

## MARCH 10, 2022 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees was called to order by Board President Bill Harris at 4:30 P.M., Thursday, March 10, 2022.

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

**ABSENT:** None

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

**EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS:** Abshier advised that action is needed to consider purchasing additional pesticides due to projected, reduced availability. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Kirchner to add an emergency agenda item to consider approving expenditures above the FY2021-22 chemical budget. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL TO SPEND ABOVE THE BUDGETED AMOUNT FOR CHEMICALS:** Due to a worldwide shortage of Piperonyl Butoxide (P.B.O), the availability of many adult mosquito control pesticides is severely reduced. In a typical year, we bring in inventory to last thru mid-July, and then purchase additional materials to finish the season after we enter the new fiscal year. Currently, very little inventory exists among manufacturers and vendors. We have the opportunity to purchase materials now, but future availability is very uncertain. Per District purchasing policy, Board approval is needed for purchases above the FY2021-22 chemical budget. Abshier requested approval to spend up to an additional \$100,000, or about 10% over the current chemical budget. Funds to cover this expenditure could come out of District reserves. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Ghag approving spending up to \$100,000 above the FY2021-22 budgeted amount for chemicals. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2022
- B. BILLS FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Sanbrook asked to have the consent items A and B separated. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Kirchner approving consent agenda item B. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. A motion was made by Ghag and seconded Link approving consent item A. The motion was approved with Harris, Schmidl, Ghag, Kirchner and Link voting to approve. Secretary Sanbrook and Guzman abstained.

**APPROVAL OF A MEDIA OUTREACH PROGRAM: A COMPREHENSIVE MEDIA OUTREACH PROGRAM TO ALERT RESIDENTS CONCERNING AERIAL SWIMMING POOL SURVEILLANCE, INVASIVE *Aedes* MOSQUITOES, WEST NILE VIRUS AND DISTRICT SPRAYING.** Abshier is planning a comprehensive Media Outreach Program to alert residents regarding District programs and activities. Abshier presented a summary specifying two, full page, color ads in the Appeal-Democrat. We are able to take advantage of a special price during Full Page Mania in May and June in the Appeal-Democrat. The Appeal-Democrat proposal for 2022 came in at \$2,530, unchanged from 2021. Additionally, the Territorial Dispatch newspaper proposal for two, half page, color ads running in May and June is \$1,200, an increase of 10.6% from 2021. The total cost for print advertising would be \$3,730, a \$115.50 increase from 2021. The summary also detailed radio advertisements and their costs. A 12-week campaign, using stations KUBA, KKCY, Rhythm 105 and 93Q will provide the same number of ads as in 2021. Rhythm 105 costs remain unchanged from 2021. The total for all radio ads increased by \$1,154, a 13.7% increase over 2021, for a total cost of \$7,384. The total campaign would cost \$11,114, a 12.9% increase from 2021. Board consensus is to look to alternative advertising sources online and to move away from using print format. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Schmidl approving

the media outreach program for \$11,144. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF AN ASPHALT PAVING CONTRACTOR TO REMOVE ASPHALT, GRADE AND PAVE THE FRONT PARKING AREAS, AND OVERLAY EXISTING ASPHALT BEHIND THE FRONT GATE:** Bids were requested from eight paving contractors. We received bids from Big S Asphalt and D&S Asphalt. Bids from both contractors for the full project exceeded the \$125,000 amount included in the FY 2021-22 budget. Big S Asphalt did produce the lowest bid. As the project bids were itemized, where some line items were discretionary, Abshier proposed three paving project options. Option One: Approve the entire project now, and draw up a contract for FY 2022-23 with work commencing after July 1, 2022 at the bid amount of \$211,730. The project would be included in, and fully funded in the FY2022-23 budget. Option Two: An amended, cost saving project, where items describing thicker material in the high/heavy traffic areas and pulverizing of the areas behind the fence, would be removed from the project. A contract would be drawn up and budgeted for in FY 2022-23. Work would begin after July 1, 2022. The bid amount for option two would be \$179,065. Option three: complete only the front parking area. The project would be within the budgeted amount for FY2021-22 at \$85,575. The contract could be drawn up now and approved at the next Board meeting after legal review, with work beginning immediately after. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Link approving Big S Asphalt performing the work at \$211,730 for the entire proposed project, where the project cost that exceeds this year's budget be included in the FY 2022-23 budget. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL TO RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY; LOCATING BACKYARD SOURCES IN URBAN AREAS OF THE DISTRICT.** Board approval is needed to renew the contract with Aerial Services for the 2022 season. The bid for the 2022 season is \$6,713, unchanged from 2021. Other potential bidders, Ron O'Hanlon, a helicopter pilot, advised he does not have time for more work and would not be bidding. Air Shasta did not return a bid and EcoBridges is no longer performing this type of work. A satellite photography service called Near Map, only photographs lower density urban areas like ours, one time annually, and we have no control over the timing of the photography. The urban areas to be surveilled include Yuba City, Marysville, Linda, Plumas Lake, Wheatland, Olivehurst, Live Oak and Sutter. Aerial Services contracts with multiple mosquito control agencies across the State of California. Abshier added we get some false positives using Aerial Services, but overall they do a very good job and we are able to have the mission completed within our preferred time period. A motion was made by Kirchner and seconded by Ghag approving Aerial Services bid of \$6,713 for aerial green pool surveillance. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**MANAGER COMMENTS**

- Abshier, Valencia and Farrell attended the VCJPA Annual Workshop, held virtually, on February 17-18, 2022. Abshier briefed the Board on some information presented at the meeting. Abshier referenced a legal case where an LAPD officer contracted typhus from unsanitary work conditions. The officer's wife later contracted typhus, presumably as a result of the officer's infection. The court ruled that the city was not liable for her under Govt. code 855.4 (Immunity) and is another example of a public entity not liable for injury resulting from a decision to perform or not perform any act to promote public health. This affirms precedent favorable for vector control districts, in that where a person infected with West Nile Virus could claim that the District should have done more spraying, we would not be held liable for action not taken. In a separate case, a court ruled that a landowner has reasonable expectation of privacy against drone surveillance, as opposed to traditional aircraft. The ruling provided that a search warrant would be required for drone surveillance.

- Four of the eight applicants for the Vector Ecologist position were interviewed; two in house and two local area applicants. Mosquito Control Technician, Zach Samay was chosen for the Vector Ecologist. Zach began working for the District in 2010 as a summer employee and was hired full time in 2017. Zach brings several years of experience and is a detail-oriented person. He was chosen unanimously by the hiring committee.
- The MVCAC Spring meeting will be April 26-27, 2022.
- The additional orchard spraying strategy last fall has proven effective. Mosquito complaints have been about 25% of normal for this time of year.
- MVCAC Legislative Day will be held March 30, 2022 virtually.
- The annual USFWS meeting date has yet to be determined. Annually, we discuss plans and goals for the refuges in the Sac Valley Complex, as well as mosquito control challenges, water outlook, costs and disease from the past year.
- Mosquitofish will be made available to the public beginning April 1, 2022.
- The sentinel chicken pick-up is scheduled for April 21, 2022.
- The annual Waters of the U.S. Report was submitted February 28, 2022.
- Abshier reported that he spoke with Sutter Extension Water District manager, Lynn Phillips. The Department of Water Resources will announce water allocations for water users on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Water District's allocations could be cut between 50 and 100 percent. Less water does not necessarily equate to fewer mosquitoes.
- Trustees Guzman, Ghag and Schmidl are reminded that ethics and harassment training is due and can be provided thru an ERMA resource.
- Staff is performing vehicle, equipment, fogger, and landscape/building maintenance.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:** None

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