

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
18 November 2021
BOARD MEETING**

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

Time: 12:31 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Chair
Van Turner, Vice-Chair (Left Meeting at 2:15 p.m. During Item 9.)
Carlton Christensen (Attended Virtually. Joined Meeting During Item 3.)
La Vone Liddle

Trustees Absent Dr. Dagmar Vitek

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director
Jason Hardman, Operations Supervisor (Left after Item 3.)
Jenna Crowder, State Apiary Inspector, Utah Department of Agriculture
and Food (Left after Item 3.)
Doug Hawkes, Commercial Beekeeper, Blue Box Honey (Left after Item 3.)
Cody Lott, Commercial Beekeeper, Browning Honey (Left after Item 3.)

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Vickers called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m., and a roll call was conducted. It was confirmed that the meeting was being recorded, and no conflicts of interest were declared by the Trustees.

2. Approval of the 21 October 2021 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

Prior to this meeting, the Trustees were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of October's regular Board Meeting, and no modification were required. Trustee Liddle made a motion to approve the 21 October 2021 Board Meeting Minutes; Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

3. Update and Presentation on 2021 Honey Bee and Pollinator Research Projects:

We are very interested in protecting bee populations, and we have been working with some local beekeepers to ensure that our control methods are not detrimental to local bee

colonies. It has been a benefit to monitor bee health with actual beekeepers who have hives within the areas where we conduct active mosquito control, and Cody Lott (Browning Honey), Mike Browning (Browning Honey), and Doug Hawkes (Blue Box Honey) have been assisting us with a preliminary surveillance project by allowing us to observe their hives that are located in areas where mosquito control is conducted.

Jenna Crowder, who is an Apiary Inspector for the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, has been gathering data to help us monitor how our mosquito control affects local bee health. Her preliminary report was included in November's Board Packet, and she presented her project goals, methods, and findings on how naled affects honey bee hive health in Salt Lake County to the Board of Trustees. She pointed out this organophosphate insecticide was first registered for use in 1959. It kills adult mosquitoes on contact and is theoretically ideal in pollinator friendliness because it breaks down quickly in the environment. However, the few studies that do exist focus on the mechanism of application and do not look at sublethal effects. Her results showed that there were no significant differences found between control and exposed hives for any of the measured variables of honey super activity, forager activity, and adult bee mortality. The only variable that barely approached significance was bee mortality, which could have been affected by different variables. Next year, she looks forward to conducting data collection for a full season. She plans to further study naled exposure by participating in the longitudinal National Honey Bee Disease Survey, which would provide pesticide residue analysis of hive byproducts. She would also like to investigate sublethal effects by inspecting brood patterns and resource accumulations and analyzing bee mortality for pesticide residue versus other factors.

In addition to coordinating with Jenna Crowder, Operations Supervisor Hardman has been working with apiarists Mike Browning, Cody Lott, and Doug Hawkes, who are all commercial beekeepers. For several years, Mr. Hawkes has had several hives (upwards of several hundred during peak activity and a minimum of several dozen throughout the course of the summer) out in the waterfowl management clubs where more concentrated mosquito control is conducted; he indicated that he has had severe impact from mites and other problems, but mosquito control has never been an issue. The District is extremely grateful for Jenna Crowder's, Doug Hawke's, Mike Browning's, and Cody Lott's involvement in helping us conduct our scientific trials. The results are not only valuable for us locally in substantiating our efforts to be environmentally friendly, but it will provide empirical data that will be beneficial for all mosquito abatement districts and beekeepers throughout the nation.

4. Presentation of the October 2021 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

October's Financial Statements had been distributed to the Trustees preceding the Board Meeting. Executive Director reviewed the Financial Statements with the Board, and he drew attention to a few items: District employees were involved in two accidents this summer, in which we were not at fault. The Utah Local Governments Trust paid the District for the repairs, and then the District sent these funds to Bountiful Collision. Our interest rate increased slightly to 0.003267%. All expenditures were presented, with special attention being paid to the expenditures in excess of \$1,000. On Page 3, miscellaneous income for October

reflected a negative income of \$482.38 and a zero balance for January - October; this was because \$482.38 was deposited in September, and the check to Bountiful Collision was written in October. The unexpected expenses highlighted in blue were also discussed. Documentation supporting October's payments and fund balance sheets were made available for review. Trustee Liddle made a motion to adopt the October 2021 Financial Statements and to approve October's bills for payment. This motion carried unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Turner.

5. Discussion and Approval of Proposed Changes to Bylaws of The Board of Trustees:

Executive Director Faraji had emailed the recommended Bylaws modifications of the Board of Trustees for their consideration, and he reviewed each recommendation with the Board Members. Trustee Turner made a motion to approve the amended Bylaws; this motion was seconded by Trustee Liddle, and it passed with all in favor.

6. Discussion and Approval for Executive Director to Serve as Procurement Official for the District:

Assistant Director White recently attended the Utah Association of Special Districts conference, and he was informed that the District should have a Procurement Officer. The Board recommended putting a procurement appeals procedure in the Policies and Procedures. Trustee Christensen made a motion approving the Executive Director as the District's Procurement Official; Trustee Liddle seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

7. Discussion and Approval to Surplus a 2016 Honda Foreman ATV (-0411), a 2017 Honda Foreman ATV (-0544), and 4 Specialized Hybrid Bicycles:

The District generally replaces all-terrain vehicles every three years, and it's time for this equipment to be declared as surplus and sold on the government auction site. Approval to surplus a 2016 Honda Foreman ATV, a 2017 Honda Foreman ATV, and four specialized hybrid bicycles was unanimously passed upon a motion made by Trustee Liddle and seconded by Trustee Turner. (Trustee Christensen was temporarily unavailable for this vote.)

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

- **UMAA Annual Meeting, 24-26 October 2021, Hybrid Meeting, Park City, UT**

Assistant Director White, who will be the next UMAA President, planned an interesting UMAA program this year. Three representatives from our District presented talks: Rural Supervisor Salt, Executive Director Faraji, and Trustee Vickers. Trustee Liddle also attended the conference virtually. In spite of the technical difficulties, this meeting was well worth attending; it was exceptionally interesting and informative, and the participants

were very engaged in the presentations. In addition to surveillance, control, and regulatory/legislative updates, the combined presentation from attorneys regarding redevelopment and community reinvestment projects was of particular interest this year.

- **Waterford School, 22 October 2021, Sandy, UT**

Executive Director Faraji provided a presentation for three biology classes at the Waterford School in Sandy on Friday. He took fish and mosquito samples, and the presentation was videotaped so that more students from other biology classes could also benefit from this educational opportunity. The School expressed an interest in making a mosquito presentation an annual affair.

- **ESA, 31 October – 3 November 2021, Denver, CO**

Executive Director Faraji drove to the Entomological Society of America's conference in Denver this year. He was surprised with how few persons actually attended this conference in person because of the option to attend virtually. The meeting was held in a large convention center, and the halls and rooms were practically empty. He delivered a speech on Dr. Daniel Strickman, longtime Medical Entomologist with the US Army, USDA, and the Gates Foundation.

- **UASD, 3-5 November 2021, Provo, UT**

Assistant Director White and Trustee Vitek both attended the Utah Association of Special District's conference this year. There were several good discussions on regulations, COVID, purchasing, cyber security, GRAMA requests, and the interplay between federal and state laws. Cybercrime is increasing, and a discussion ensued about the District's cyber security.

- **Westpointe Community Council, 9 November 2021, Rose Park, UT**

Dorothy Owen, the Chairman of the Westpointe Community Council's Board, requested representation from our District to present more information on our operations, provide an overview of the services we make available to the community, and elaborate on the need for our property tax increase. Assistant Director White provided a similar presentation to the one that Trustee Vickers gave to the Salt Lake City Council earlier this year. Once we have an Education Specialist, providing general information and annual updates to community councils would be advantageous. By educating the public and making them aware of our services and the science behind our operations, working together to meet community needs and providing a safe, healthy environment will become much easier.

- **AMCA IBM, 10-12 November 2021, Jacksonville, FL**

Executive Director Faraji attended American Mosquito Control Association's Interim Board Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. In addition to conducting AMCA business, the officers inspected the facility and made other preparations in order to have AMCA's 2022

Annual Meeting run smoothly. AMCA's Technical Advisor, Dave Brown, will only be serving until the beginning of March 2022, and the Association is in the process of hiring a new Technical Advisor.

- **Pan African Mosquito Control Association visit, 18-20 November 2021, SLC, UT**

We will be hosting four individuals as they visit our District and stay in our dorm: Dr. Sam Rund, a professor from Notre Dame who is overseeing the partnership between the Pan African Mosquito Control Association and districts in the United States, will accompany another professor from the Bamako University in Mali and two additional colleagues from Africa. They will be meeting with staff to observe and discuss the different aspects of our operations. They have previously met with the Anastasia Mosquito Control District near Jacksonville, Florida and the North Shore Mosquito Abatement near Chicago, Illinois.

- **DSLASA, 2 December 2021, Virtual**

The Davis Salt Lake Aerial Spray Authority will be holding its quarterly meeting on 2 December 2021. Trustees Liddle and Vickers will be attending this meeting.

9. Executive Director's Report:

The Board Members were given a few updates, which included the following: 1) All of the Trustees have completed the required Open and Public Meetings Act Training for 2021. The State Auditor's Fraud Risk Assessment will be presented at the December Board Meeting. 2) Biologist Weinrich is planning on going to graduate school, and his last day working with us was 29 October. 3) We have two seasonal employees remaining, Ella Branham and Forrest Young. Ella Branham was terminated as a seasonal employee, and she was later rehired as a Laboratory Technician who works fewer than twenty hours each week. She assists with insect curation, mosquito colony maintenance, and trap/equipment cleanup. Forrest Young has been helping with research; he recently flew to Florida in pursuit of employment in mosquito control, where he has been provided a couple of employment offers. Also, a previous seasonal employee, Kayla Godfrey, plans to relocate and is currently interviewing with three different districts in Florida. 4) Executive Director has been handling the Employee's Notice of Secondary Employment forms for the fulltime employees, and his notice of secondary employment was included in the board packet. The remainder of the notices will be included in the individual personnel files of the employees. 5) Concerning surveillance, there was a resurgence of *Anopheles* mosquitoes before another cold spell occurred. 6) We just received the final proofs for the EcoSphere paper on the non-target aerial applications, and it will be submitted for official release shortly. 7) We are meeting with TechCyte, which is a company interested in developing a smart trap for mosquito identification. Particle Flux, a company that has connections with the University of Utah, is also coming to talk with us about a similar product. Both of these smart traps will utilize artificial intelligence to assist with mosquito identification and sorting. 8) We have sent some mosquito specimens to Aaron Davis out of Dixie State; he has an interest in *Culex pipiens*, which is the northern house

mosquito and the endemic primary vector of West Nile virus. We will invite him to visit our District, and we'll see if we can collaborate on a project with him. 9) Executive Director Faraji is on a Ph.D. committee for a student out of Southern Mississippi State University. The student is working on mosquito control and non-target insects, and she wants to investigate the non-target impacts of our aerial applications. She will most likely be staying a few summers with us while she undergoes her investigational work. 10) Utah State Epidemiologist, Dr. Leisha Nolen, and members of her staff are interested in conducting some research on West Nile virus involving ecology, climatology, environmental impacts, etc. Perhaps they could do a review paper on West Nile virus activity in our region. We have been assisting them with gathering data for analysis and publication. 11) Executive Director Faraji has been involved in a CDC-funded program through AMCA on Best Management Practices for West Nile virus/endemic *Culex* mosquitoes. The Best Management Practices is now finalized and is freely available on the AMCA website for anyone to use internationally. This document will provide much needed best practices for smaller programs across the globe. 12) Dr. Daniel Mendoza is close to finalizing his analysis on the modeling and literature search, and he has been asked to provide a preliminary report to the Board next month. 13) Executive Director Faraji is assisting Moab Mosquito Abatement District with applying for a grant through the Western Integrated Pest Management Center to assist in initiating a public health education program in Moab. 14) Concerning the tax increase, we have received only a few calls over the last month that have ranged from residents wanting to pay their entire tax bill to someone wanting to know if our fee needed to be paid separately. There has not been much interest in the tax increase itself. 15) The single signature process is the best approach for handling the annexation of the North Pointe Ranches; Operations Supervisor Hardman is in the process of contacting the farmers in the area to facilitate this process. 16) One of the Policies and Procedures modification that will be presented in December will address providing services and copies in response to GRAMA requests. 17) Executive Director Faraji will follow up with the Salt Lake City Council about Board vacancies if they have not taken action by the end of the year. 18) The CDC has approached Executive Director Faraji to review the next round of funding for the Centers of Excellence, and he has agreed to participate in this review panel. The CDC has recently put out a funding opportunity for ten Regional Centers of Excellence that will be funded for five years to the tune of approximately \$100,000,000. Therefore, five more centers will be added to the existing five established centers. 19) AMCA is still fighting for funding for the SMASH Act. We have asked for an additional \$19,000,000 for vector-borne diseases that will go to health departments and then trickle down to the local level. There will also be opportunities for further funding. 20) The District's mailing cost to include our tax increase notice with the County's property tax notice was only \$6,500.00, which is a much more palatable amount than the initial estimate of over \$20,000.

10. Probable Agenda Items for 16 December 2021 Board Meeting:

- Executive Director's Report
- State Auditor Fraud Risk Assessment
- Tax Increase Update/Approval and Prior Public Input
- Policies and Procedures Modifications
- North Point Ranches Annexation Update

- Budget Approval
- Dr. Daniel Mendoza's Preliminary Research Findings

11. Public Comment:

No members of the public were present.

12. Adjournment:

Trustees Liddle and Christensen made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m. A light lunch will be available before the 16 December 2021 regular monthly board meeting, which will begin at 4:30 p.m.



Ary Faraji, Executive Director

16 DEC 21
Date



Neil Vickers, Chair

12/16/2021
Date