

**MINUTES OF THE  
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT  
15 August 2024**

**BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair

Time: 12:33 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair  
Amanda Barth, Vice-Chair  
Luz Escamilla (Attended virtually; joined the meeting during Item 4.)  
Van Turner  
Neil Vickers, Ph.D.

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director  
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO

**1. Roll Call:**

Trustee Mooers called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. No conflicts of interest were declared.

**2. Approval of the 18 July 2024 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:**

The pending minutes of July's regular Board Meeting had been distributed to the Board Members previously, and no modifications were requested. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the 18 July 2024 Minutes of the Board of Trustees; the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and carried unanimously.

**3. Presentation of the July 2024 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:**

Copies of July's Financial Statements had been distributed to the Trustees earlier in the week. CFO Fairbanks noted receiving payments from the following entities: University of Central Florida (grant payment), Entomological Society of America (reimbursement for Gavin Maes's AMCA hotel), Utah Local Governments Trust (insurance

claim on 2019 Chevrolet truck), Utah State (US Bank credit card incentive), and Central Life Sciences (partial payment for methoprene trial). Interest income of \$78,225.00 was distributed between the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund, the bond payments had been made. All expenditures were presented, with special attention being paid to items over \$1,000.00. Documentation for the payments was reviewed when the checks were signed, and the credit card statements, supporting invoices/receipts for all payments, and Balance Sheets were made available for review. Trustee Barth made a motion to approve the July 2024 Financial Statements and bills for payment. Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor.

#### **4. Discussion and Approval for a 19.5% Tax Increase in 2025:**

In March the Board of Trustees had approved a proposal from Zions Public Finance to provide a financial model that would evaluate growth in operating expenses, need for capital projects, debt obligations, growth in taxable value, and other factors influencing the amount of property taxes that should appropriately be charged in the future. Members of the Board felt these services would be very informative towards handling our cash flow and allowing us to more accurately frame what our tax increase should be.

In April, Erik Daenitz of Zions Public Finance had discussed different facets of the financial analysis that were undertaken to forecast the District's future financial needs and the anticipated results of varying levels of tax increases. After a lengthy discussion, the Trustees had passed a motion to tentatively contemplate a 19.5% tax increase based upon the financial model that was presented by Zions Public Finance and to pursue appropriate actions.

Because a presentation about the tax increase needs to be prepared for the Salt Lake City Council, Executive Director Faraji asked the Trustees to provide him with definitive directions to pursue a 19.5% tax increase. After some discussion, Trustee Barth made a motion to approve proceeding with a 19.5% tax increase. Her motion carried unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Vickers.

#### **5. Discussion and Approval of General Contractor Proposal:**

Trustees Barth and Mooers met with members of the staff, MHTN Architecture, and MOCA Services to review the nine general contractor bids that had been received. Six of the bids were omitted because they failed to meet all of the requirements. The remaining three bids were very close to each other and fell within our budget, so the committee scrutinized the breakdowns of the individual classifications to see if there was an indication that something may have been omitted. After corroborating that no errors had been made, the lowest bidder (Eckman Construction) was then recommended to the Board for final selection. The members of the committee were thanked for the work they put into reviewing the bids. Trustee Barth made a motion to approve management pursuing negotiations with Eckman Construction as our general contractor; Trustee Escamilla seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor.

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

Executive Director Faraji briefly reviewed the following meetings:

- **Ecological Society of America, 4-9 August 2024**

Executive Director Faraji prepared a poster on the District's non-target work that was performed a few years ago. He noted how the District's employees endeavor to be ecologically-minded and, as entomologists, environmentalists and ecologists, strive to reduce our impact on the ecosystem as much as possible. Our day-to-day operations and research efforts are a testament to this commitment.

- **American Chemical Society, 18-22 August 2024**

Laboratory Director Bibbs has a strong chemistry background, and he is attending and presenting at this conference.

- **International Congress of Entomology, 25-30 August 2024**

Executive Director Faraji will be attending and presenting at this conference.

- **Society for Vector Ecology, 15-19 September 2024**

Molecular Biologist Byers will be attending the SOVE meeting in Fort Collins, Colorado.

- **Utah Mosquito Abatement Association, 28-30 October 2024**

Executive Director Faraji encouraged everyone to attend the UMAA meetings in St. George. This meeting provides the Trustees with their required annual training as well as informs them about several different aspects of mosquito control. Trustees Barth, Mooers, and Vickers will definitely attend this meeting. Trustee Escamilla will need to see how the UMAA meetings can be coordinated with her other obligations. Trustee Turner will obtain his training at the Utah Association of Special District's conference in November.

- **Entomological Society of America, 10-13 November 2024**

Trustee Vickers will be attending and presenting on his data from the University of Utah. He will not need financial support from the District for this meeting. Executive Director Faraji and Trustee Barth will also be attending this meeting. Trustee Barth will be provided registration costs through the District for this meeting.

**7. Executive Director's Report:**

In addition to the Director's Report that was distributed to the Trustees, Executive Director Faraji provided the Trustees with an update on the following items: 1) As a result of Education Specialist Rehbein's excellent work with the Western IPM grant providing the

least chub fish program at the State Prison, her project was recommended to the National IPM Center. She has now been awarded an additional \$18,000 by the National IPM Center to continue her work with the State Prison. She has sent a request to purchase a fish tank that will be utilized at the prison. Executive Director Faraji informed the Board about this purchase; the cost will be covered by the previous Western IPM grant that was included in the budget and, therefore, does not require further board approval. 2) The pollinator garden project is going well, and we are in the process of putting in some community garden boxes. 3) We have set up a new beehive on the property. 4) Education Specialist Rehbein has been involved in several outreach events, including the two-day Natural History Museum's Bug Fest. 5) Dr. Ivy Hurwitz from the University of New Mexico visited and observed our operations during 15-17 in July. Trustee Barth also had some questions regarding our involvement with other entities, such as the Native American Tribes in the State of Utah. Executive Director Faraji mentioned that we have actively worked with the Ute Tribe for several years and are in fact providing them live mosquito samples for insecticide resistance assays. We also had five individuals from the Paiute Tribe recently visit the District and shadow our control and surveillance teams in the field. 6) Executive Faraji passed around a handout identifying the 23 positive West Nile virus mosquito pools in the District. So far this year, the minimum field infection rates are not high enough to cause great concern. 7) We are losing the majority of our seasonal employees because they are returning to school. 8) We had our last aerial evaluation trial for the RaHP VEC grant this week. Unfortunately, the trial didn't go as well as hoped because the weather did not cooperate. These field trials are much more difficult than laboratory trials. We have also had a lot of trap failures, and it may be necessary to repeat some of these trials. The trials are beneficial to us because the grant saves the District thousands of dollars by paying for the aerial, pesticide, labor, and efficacy evaluation costs of applications that need to be conducted with or without grant funding. 9) Dr. Paula Lado Henaise, from the USDA, stayed in the dorms 29 July – 9 August 2024. She was interested in learning about mosquito surveillance/control. She met with management and office staff and also shadowed field personnel during various activities. 10) We made an insurance claim for a seasonal employee who was thrown from an ATV due to traveling at an excessive speed. He was not seriously hurt; the doctor prescribed light duty, so he assisted in the lab for a week. We will now budget placing speedometer regulators (at a cost around \$500 each) on the ATVs so no one can travel faster than 30 mph. 11) A seasonal was hit in the head by a cooler lid while she was providing fish in the City. At her request, she was taken to urgent care, was found to have no injury, and was able to return to work. 12) Another ATV mishap occurred when a seasonal's chin hit the basket when his ATV suddenly dropped into an unseen ditch. He required a few stitches on his chin and was cleared to return to work the following day. (*Trustee Escamilla left the meeting at 1:52 p.m.*) 13) The last insurance claim is for the industrial crew's truck. A thistle brush encountered in an unmaintained area unknowingly punctured the truck's radiator, and the truck overheated and shut down. The seasonals let the vehicle cool and then proceeded to drive further until the truck became totally immobile. The truck was towed back to the facility. Upon inspection, the punctured radiator, a burned-out engine, and other ruined items were identified. An insurance adjuster agreed that the 2014 Toyota Tacoma with 44,000 miles was totaled. When we filed the claim, we found out that we only had general liability/comprehensive insurance and not collision. Unfortunately, this occurrence is considered a collision because it was punctured while being driven. We are asking for special consideration because we had the understanding that our "comprehensive" insurance was actually all-inclusive. We will now

add collision to our insurance policy, and we are also thinking about creating a policy to reduce insurance coverage based on the age of the vehicle.

**8. Probable Agenda Items for 19 September 2024 Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m.:**

- Executive Director's Report
- Construction Updates
- Grant Updates
- Tax Increase Updates
- Policies and Procedures

**9. Public Comment:**

No public was present at this time.

**10. Adjournment:**

Trustees Barth and Turner made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 p.m., which passed unanimously. The next Board Meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. on 19 September 2024. A box lunch will be available at noon.

  
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Ary Faraji, Executive Director

18 SEPT 24  
Date

  
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Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair

9/19/2024  
Date