

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
20 August 2020
ELECTRONIC BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: La Vone Liddle, Chair

Time: 12:32 p.m.

Place: 2215 North 2200 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Trustees Present: La Vone Liddle, Chair (Attended Remotely)
Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Vice-Chair (Attended Remotely; left at 1:56 p.m.,
prior to the Surveillance Report, Item 10)
Carlton Christensen (Attended Remotely)
Van Turner (Attended Remotely)

Trustees Absent: Dr. Dagmar Vitek

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO
Gregory White, PhD., Assistant Director (Joined the meeting from
1:56 p.m. – 2:07 p.m. to give the Surveillance Report, Item 10)

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Liddle called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. Executive Director Faraji verified that the meeting was being recorded, and no conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of the 16 July 2020 Minutes of the Monthly July Board Meeting:

The Board Members were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of July's regular Board Meeting prior to the meeting, and all modifications had been

completed. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the 16 July 2020 Board Meeting Minutes; Trustee Christensen seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor.

4. Presentation of the July 2020 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

Copies of July's Financial Statements had been disseminated prior to the Board Meeting. CFO Fairbanks reviewed the Financial Statements with the Board; all expenditures were presented, with special attention being paid to those expenditures in excess of \$1,000. Documentation for all expenditures had been provided when the checks were signed. Trustee Christensen made a motion to adopt the July 2020 Financial Statements and to approve July's bills for payment. This motion passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Vickers.

5. Discussion and Approval on Earthwork Services for Back Property:

Surplus soil was dumped on the vacant seven acres of our property to the west of the facility during the District's construction, which left uneven dirt mounds to contend with. This land is currently being used to conduct some field surveillance studies, and we would also like to use this area to conduct some ATV training.

In addition to maintaining an area where ATV training can be accomplished, future vision for these remaining seven acres includes a mini lab with built in-ground larval bioassay vaults, two large outdoor cages where mosquitoes can be released to test various pesticides and repellents, and a future helicopter pad and hangar.

Executive Director Faraji had wondered if it would be advantageous for current use and future development if we contracted to have this land leveled. He had received a ballpark figure between \$10,000 and \$15,000, and he asked the Board if there was any interest in getting bids to accomplish this work. Discussion unearthed the following issues: 1) The dirt may need to be moved twice. It will most likely be necessary to bring in quality landfill because the current soil may not meet the standard required for future development. Is the current benefit from leveling the land enough to warrant investing the \$10,000 to \$15,000 even if it is not worthwhile in the future? 2) It may be necessary to obtain a permit from the State because of dust control. 3) It would be wise to bring in the expert advice of an engineer or a construction manager who understands the protocol needed to accomplish our future goals.

It was eventually decided to save the money and bundle the earthwork with future construction. Moving ahead with upcoming projects will be revisited once financing becomes feasible. This agenda item was tabled for a future discussion after additional information is available.

6. Discussion and Approval for Executive Director to Serve on VectorByte Advisory Board:

Several of the members of the VectorByte Advisory Board represent academia, and the Board is in need of some real-world operational perspectives. VectorByte is positioning itself to be the “go-to” website where all entities can submit scientific data which will then be accessible to everyone all around the world. VectorByte will provide opportunities for collaborative cooperation with different entities, which could even result in being awarded grant monies. The time commitment required to participate in this centralized depository will be minimal.

Executive Director Faraji was unanimously approved to serve on the VectorByte Advisory Board upon a motion made by Trustee Vickers and seconded by Trustee Turner.

7. Updates on State Auditor Annual Fraud Risk Assessment:

A copy of the State Auditor’s Auditor Alert 2020-01, Fraud Risk Assessment Questionnaire, Basic Separation of Duties Questionnaire, and Implementation Guide were included in August’s Board Packet. Beginning in 2020, all local governments will complete the Assessment internally and present it to the governing board before the end of the 2020 fiscal year. The administration will scrutinize these recommendations and make every effort to keep the District’s fraud risk as low as possible. Executive Director Faraji and CFO Fairbanks discussed several aspects of our current internal control and answered a few questions put forth by the Board Members. The District has employed a separation of duties for the Treasurer (Executive Director Faraji) and Clerk (CFO Fairbanks) for many years now. The Treasurer has been responsible for transferring and depositing money, while the CFO has been responsible for writing checks to be signed by Trustees. Both parties, in addition to the Board, routinely check the credit card statements and all purchases. Additionally, all credit cards and purchases are tracked using the District’s internal purchase order process, and all statements are reconciled monthly. Our auditors have evaluated our internal controls each year, and they have been pleased with the results. Questionnaire results will be brought back to the Board later in the year.

8. Update on COVID-19 and SLCMAD Personnel and Operations:

The District has covered COVID-19 time off for three individuals: one regular employee whose wife contracted the disease and was required to self-quarantine, a seasonal employee who tested positive and missed two weeks of work, and a regular employee whose doctor has now released him to come back to work after three weeks.

9. Report on Attended and Reminder/Approval of Upcoming Training/Meetings:

- **DSLASA, 10 September 2020, Electronic**

The 2020 meetings have either been cancelled or postponed, so the only upcoming meeting is the DSLASA Board Meeting. This electronic meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. rather than 5:00 p.m.

10. Executive Director's Report:

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) We have been conducting some Tiki torch trials testing the repellent efficacy of BiteFighter torch fuels containing citronella and cedar oil. We have been testing the mosquito repellency of Tiki torches with 0.2% citronella and 0.8% cedar oil with a 5% citronella solution and also with an untreated control. We are testing the hypothesis that Tiki torches with 0.2% citronella and cedar oil are not as effective in spatially repelling mosquitoes as BiteFighter is claiming. 2) Vector Disease Control International's 90-gallon adulticide airplane is still being repaired, and we have had additional problems impeding our aerial spraying. First of all, the airport's tower has had difficulty monitoring flights because of reduced manpower, which has made it difficult for the pilots to treat the eastern side of our aerial blocks. Secondly, even though VDCI's larvicide pilot has been instructed to make pesticide applications at 50 feet, our employees have witnessed him flying higher. The pilot feels there are safety issues flying at 50 feet, but our previous pilot made the applications at 30 feet. The previous pilot may be able to help us out from time to time, for he is currently working a two-weeks-on and two-weeks-off schedule in his other job. VDCI was potentially thinking about breaching the contract to provide our larviciding service, and VDCI is also planning on contracting out their equipment maintenance. These VDCI concerns are making our helicopter plans look even more favorable, and Mosquito Abatement District – Davis might possibly be willing to partner with us. 3) Our bicycle truck was "booted" when one seasonal employee sat in it and three other employees ran next door to purchase some lunch. A \$75.00 fee was demanded before the tire boot lock would be removed. The bike team's supervisor was unable to make headway when he spoke with the entity that booted the truck, and Executive Director Faraji finally paid the \$75.00 over the phone. Going forward, employees will be responsible for any fees that are imposed because of employee behavior. 4) Most of the seasonal employees are leaving the District and returning to their schooling. 5) The electrical work in the administration building has been completed. 6) The new projector screen is installed and working well. 7) The insectary windows have been replaced and a fan over the windows has been installed. 8) An additional janitorial bid for \$400 per week was received; Standard Cleaning Services has agreed to match the bid, thereby reducing the cost \$80 a week. 9) Executive Director Faraji contacted the attorneys about the Mali partnership and the Ouelessebouyou Alliance in reference to the Doug Short Rule, and he will be participating in a conference call with them next week to further clarify whether we can donate used equipment and excess pesticides to a non-profit group. 10) Executive Director Faraji put a student at the Waterford School in touch with a statistician colleague who is helping him analyze non-target insect populations following our aerial adulticide applications. They are not seeing a decline in insect abundance, and they plan to submit their research findings to a peer-reviewed

journal for publication. We will then be able to show this article to environmental groups to support our position that we are not harming other insect life during routine mosquito control. 11) The University of Mississippi has concluded their research on the Spartan Eradicator product using salt as an active ingredient to kill mosquitoes. It is now undergoing a peer review. 12) Assistant Director White gave a Surveillance Report with graphs depicting the current year's activity in comparison to the 5-year averages. He covered the urban, rural, and industrial surveillance areas. For the most part, mosquito activity was considerably higher than the 5-year averages. This may be due to the warmer temperatures and/or the aerial pesticide application difficulties. Concerning arbovirus surveillance, 492 pool samples have been tested so far this year, and West Nile virus has only been found in two of the samples. Fortunately, WNV activity this year has been low, not only in Utah, but in the surrounding states as well.

11. Probable Agenda Items for 17 September 2020 Board Meeting:

- Executive Director's Report
- Surveillance / Control
- Facility Updates

12. Adjournment:

Trustees Christensen and Turner made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 p.m. The 17 September 2020 Regular Monthly Board Meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m., and we anticipate this meeting will be held electronically.



Ary Faraji, Executive Director

17 Sept 2020
Date



La Vone Liddle, Chair 2020

18/Sept/2020
Date