

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
18 January 2024
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair

Time: 12:30 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair
Amanda Barth, Vice-Chair (Attended virtually)
Carlton Christensen
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 12:30 p.m. and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Passing the Gavel and Board Elections:

Trustee Mooers began the meeting by expressing the Board's appreciation for the service and leadership that Trustee Christensen had provided during 2023 as well as all of the expertise he has provided the District since 2016. Trustee Mooers took a moment to present Trustee Christensen with a plaque depicting his excellent leadership, and Executive Director Faraji thanked Trustee Christensen for his sage advice which helped guide us through many trials and tribulations, including bonding and construction. A photo of all of the Board Trustees was taken, including Trustee Barth, who was attending the meeting virtually.

Executive Director Faraji shared the good news that Trustee Turner has now been officially reappointed to the Board. He also reminded everyone that Trustee Mooers would

serve as 2024's Chair because the Board Bylaws stipulate that "the Vice-Chairperson automatically ascends to the office of Chairperson at the end of the Chairperson's term." And, the Board had previously decided that Trustee Barth would serve as Vice-Chair during 2024. Nominations were then open for 2025's Vice-Chair. Trustee Christensen made a motion that Trustee Vickers serve as Vice-Chair during 2025. This motion was seconded by Trustee Turner, and it carried with all in favor.

We do not know when our current board vacancy will be officially filled, but we do know that at least one application has been submitted by Senator Luz Escamilla. And, because Trustee Liddle is no longer serving on DSLASA's Board, Trustee Mooers asked for an update on her replacement. Executive Director Faraji asked if someone would be willing to join Trustee Vickers in providing direction for DSLASA. Trustee Turner expressed a strong desire to serve as our Board's second liaison with DSLASA. The Trustees were in agreement, and no formal action on this decision was necessary.

3. Discussion and Approval for Hiring a Financial Advisor:

Zions Public Finance provided the only full proposal to the District's RFP for hiring a financial advisor. Their representatives, Brian Baker and Cara Bertot, met with Executive Director Faraji, Assistant Director White, CFO Fairbanks, and Trustee Barth. Trustee Barth summarized the meeting for the Board, noting that they elicited her confidence because they were very knowledgeable about governmental laws and regulations. They were also very familiar with our District and provided several different scenarios and financial options for helping the District successfully realize its current construction plans. She was quite impressed with how they readily shared their knowledge and provided free advice options when they responded to our bonding/financing questions.

The District has worked with Zions Public Finance in the past, and the Trustees felt very comfortable trusting their creative financial guidance in determining optimal options for utilizing our funding possibilities. Executive Director plans to negotiate a three-year contract with two one-year renewals, and he would like to have the contract include a financial analysis to help us define the lowest adequate tax increase (if necessary) we should put into motion. If the District decides to bond for additional funds, it will also be necessary to obtain bond council.

Trustee Christensen made a motion giving Executive Director Faraji permission to negotiate terms and sign, concurrent with the Board Chair approval, a contract with Zions Public Finance for financial services and to also procure bond council. Trustee Barth seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the 14 December 2023 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

The Board Members were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of November's regular Board Meeting prior to this meeting, and no modifications were

necessary. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the 14 December 2023 Minutes of the Board of Trustees; the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and carried with a unanimous vote.

5. Approval of the 14 December 2023 Public Hearing Minutes of the 2023 Budget Amendments and 2024 Proposed Budget:

Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve the 14 December 2023 Public Hearing Minutes of the 2023 Budget Amendments and 2024 Proposed Budget. His motion carried with all in favor after being seconded by Trustee Vickers.

6. Presentation of the December 2023 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

The Trustees had received copies of December's Financial Statements before the Board Meeting, and CFO Fairbanks reviewed the Financial Statements with the Trustees. She was pleased to report that \$5,104.33 had been received from South Salt Lake Valley MAD for the work we had performed in their area, and \$6,000,000.00 had been transferred to the Capital Projects Fund. 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. After all questions about the financials had been answered, Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the December 2023 Financial Statements and the bills for payment; this motion was seconded by Trustee Turner, and it passed unanimously.

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

The Trustees were invited to make comments and/or ask questions about the following training/meetings:

- **Mosquito & Vector Control Association of California, 22-25 January 2024**

Assistant Director White will be attending and presenting at this year's MVCAC Conference.

- **CDC Vector Week, 5-9 February 2024**

- **Wyoming Mosquito Management Association, 12-13 February 2024**

- **West Central Mosquito & Vector Control Association, 20-22 February 2024**

- **American Mosquito Control Association, 4-8 March 2024**

The AMCA meeting was brought to the attention of the Board Members because it is a very informative conference and is perhaps the most important meeting for our organization. Trustee Vickers and members of staff will be presenting at this conference. The AMCA is also sponsoring Trustee Mooer's attendance because her father, Dr. Mir Mulla, is being memorialized and honored at this meeting.

- **Anastasia Mosquito Control District Workshop, 25-28 March 2024**

The Board Members who have not attended this workshop in the past were encouraged to participate this year. Laboratory Director Bibbs and Molecular Biologist Byers will both be giving presentations. The Anastasia Mosquito Control District has functioning adult bioassay cages and larval bioassay vaults similar to what we plan to construct on our back lot, and they also have helicopter operations and a new sterile insect technique facility where they are mass rearing their own mosquitoes for release. Trustee Barth has a very full schedule, and it's difficult for her to attend multiple-day conferences. She asked if it would be possible to obtain an agenda so she could select the best day to attend upcoming conferences. The other Trustees would also like this information.

- **Davis-Salt Lake Aerial Spray Authority, 28 March 2024**

Trustees Vickers and Turner will need to calendar this meeting.

- **Pacific-Southwest Center of Excellence, 3-5 April 2024**

- **ESA Pacific Branch, 14-17 April 2024**

Executive Director Faraji will be attending this meeting, for he has some duties with the Medical and Urban Veterinary Entomology position. Additionally, the Pacific Branch meetings will be held in Salt Lake City during 2025, and they have inquired about our facility serving as a field trip site during that event. We may also participate by assisting with local arrangements and hosting during those meetings.

- **Florida Fly In, 16-18 April 2024**

- **SLCMAD/CSU/RaHP Vec Workshop 6-10 May 2024**

- **UMAA Spring Workshop, 10 May 2024**

- **AMCA Washington Days, 13-15 May 2024**

The Trustees were encouraged to participate in this important legislative event.

8. Executive Director's Report:

The Board Members were given a brief update and/or discussed the following: 1) Concerning construction, we are still holding weekly meetings every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. We are still struggling to obtain the lot consolidation. The County and Salt Lake City records are not in agreement. 2) We have three seasonals on staff with us, and they are basically conducting colony / insectary maintenance. 3) We still have a moisture / mold issue in the insectary due to condensation. 4) We have three students from the University of Utah who are working on a variety of different projects with Laboratory Director Bibbs. 5) The cover pages from some of our recent publications are included in the Director's Report. Laboratory Director Bibbs submitted thirteen peer-reviewed manuscripts last year. 6) The Colorado State University grant survey results from all of the mosquito abatement districts in our five different regions were recently received. 7) A student from Pakistan has approached Laboratory Director Bibbs about doing a six-month mini-fellowship with our District. There will be no financial obligation from our District, but we are willing to augment her \$1,500 per month stipend, which is supposed to cover her rent and food, by allowing her to stay in our dormitory. We have made it clear that we are unable to sponsor a visitor visa. 8) Education Specialist Rehbein was recently selected as the AMCA Social Media Coordinator. 9) Education Specialist Rehbein has been working on a large document that will be placed on our website. It includes historical pictures, updated current photos, general information about our District / mosquito / mosquito control, etc. 10) We need to do an extension with our owner's representative. We have been pleased with their service, and the extension will be presented at a future Board Meeting. Additionally, Trustee Barth mentioned that a coalition has been formed for the benefit of the Great Salt Lake and that she would like the District to also participate and provide assistance where/when deemed appropriate. Assessments will be conducted in regards to the Great Salt Lake and surrounding habitats, and it would be a beneficial endeavor for the District to also provide assistance. More information will be provided down the line as these assessments start to materialize.

9. Probable Agenda Items for 15 February 2024 Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m.:

- Executive Director's Report
- Construction Update
- Grants Updates
- Personnel Update
- Financial Advisor Contract

10. Public Comment:

There were no members of the public present at this time.

11. Adjournment:

Trustees Christensen and Vickers made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:54 p.m., which passed unanimously. The next Board Meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. on 15 February 2024.

Ary Faraji, Executive Director

Date

Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair 2024

Date