

MARCH 11, 2021 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 11, 2021.

PRESENT: Board Secretary Sanbrook, Trustees Kirchner and Link

BY TELEPHONE: Board President Harris, Trustees Ghag, Guzman, Schmidl,

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Abshier, General Foreman Hunt

EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2021
- B. BILLS FOR FEBRUARY 2021

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

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 concerning aerial swimming pool surveillance, invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes, West Nile virus and District spraying. 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 2021 came in at \$2,530, \$925.00 below the cost in 2020, due to the discontinuation of the SmartSaver. Additionally, the Territorial Dispatch newspaper proposal for two, half page, color ads running in May and June is \$1,084.50, unchanged from 2020. The total cost for print advertising would be \$3,614.50, a \$925.00 decrease from 2020. 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, at the same cost as in 2020. A new station KCYC, will provide 240 ads over 12 weeks at a cost of \$750. The total for all radio ads increased by \$750, a 13.7% increase over 2020, for a total cost of \$6,230. The total campaign would cost \$9,844.50, a 1.7% decrease from 2020. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Sanbrook approving the media outreach program for \$9,844.50. 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 2021 season. The bid for the 2021 season is \$6,713 an 8.9% increase over 2020. Other potential bidders, Ron O'Hanlon, a helicopter pilot, advised he does not have time for more work and would not be bidding, AirShasta did not return a bid and EcoBridges is no longer performing this type of work. The urban areas to be surveilled include Yuba City, Marysville, Linda, Plumas Lake, Wheatland, Olivehurst, Live Oak and Sutter. Abshier added we get some false positives using Aerial Services but overall they do a very good job. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving the Aerial Services bid of \$6,713 for aerial green pool surveillance. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 03-11-21: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SUTTER-YUBA MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT APPROVING A MEDICAL BENEFITS OPTION FOR QUALIFIED, RETIRING EMPLOYEES; INCLUDING A SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS OPTION ONCE THE

RETIREE HAS BECOME MEDICARE ELIGIBLE. Abshier explained that Resolution 03-11-21 is before the Board to address a shortcoming in a resolution passed in 2016, which allowed retiring employees who are at least 62 years of age, and with 20 or more years of service, to purchase District health insurance. The original Resolution 09-08-16 passed by the Board, was drafted using a template which included a sunset clause making retired employees ineligible once they reach Medicare age. This was an oversight. Resolution 03-11-21 clarifies that employees retiring at age 62 or later, with 20 or more years of service could continue to purchase health insurance through the District even after becoming Medicare eligible. The employee, spouse, and/or any dependents would pay 100% of the costs of the coverage benefits, and the District would incur no costs. We currently have four retirees purchasing insurance through the District. Two of the four are Medicare eligible and are purchasing a supplement plan. Our health insurance group provider, SDRMA, includes an optional retiree Medicare supplemental plan on their entity enrollment form. Resolution 03-11-21 was drafted by District council Bordson. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag approving Resolution 03-11-21. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MANAGER COMMENTS

- The VCJPA Member Contingency Fund balance as of December 31, 2021, is \$369,778.
- Abshier, Valencia and Farrell attended the VCJPA Annual Workshop, held virtually, on February 25-26, 2021. Abshier briefed the Board on information presented at the meeting. Since the Covid outbreak, 68 Covid cases have been reported among VCJPA member's employees, only one received workers comp benefits. There were 88 workers comp claims filed in 2020; the lowest in three years. The majority of claims were in field operations. A new nurse triage, worker compensation, 24/7 call center where employees can call to report a workers compensation illness, injury, speak to a nurse about self-treatment procedures, or be directed to a doctor or a clinic will be operational in July 2021. AB992 Allows Board members to address questions or provide information to the public on social media. Board members are prohibited from commenting on another Board member's post relating to District business. California Family Rights Act now includes all public agency employers with five or more employees. This allows for twelve weeks unpaid leave annually for illness, care of an ill family member and baby bonding. Some California cities have tried to ban the use of certain pesticides, all pesticide use is regulated by DPR not multiple agencies.
- All three applicants for the Vector Ecologist position were interviewed. The District is choosing to explore other options at this time. We will be hiring a temporary employee for the 2021 season and plan to advertise the Vector Ecologist position again this fall.
- We received eleven applications for the vacant Mosquito Technician I position; four of the applicants were interviewed. We chose an applicant who has worked for Butte MVCD seasonally for three years. He brings experience and is highly recommended by Butte County.
- The MVCAC will be providing funding for Calsurv through the 2021 season. The monies will be coming from the annual conference, which had over 800 attendees.
- 24 year employee Richard Herrington announced his retirement effective April 8, 2021. We decided to hire a replacement from the recent MCT I interviews to fill the position left vacant by Herrington's retirement. The person worked for the District last year as a seasonal employee, is well-liked and a very productive employee.

- The contract with Yuba County for mosquito surveillance and control at the Sycamore Ranch complex has been signed and approved.
- The additional orchard spraying last fall has proven effective, mosquito complaints have been about 25% of normal for this time of year.
- All materials packaged in possible PFAS containers have been returned to Clarke Mosquito Control and will be replaced in steel or PFAS free packaging.
- The carpet tiles for the office have been ordered and will be installed by District staff.
- MVCAC Legislative Day will be held virtually and the date is to be determined.
- The annual USFWS meeting will be held virtually in April 2021, the date is to be determined. Annually, we discuss plans and goals for the refuges in the Sac Valley Complex as well as mosquito control challenges, costs and disease from the past year.
- Mosquitofish will be made available to the public beginning April 1, 2021.
- The sentinel chicken pick-up is scheduled for April 15, 2021.
- The annual Waters of the U.S. Report was submitted February 26, 2021.
- New Trustees are reminded that ethics and harassment training is due.
- Staff is busy with vehicle, equipment, fogger maintenance, and monitoring spring sources.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS: Trustee Sanbrook inquired when we would begin the trapping for the invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes. Abshier stated we will be deploying specialized traps designed to detect the invasive species in April.

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.

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary