

**MINUTES OF THE  
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT  
21 March 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  
Carlton Christensen  
Van Turner  
Neil Vickers, Ph.D.

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director

**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. Approval of the 15 February 2024 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:**

The pending minutes of February's regular Board Meeting had been distributed to the Board Members prior to this meeting, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve the 15 February 2024 Minutes of the Board of Trustees; the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and carried with a unanimous vote.

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

February's Financial Statements had been given to the Trustees for review earlier in the week. Because CFO Fairbanks was out of town, Trustee Mooers asked if anyone had any questions or comments to make about the financials. Upon receiving no comments, Trustee Mooers called for a motion approving the February 2024 Financial

Statements and approval of bills for payment. Trustee Barth made this motion; it was seconded by Trustee Vickers and passed with all in favor.

**4. Discussion and Approval for Consulting Services on Financial Sustainability Model and Rate Analysis:**

This month's Board Packet included an \$8,500 proposal from Susie Becker, Vice President of Zions Public Finance, to provide a financial model that will 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 need to be charged in the future. Members of the Board felt these services will be very informative towards handling our cash flow and allowing us to more accurately frame what our tax increase should be. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the consulting services from Zions Public Finance for \$8,500. His motion carried unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Barth. Trustee Christensen agreed to join Executive Director Faraji and CFO Fairbanks when they meet with Susie Becker to discuss the District's upcoming financial needs.

**5. Update on Bond Counsel:**

Last month, the Board instructed Executive Director Faraji to begin contract negotiations for bond counsel, and the executed engagement letter from Randall M. Larsen of Gilmore Bell was included in this month's Board Packet. A fixed fee for bond counsel services will be agreed upon once the specific details of the bond transaction are known. If the bond issuance is abandoned, a reasonable settlement based on the time expended will be negotiated. Trustee Christensen indicated this is a standard and acceptable approach to conducting bond services, and he has been satisfied with Mr. Larsen's reasonable service fees in the past. Because the Trustees formally approved bond negotiations last month, no further action was necessary.

**6. Discussion and Approval of Cost Extension for MOCA Systems as SLCMAD's Owner's Representative:**

The District has currently paid MOCA \$66,000 for their services; an additional \$339,614.00 extension for future services has been included in this month's Board Packet, which will carry these services through the construction phase as well. Executive Director Faraji pointed out that there is a "not to exceed" contract total of \$405,614.00. He received a verbal assurance from Rob Czubak that, unless there is a significant overall construction cost increase (such as requesting an additional building), a delay in the aggressive construction timeline will not affect MOCA's \$405,615.00 Project/Program Management Services Amendment #002 Agreement. In spite of our good working relationship with MOCA, the Trustees preferred to have more than just a verbal assurance about not increasing the cost and also felt the timeline was too aggressive. Trustee Christensen made a motion to approve MOCA's Project/Program Management Services Amendment #002 Agreement with the provision that there be at least a six-month additional timeframe to complete the project and no additional fees unless the scope of the project increases

beyond twenty-five million dollars. This motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and passed with all in favor.

**7. Update on Western IPM and Other Grants:**

Education Specialist Rehbein and Assistant Director White were both awarded Western IPM grants: Dr. Rehbein's grant is on Adopting Integrated Pest Management and Training Opportunities for Future Mosquito and Vector Control Professionals at a Utah State Prison in an Alternative High School in Wyoming. Also, during the past legislative session, Executive Director Faraji and Education Specialist Rehbein attended a sub-committee hearing at the State Capitol. Apparently, the legislature passed a \$50,000 funding request to provide further education at the Utah State Prison, and prison staff recently contacted the District to obtain further information regarding this additional funding. Assistant Director White's grant is Adapting / Attracting Kill Methodology to Improve Mosquito IPM.

We submitted two separate proposals in response to another Broad Agency Announcement from the CDC: "Development and Implementation of Novel Technology for Delivery of *Aedes* Mosquito Larvicides to Aquatic Habitats" and "Improved Surveillance and its Incorporation into Novel Auto-Dissemination Technology for Management of the Malaria Vector *Anopheles stephensi*". These proposals were submitted in collaboration with Banfield Biologics, a technology research company based out of Washington. If successful, both projects will lead to applicable technology and methodologies that can be incorporated into integrated mosquito management programs.

**8. Legislative Updates:**

Ryan Lusty, Manager of the Magna Mosquito Abatement District, prepared the final 2024 UMAA Legislative Report that was included in this month's Board Packet. Ryan serves as our liaison and representative on the Utah Association of Special Districts, and the comments he included in his report helped the Trustees better understand the new laws and their ramifications on mosquito abatement districts. There were no further comments on the legislative updates.

**9. Personnel and Position Discussions:**

As allowed by Subsection 52-4-205(1)(a), Trustee Barth made a motion at 1:05 p.m. to proceed to a closed session in order to discuss the character, professional competence, and physical / mental health of an individual. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Christensen, and the following roll call was taken: Trustee Barth, Aye; Trustee Turner, Aye; Trustee Vickers, Aye; Trustee Christensen, Aye; and Trustee Mooers, Aye. The Trustees remained in the same room to conduct the closed session, and the recording was stopped. (Subsection 52-4-206(6)(a) and (b) stipulate that the person presiding shall sign a sworn statement affirming that the sole purpose for closing the meeting was to discuss the purposes described under Subsection 52-4-205(1)(a) and the provisions of Subsection 52-

4-206(1) do not apply. Therefore, no recording or written minutes of the closed portion of the meeting were required.)

The closed portion of the meeting was ended and the open meeting reconvened at 2:09 p.m.

**10. 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:

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

Several members of our staff attended / presented at this meeting in Colorado Springs.

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

Trustee Vickers (who provided a presentation AND a lightening talk) and members of our staff attended / presented at this conference. The AMCA also sponsored Trustee Mooers' attendance because her father, Dr. Mir Mulla, was recognized at a memorial tribute for the amazing work he accomplished during his lifetime.

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

Laboratory Director Bibbs and Molecular Biologist Byers will both be giving presentations at this workshop.

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

Trustees Vickers and Turner will be attending this meeting.

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

Salt Lake City may possibly be hosting the PacVec meetings in 2026.

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

Executive Director Faraji will be attending and presenting at this meeting. 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**

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

In addition to the Director's Report that was distributed to the Trustees, the Board Members were given a brief update and/or discussed the following: 1) Two more recent publications, headed by Laboratory Director Bibbs, were added to this month's Director's Report: "Blinded by the light: does heat or light enhance wild mosquito (Diptera: Culicidae) attraction to CO<sub>2</sub>-baited traps in the Great Salt Lake area?" and "Diuresis and a-glucosidase inhibition by erythritol in *Aedes aegypti* (Diptera: Culicidae) and viability for efficacy against mosquitoes." 2) We have not received an update concerning Trustee Christensen's replacement on the Board. (3) Concerning our new construction, there will be an FAA conditional use hearing on 28 April 2024. (4) We have already started putting out traps, and we will bring on a few full-time seasonal employees and begin our surveillance program on 1 April 2024. (5) We have also put out some deer fly and other biting fly traps around the prison.

**12. Probable Agenda Items for 25 April 2024 Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m.:**

- Executive Director's Report
- Construction Updates
- Grant Updates
- Financial Forecast from Zions Public Finance
- Bond Counsel Update
- New Job Titles / Descriptions

**13. Public Comment:**

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

**14. Adjournment:**

Trustees Barth and Vickers made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:16 p.m., which passed unanimously. The next Board Meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. on 25 April 2024.

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Ary Faraji, Executive Director

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Date

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Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date