

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
19 September 2024
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair

Time: 12:32 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair
Luz Escamilla (Joined the meeting during Item 5)
Van Turner (Attended virtually)
Neil Vickers, Ph.D.

Trustees Excused: Amanda Barth, Vice-Chair

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO
Bradley Sorensen, Aerial Operations Supervisor (Joined the meeting during Item 5 and left after Item 6)

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Mooers called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Approval of the 15 August 2024 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

The pending minutes of August's regular Board Meeting had been distributed to the Board Members previously, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the 15 August 2024 Minutes of the Board of Trustees; the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and carried unanimously.

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

The Trustees had received copies of August's Financial Statements earlier in the week. CFO Fairbanks noted receiving payments from the following entities: Entomological Society of America (transportation reimbursement), Utah Department of Corrections (1/2-year contract payment), and UC Davis (grant payment). Interest income of \$68,951.04 was distributed between the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund, and \$428,157.23 had been expended. 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 Vickers made a motion to approve the August 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, Generating \$1,370,667 in Additional Revenues, and Increasing the Certified Tax Rate to 0.000176:

Even though the Trustees have already formally approved the 19.5% tax increase, Executive Director Faraji explained that the tax increase was included on this month's agenda because the Tax Commission had informed him that the correct procedural process for approving a tax increase now requires notifying the public that the District intends to levy a tax rate that exceeds the District's current tax rate by holding a public meeting fourteen or more days before the general election. And, the District must specifically state on the meeting agenda and at the public meeting the dollar amount of the additional tax revenue that would be acquired, the expressed purpose for the proposed tax increase, and the District's percentage of the certified tax rate increase.

In order to comply with legislative requirements, Trustee Vickers read the following motion: "I move that the Board of Trustees of the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District officially declare their intent to increase tax rates. The dollar amount of this increase will be approximately \$1,370,667 in additional revenues. The purpose of the tax increase has been discussed and will primarily concentrate on keeping up with inflation, enhancing laboratory and field operations (with a concentration of aerial helicopter services to increase efficiency and efficacy of larval control methodologies), and for funding of construction capital improvement projects. The approximate percentage of the tax increase will be 19.5% above the current 2024 certified tax rate of 0.000147 and will bring the new proposed certified tax rate to 0.000176." His motion carried unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Turner. The Trustees thanked Executive Director for the effort and time he has devoted to making this tax increase possible.

The District strives to be transparent, and we have also posted information about the District's tax increase on our website. Official notification that the District will be pursuing a tax increase will be sent to the Salt Lake City Council Office after today's Board Meeting is adjourned.

5. Discussion and Approval for Purchase of Dissecting Microscopes:

Purchasing ten dissecting microscopes for \$13,302.40 from United Scope LLC was tabled during the 20 June 2024 Board Meeting because the Trustees asked to see quotes for comparable microscopes from other providers. After reviewing competing quotes for \$48,620.00 and \$30,189 and also discussing how these microscopes will be advantageous for general lab work and imperative for upcoming workshops, Trustee Escamilla made a motion to approve purchasing ten dissecting microscopes from United Scope LLC for \$13,302.40. Trustee Vickers seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor.

6. Discussion and Approval Regarding Purchase of a 2024 or 2025 Airbus H125:

Aerial Operations Supervisor Sorensen presented pricing, pros, and cons for several aircraft purchase options. The Board had a lengthy discussion considering aircraft costs, model years, warranties, completion dates, aircraft maintenance, insurance, training, and payment terms versus anticipated interest income on existing funds. Safety and allowing Aerial Operations Supervisor Sorensen sufficient time to complete the desired amount of training were also contemplated. The Trustees determined that the purchase of a new aircraft, with reduced maintenance needs and additional safety features, would be in the best interest of the District. Trustee Escamilla made and Trustee Vickers seconded a motion to approve the purchase of a 2025 Airbus H125. This motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Approval for Vehicle Insurance Policy (General Liability versus Collision/Comprehensive):

Last month we discussed the vehicle that was totaled because its radiator overheated and ruined the engine. When we filed the claim, we found out that we only had general liability/comprehensive insurance and not collision. Unfortunately, this occurrence was considered a collision because the radiator was punctured while being driven. We asked for special consideration because we had the understanding that our “comprehensive” insurance was actually all-inclusive, and Utah Local Governments Trust agreed to cover this loss. We have added collision to our insurance policy, but we realize the cost of full coverage may not be prudent once the vehicle’s resale value has declined considerably. The Trustees were given a chart showing depreciation values on a Ford F-150. At five years, resale values are around 50%. The Trustees asked staff to discuss this issue with our insurance representative, Curtis Tonks, prior to making a decision. The insurance modification decision was tabled until next month’s board meeting.

8. Update on Construction Contracts:

Three contracts were included in this month’s Board Packet: 1) The contract with Eckman Construction has been finalized, and they would like to move their trailers on site and begin earthwork around 7 October 2024, depending on permit approval from the City. 2) The second contract has been signed with CMB Consultants LC, dba UNVC, for building commissioning services that will oversee the execution and performance of the construction contract. UNVC is a highly-specialized third party that makes sure the project meets required quality standards, ensures the project is delivered within budget on a timely

basis, and helps resolve any construction / communication issues. 3) The third contract is with Professional Service Industries, Inc. (PSI), an Intertek Company. PSI will provide construction materials testing and special inspection services, which will include the new auxiliary buildings and sitework.

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

Executive Director Faraji briefly reviewed the following meetings:

- **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**

The Trustees passed around the abstract of the ICE conference. Executive Director Faraji will be attending this conference.

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

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

- **Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association, 21-24 October 2024**

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

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 are planning on attending the UMAA meetings in October. Trustee Escamilla will complete her required training online, and Trustee Turner will obtain his training at the Utah Association of Special District's conference in November. A few staff members will also attend UMAA's meetings this year.

- **Utah Association of Special Districts, 6-8 November 2024**

Executive Director Faraji, Assistant Director White, and CFO Fairbanks will be attending the UASD convention at the Davis Conference Center in Layton.

- **Entomological Society of America (EntSoc), 10-13 November 2024**

Trustee Vickers not need financial support from the District for this meeting because he will be attending and presenting on his data from the University of Utah. Executive Director Faraji and Trustee Barth will also be attending this meeting, and the District will cover Trustee Barth's registration for this meeting.

10. Executive Director's Report:

The Director's Report, which included surveillance and control data, had been previously distributed to the Trustees. In addition, Executive Director Faraji discussed the following items: 1) The International Congress of Entomology Congress of Entomology has caused Executive Director Faraji to contemplate hosting the first International Congress for Mosquito Control in 2027. International professional persons would be invited to attend in Salt Lake City. The Board was supportive of this idea and asked how they can help. 2) Executive Director Faraji and Assistant White have been holding bi-weekly meeting with the partners in Mali for the Mali Mosquito Control Project. We are no longer planning on sending Education Specialist Rehbein and Laboratory Director Bibbs to Mali in October because there was a recent terrorist attack in the capital city of Bamako, causing the international airport to shut down. We have decided to postpone their visit because of safety concerns. The Ouelessebougou Alliance would have been providing travel expenses for this trip. 3) Our Mali efforts are primarily sponsored by the Ouelessebougou Alliance, housed in Riverton. The Ouelessebougou Alliance is currently seeking someone to serve on their Board of Directors, so please let Executive Director know if you would like accept their invitation to serve. 4) Commissioner Anderson, Department of Public Safety, and Colonel Rapich, Utah Highway Patrol, will be visiting the District at 3:00 p.m. on 2 October 2024. We will show them our operations, discuss our future expansions, and show them the area we are allocating for their use, should they be interested. The Trustees were encouraged to also participate in this visit. 5) Dr. Ed Norris, USDA, will be visiting the District at the end of this week. 6) A colleague from Kenya will also be coming and staying in the dormitory following the Trop Med meetings in November. 7) Molecular Biologist Byers submitted a proposal to the America Mosquito Control Association Research Foundation on environmental DNA sampling from aquatic sources. 7) Education Specialist Rehbein lead the first Bio Blitz at our facility in collaboration with the University of Utah's Natural History Museum; there were around thirty people participating in the identification / documentation of flora and fauna found around the District. 8) Education Specialist Rehbein has been asked by the Entomological Society to act as a mentor in their Mentorship Program. 9) Assistant Director White had prepared a PowerPoint depicting the West Nile virus human disease cases reported by state in the USA. Utah has successfully kept the WNV human cases to a fairly low number of 6, where Nevada has 25, Colorado has 55, Arizona has 18, and Idaho has 5. He also showed the District's historical data on *Culex erythrothorax*, *Culex pipiens*, and *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes. 10) The warmer temperatures are continuing to extend our season, making it difficult to sample/treat all larval habitats with a reduced workforce.

11. Probable Agenda Items for 17 October 2024 Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m.:

- Vehicle Insurance
- Executive Director's Report
- Construction Updates
- Personnel Updates
- Grant Updates
- Surveillance/Control Updates

12. Public Comment:

No public was present at this time.

13. Adjournment:

Trustees Escamilla and Vickers made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:37 p.m., which passed unanimously. The next Board Meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. on 17 October 2024. A box lunch will be available at noon.

Ary Faraji, Executive Director

Date

Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair

Date