

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
19 August 2021
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Board Chair 2021

Time: 12:32 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Chair
Van Turner, Vice-Chair
Carlton Christensen (Left at 2:00 p.m., at the end of Item 8)
La Vone Liddle
Dr. Dagmar Vitek

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO
Dorothy Owen, Board Chair of Westpointe Community Council, Public Member
Tena Rohr, Salt Lake City Public Member

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Vickers called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. It was confirmed that the meeting was being recorded, and no conflicts of interest were declared by the Trustees.

2. Approval of the 15 July 2021 Minutes of the July Monthly Board Meeting:

The Board Members were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of July's regular Board Meeting prior to this meeting, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Vitek made a motion to approve the 15 July 2021 Board Meeting Minutes; Trustee Christensen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Presentation of the July 2021 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

The Trustees had received copies of July's Financial Statements 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. Copies of the balance sheets and all of the documentation for July's payments were circulated. The District recently purchased and began using SumiLarv WSP in our bicycle catch basin program. Like Altosid, SumiLarv is a target-specific insect growth regulator that artificially introduces juvenile hormone mimics that do not immediately kill the larvae, but they inhibit the pupae from developing into adult mosquitoes. Trustee Liddle made a motion to adopt the July 2021 Financial Statements and to approve July's bills for payment. This motion passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Turner.

4. Discussion and Approval for Payment to Design West Architects Regarding Insectary Renovations:

After major renovations and multiple efforts to resolve the humidity condensation problem in the insectary were completed, Design West sent us a final invoice for \$6,059.35. However, the District purchased two dehumidifiers for \$1,130.22 when Design West's renovations failed to satisfactorily rectify the condensation problem. Copies of the dehumidifiers' and Design West's invoices had been attached to an email letting Scott Olcott know that the District intended to net the two together and send Design West a check for \$4,929.13. A dialogue among the Trustees ensued. Trustee Christensen made a motion that negotiations seeking a credit for the dehumidifiers should be encouraged and also approving a payment to Design West up to the \$6,059.35. Trustee Vitek seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor.

5. Discussion and Approval for Zions Commercial Card Program Master Agreement:

During a meeting, Matthew Everett, Vice President of Zions Bank Treasury Management, familiarized Executive Director Faraji and CPA Fairbanks with some of the services Zions Bank provides to its customers. One of the services is the Zions Commercial Card Program Master Agreement. This program is advantageous to Zions Bank because it will receive credit card payments through automatic payments, and the greatest benefit to the District is real-time control of credit cards (cards can be issued or closed through the website) and credit card limits can be temporarily increased/decreased for a few days if the need arises. Also, the District will automatically receive a flat 1.2% rebate on all of our standard purchases. A motion to approve signing the Zions Commercial Card Program Master Agreement was made by Trustee Liddle, seconded by Trustee Vitek, and passed unanimously.

6. Updates on Tax Increase Procedures:

A quorum of the Board of Trustees virtually attended Salt Lake City Council's Work Session on 13 July 2021 while Trustee Vickers, Chairman, delivered a presentation discussing the District's tax increase. Board Members were also required to hear public comments that were presented to the Salt Lake City Council on 20 July 2021. The next step will be to notify Salt Lake County in October that we are going forward with the tax

increase process and to request that they insert this notification in their tax notices. We will then hold our public hearing in December.

Richard Holman, Community Advocate for the Westside Coalition, presented Executive Faraji with several questions posed to him from many people in the community who had concerns about the District's operations utilizing pesticides and the upcoming tax increase. Executive Faraji responded to these questions in an email, and he later met with Richard Holman at the District's facility. He explained how the certified tax rate necessitates a tax increase every few years because property tax income remains the same year after year and can only be augmented through additional growth. The challenge to meet operational obligations becomes even more difficult with inflation and because the Inland Port will be capturing 75% of Salt Lake City's additional growth funding for 20 years, with another option to continue this for an additional 15 years. Richard Holman agreed that the actual dollar amount of our tax increase per household is quite nominal, but he thought that stipulating a 75% increase would appear emotionally egregious. He recommended pursuing a 49.9% increase currently and following up with another smaller tax increase at a later date.

Executive Director presented Richard Holman's suggestion to the Board, and a discussion followed. Input was heard from the Trustees. Dorothy Owen, who was a State Budget Analyst, said that she disagrees with Richard Holman: the percentage of the increase won't make much of a difference to public reaction. The important issue is that the decision makers need to decide if the benefits from a tax increase are worth the burden of the tax increase. The cost of services, development, inflation, and setting aside funds for special projects all need to be taken into consideration. Also, it is unknown how the Inland Port and other future developments will affect mosquito control. Executive Director Faraji invited Dorothy Owen to come in and discuss upcoming development projects with us; we can benefit from her expertise. The final consensus was that 49.9% and 75% would both derive the same negative reaction, and the 75% tax increase remained intact for the time being.

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

- **Ouelessebougou Alliance Media Event / Luncheon, 16 July 2021:**

The Ouelessebougou Alliance invited its board members, guests, and our personnel to a media event and luncheon at the District office in July. Richard Loomis made a welcome address to familiarize the media and everyone about the organization, and then Executive Director Faraji briefly discussed plans to hopefully reduce malaria in Mali through the proposed mosquito control project. Touring the facility was followed with a luncheon provided by the Ouelessebougou Alliance. Trustee Liddle attended the function and enjoyed chatting with several of their board members. Although the District is not providing any financial assistance, the Alliance thanked the staff members for being willing to share their expertise in promoting good public health and safety through Integrated Mosquito Management techniques. Our next steps are to map the target area with a drone to look for mosquito habitats, to determine where to set up surveillance traps, and to initiate larval surveillance and control measures for

local health inspectors in Mali. This effort has unfortunately been postponed because the large shipping container holding necessary mosquito control supplies and equipment is still on American soil.

- **DSLASA Board Meeting, 9 September 2021, Ogden Hangar, Ogden, UT**

September's meeting has generally been held at the Ogden Hangar. However, the resurgence of the Covid-19 virus and the Delta variant may make a virtual meeting more appealing. Trustee Vickers expressed a desire to attend the meeting at the hangar because he'd like to see it.

- **UMAA Annual Meeting, 24-26 October, Park City, UT**

Plans are being made to hold the UMAA Annual Meeting in Park City in October; Assistant Director White, who will be the next UMAA President, is responsible for the program this year. Ella Sorensen, the Gillmor Sanctuary Manager, has been asked to speak about birds and their relationship with mosquitoes, and LeGrand Bitter, Executive Director of the Utah Association of Special Districts, will be conducting the required annual trustee training. There may possibly be a presentation on RDA's and CRA's as well. This meeting will be in a hybrid format, including in-person and virtual opportunities. Because mileage to Park City is under 50 miles, overnight lodging cannot be provided for Trustees. Please let CFO Fairbanks know if you plan to attend this meeting in person or virtually.

- **CDC Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases, Fall 2021**

Executive Director Faraji was contacted by Dr. Laura Harrington from Cornell University to speak to students at the Center and University about entomology careers outside of the traditional academic route. She mentioned that she was inspired by Dr. Faraji's recent article in American Entomologist and would like to introduce students from this ivy league school to different types of positions that they could pursue upon obtaining their graduate degrees in entomology.

8. Executive Director's Report:

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) We are now losing our college-bound seasonal help, which makes surveillance and performing mosquito control more of a challenge. If you are aware of someone who would like to work in August and September, please refer them to us. 2) West Nile virus has been detected in a great number of our mosquito pools, which doesn't generally occur until the end of August or in September. The County Health Department has informed us that there are currently three West Nile virus human cases in the Salt Lake County, and one of these individuals is seriously ill and intubated in the hospital. Two of the cases are in our District, while the third is in Salt Lake County. Also, one horse that is stabled just north of the District has tested positive for WNV. The increasing number of mosquito pools creates a lot of

worry for our District, as the infection rates are well above five-year averages, and we are doing all we can to reduce these adult mosquito numbers as quickly as possible to ward off any additional human cases. The CDC's Zoonotic Diseases branch is also concerned about the large number of positive mosquito pools in the state of Utah, and they have reached out to us to acquire additional information. Assistant Director White provided them with a report exhibiting abundance numbers, number of pools tested, number of positive pools, infection rates, and maximum likelihood estimates which determine risk. We are hoping that increasing control measures and declining nighttime temperatures will assist in stabilizing the infection rates in mosquito populations. 3) We are also working with some local beekeepers to ensure that our operations do not have a negative impact on colony health; one beekeeper has placed four beehives at our facility with an additional 10 beehives out in the clubs where we have been conducting our aerial pesticide applications. Another beekeeper, who maintains around 500 beehives that he moves around the country to help with pollination, has told us that he keeps about 50 hives in our local habitat during the summer season. He has not experienced any mortality associated with our aerial applications at any point. However, monitoring bee health with actual beekeepers who have hives where we conduct mosquito control is very beneficial; their information is extremely valuable to us, and we hope to collaborate with these beekeepers for many years to come. Now we are going even one step further: The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has recently hired a new Apiary Inspector to help beekeepers diagnose pest and disease issues in their hives. When Executive Director Faraji learned that Jenna Crowder doesn't work for the agriculture department on Mondays, he asked if she would be interested in some parttime work gathering data to help us monitor how mosquito control affects bee health. We want to ensure that our control methods are not detrimental to local bee colonies. She has agreed to spend her Mondays working for us as a seasonal employee on this bee project. 4) Maintenance Operator Hernandez is now employed as a part-time employee putting in 30 hours per week, which seems to be working all right so far. 5) We finally received the truck that we ordered in December of last year, which meant this truck was not available for the majority of this year's mosquito season. Our 2022 budget also includes purchasing a new truck. However, when we learned that another truck was also currently available, we decided to take delivery of it this year. Now we will be prepared for the 2022 mosquito season, and we'll modify the 2021 and 2022 budgets to reflect this purchase during October. 6) The District has some surplus computers that have been cycled out, and a formal vote on how they should be discarded will be taken next month. 7) Assistant Director White and Operations Supervisor Hardman attended the North Point Small Area Master Plan Steering Committee, which is a group organized to discuss different issues and options concerning development of properties just north of the District. This area is adjacent to wetlands, and there will continue to be a high abundance of mosquitoes if the property is developed or if it remains a natural habitat. Dorothy Owen also participated in this meeting, and she relayed the fact that the meeting was the result of a two-year effort to implement funding that was previously approved for upgrading the North Point Small Area Master Plan, which is over twenty years old. 8) Executive Director Faraji will be applying for our Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) permit with the Utah Division of Water Quality. We make an annual payment on this five-year permit, which is Utah's version of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit system mandated by Section 402 of the Clean Water Act to control pollutants in

waters of the United States. 9) Just before noon today, a reporter for KUTV 2 News contacted the District concerning an email he had received from the Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment (UPHE) stating that the EPA had announced a ban on an organophosphate pesticide, chlorpyrifos. UPHE has stated that chlorpyrifos is a close cousin of naled and felt this ban should support UPHE's request that the District put a two-year moratorium on naled spraying as well. Executive Director quickly provided an official response before today's board meeting which explained that chlorpyrifos has a different chemistry than that of naled. Chlorpyrifos has been heavily used in agricultural applications for crops, which are conducted at much higher application rates and methods that are intended to deposit on crops, and should not be compared to our ultra-low volume applications of naled that are not intended for deposition. Studies involving chlorpyrifos showed issues that the EPA took into consideration and resulted in the eventual cancellation of that product. Ironically, that ban does not apply to mosquito control. Studies involving naled have not shown similar issues, and that is why it is still registered for wide-area mosquito control and has not been banned for residential use. The EPA sets safety standards to ensure the product can be used safely and effectively for the control of mosquitoes when used according to label directions. They have a slew of experts that evaluate these products and investigate all aspects of efficacy, toxicology, environmental fate, etc. All pesticides, in addition to the initial regulatory requirements through FIFRA, are also required to undergo a re-evaluation every 15 years under the Food Quality Protection Act. This is to ensure that the EPA is utilizing the latest science to determine safety associated with all of these products. Also, to his knowledge, the District has never used chlorpyrifos to control adult mosquitoes. Additionally, even the states that had a heavy use of this product previously (such as Florida), had stopped using it over a decade ago. This is another indication of the proactive measures that mosquito control districts undertake to ensure safety and efficacy. 10) Assistant Director White presented a surveillance update including West Nile virus testing results. There have been 110 positive WNV mosquito pools so far this year, which is up considerably higher than the five-year average. Additional information on mosquito abundance, species composition, West Nile virus activity, and general research and field projects was also presented.

9. Probable Agenda Items for 16 September 2021 Board Meeting:

- Executive Director's Report
- Research Projects Update
- Tax Increase Update
- 2022 Proposed Budget Update

10. Public Comment:

The following comments were provided by Tena Rohr on behalf of UPHE:

"Yesterday the EPA announced a ban on the most commonly used organophosphate pesticide, chlorpyrifos, because it is strongly linked to neurologic damage in children, lower

IQs, lower birth weights, and other developmental disorders. "Today E.P.A. is taking an overdue step to protect public health," said head of EPA, Michael S. Regan.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/18/climate/pesticides-epa-chlorpyrifos.html?referringSource=articleShare>

This has particular relevance for Salt Lake City, because chlorpyrifos is a close cousin of naled, the toxic chemical used by SLC Mosquito Abatement District in a wide spread airplane spraying campaign over 170,000 acres of Salt City's Northwest Quadrant. In addition to numerous studies that have shown even low concentrations of naled are harmful to brain development, a recent study found that naled and chlorpyrifos were the most neurotoxic of 30 organophosphate pesticides.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28602489/>

With pesticides being a known contributor to autism and other brain disorders, and Utah having one of the highest rates of autism in the nation, Utahns should take particular note of the EPA's announcement and be alarmed about this badly out-of-date practice.

The EPA has already banned naled for residential use, so why does the District think it's safe to spray from airplanes over Salt Lake City?

Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment (UPHE) has been calling on the District to stop the pesticide spraying:

1. It is toxic to brain development of fetuses, infants and children.
2. It inevitably leads to mosquito resistance which is already happening. The more pesticides are used, the more resistance develops, launching a chemical arms race. The District admits spraying is already rapidly losing its effectiveness. If spraying pesticides every day actually worked, why are mosquito populations increasing in the face of constant spraying?
3. West Nile Virus infections in humans are becoming increasingly rare, likely from growing population immunity as experts predicted. Case rates have fallen steadily for over 15 years, despite an increase in mosquito populations. There have only been 40 WNV cases in the entire country so far this year, in Utah only two cases last year, and only two so far this year.
4. There are safer, non-pesticide ways to control mosquitoes being used in other cities right now.

Historically we have always waited too long to control or ban environmental toxins. The only appropriate response to the EPA's announcement is for the District to stop the dangerous pesticide treadmill they have started in Salt Lake City."

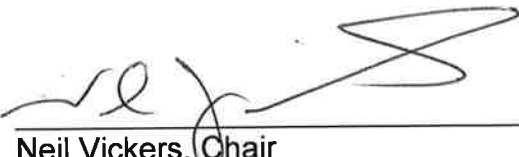
11. Adjournment:

Trustees Liddle and Turner made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:23 p.m. A box lunch will be available before the 16 September 2021 regular monthly board meeting, which will begin at 12:30 p.m.



Greg White, Assistant Director

9-16-21
Date



Neil Vickers, Chair

09/16/2021
Date