uses color and a water infusion to attract the female to lay her eggs on paper positioned just above the water level. The In2Care trap is a black bucket with a water attractant and gauze strip at and above the water level. The In2Care trap utilizes two methods of control, as the female positions herself to lay eggs she picks up a pesticide, Pyriproxifen, on her legs which she transfers to her next ovi position site, killing the larva at the new site. Secondly, she picks up a fungus that kills her in approximately eight to fourteen days, allowing enough time for her to treat additional sources with the Pyriproxifen. The BG trap utilizes a fan and an attractant that mimics human odor to catch adult mosquitoes. We will continue to monitor until early November, and then resume surveillance in the spring.

Additionally, the Manager reported on the following:

- The Shorebird habitat program east of Robbin near the Sutter Bypass required no treatments. The inspections found small amounts of water and very few *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes.
- The audit is going well and should be on the November agenda
- Evergreen Retirement Consulting will have the Defined Benefit Plan restatement ready by next month's Board meeting. The document has to be restated to be in compliance with I.R.S. rules. The document is kept onsite and referenced by our Actuarial firm.
- Mosquito Control Technician Salary Scale. An adjustment to the salary scale for MCT II & III was discussed to determine if the Board wanted Abshier to agendize this item. Abshier proposed a change to allow an employee to move up the MCT salary range scale more quickly. For MCT I's and MCT II's, completing the years of service requirements and passing required CDPH exams to advance to the

next MCT position, would trigger an additional step increase. This would help the District to retain entry level employees. The Board consensus was to have Abshier agendaize this item.

- All temporary staff has been laid off.
- Staff is currently monitoring duck clubs, Sutter National Wildlife Refuge and North Butte areas which are typically impacted by the flooding of the Butte sink.
- The MVCAC Fall Conference will be held virtually.
- Staff will be watching qualified videos to satisfy continuing education requirements of CDPH and DPR.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:** Schmidl directed Abshier to inquire if Ken Meyers is recommending any changes to District's investments at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, a motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Schmidl 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