

MARCH 12, 2020 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 12, 2020.

PRESENT: Board Trustees Harris, Schmidl, Ghag, Cleveland, Sanbrook and Guzman.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Abshier, General Foreman Hunt

EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS: Abshier arraigned for a teleconference with District financial advisor, Ken Meyers to address the Board regarding the sudden drop in the stock market over COVID-19 impacts. The Board may want to take some action regarding the District's portfolio. A motion was made by Harris and seconded by Cleveland approving adding an emergency agenda item to consider possible action related to the District portfolio. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

TELE-CONFERENCE WITH KEN MEYERS OF MEYERS INVESTMENT GROUP:

Ken Meyers gave an overview of the District's portfolio, given the current volatile market conditions. Meyers noted the District's portfolio was down 8.35% as of yesterday and will be down another 12% after today. Meyers added we could see another 10% drop before we see improvement. Meyers advised we stay the course at this time. Meyers is scheduled to present to the Board at the April meeting. No action was taken by the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2020
- B. BILLS FOR FEBRUARY 2020

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

APPROVAL OF A MEDIA OUTREACH PROGRAM: 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 along with two, full page, color ads in the Smart Saver. We are able to take advantage of a special price during Mania Week at the end of May in the Appeal-Democrat. The Appeal-Democrat proposal for 2020 came in \$733.82 below 2019. Additionally, a Territorial Dispatch newspaper proposal for two, half page, color ads running in May and June is \$1,084.50. The total cost for print advertising would be \$4,539.50, a \$350.68 increase over 2019. The summary also detailed radio advertisements and their costs. A campaign, using stations KUBA, KKCY, Rhythm 105 and 93Q amounts to \$5,480, the same cost as the 2019 season. The total campaign would cost \$10,119.50, a 3.5% increase from 2019. A motion was made by Schmidl and seconded by Cleveland approving the media outreach program for \$10,119.50. The motion was approved with 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 2020 season. The bid for the 2020 season is \$6,165 an 8% decrease from 2019. The only other potential bidder, Ron O'Hanlon, a helicopter pilot, advised he does not have time for more work and would not be bidding. The urban areas to be surveilled include Yuba City, Marysville, Linda, Plumas Lake, Wheatland, Olivehurst, Live Oak and Sutter. The VCJPA recommends we purchase non-owned aircraft insurance for this service. A motion was made by Guzman and seconded by Ghag approving the \$6,165 bid by Aerial Services. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT ENTOMOLOGIST: As per District Personnel Rules section 5.05, Department Head Appointment; Board concurrence is required for the appointment of an entomologist to become effective April 1, 2020. The position is subject to a one year probationary period. Six potential entomology candidates were video interviewed by Abshier, Hunt and Valencia. Erik Blosser, PhD. was selected unanimously. Blosser currently works as a post doc at U.C. Davis. He has extensive experience identifying mosquitoes, trapping and bleeding wild birds for WNV, making pesticide applications, has published scientific trials, and is familiar with the CalSurv Gateway program. Blosser is requesting a starting salary of \$6,000 monthly. Abshier noted Blosser is well qualified and experienced and recommended he start at step 3 on the salary range schedule. That would be \$6,246 monthly. A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Ghag to concur with the hiring of Erik Blosser, PhD. as District Entomologist, at step 3 of the salary range schedule in the amount of \$6,246 monthly. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MANAGER COMMENTS:

- Administrative Manager Kayla Valencia attended the Cal Chamber Paid and Unpaid leaves of Absence workshop February 21, 2020 in Sacramento. Valencia submitted a report highlighting several key points covered at the workshop.
- Abshier and Valencia attended the VCJPA Annual Workshop in Santa Cruz, CA on February 27-28, 2020. Abshier briefed the Board on information presented at the meeting. Current coverage limits per vehicle are \$35,000. Some Districts expressed that a total loss for a vehicle including equipment could reach \$100,000. A proposal to raise limits that high as well as provide replacement costs rather than market value would be explored by the executive board later this year. Initial projections for this extended coverage would raise the per vehicle cost from \$50 to \$57 annually. Driving continues to be the number one safety concern for members. VCJPA provides live training sessions for subjects such as trailer safety and ride along driver's safety.
- Manager Abshier, Trustee Ghag and Trustee Cleveland attended Legislative Day at the State Capitol on March 4, 2020. Representation from Districts in the Sac Valley Region was low, which allowed for more one on one contact with the representatives. Topics of discussion included securing funding for the CalSurv Gateway and the invasive *Aedes*.
- The Sac Valley Region Continuing Education meeting scheduled for March 25, 2020 has been cancelled due to the threat of the COVID-19 virus.
- The annual USFWS meeting will be held in March 2019. Date and location 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.
- The Mosquito Control Tech I opening will close on March 13, 2020. We have received six applications including two seasonal employees from last year.
- The Yuba County Trustee position remains vacant; no interest has been received
- Mosquitofish will be made available to the public beginning April 1, 2020.
- The sentinel chicken pick-up is scheduled for April 23, 2020.
- The annual Waters of the U.S. Report was submitted February 28, 2020.
- Mosquito calls have dropped off significantly; a few green pools have been reported.
- Trustees are reminded that ethics and harassment training are due.
- Staff is busy with vehicle, equipment and fogger maintenance and monitoring spring sources.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS: None

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

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary