

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
19 December 2024

BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair

Time: 4:33 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Dr. Shireen Mooers, Chair
Amanda Barth, Vice-Chair
Van Turner

Trustees Excused: Luz Escamilla
Neil Vickers, Ph.D.

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Gregory White, Ph.D., Assistant Director
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO
R. Bradley Sorensen, Aerial Operations Supervisor
Jose Davila, Salt Lake Tribune Reporter (Attended Items 13-18)
Elizabeth Harris, Salt Lake City Resident (Attended Items 13-18)
Courtney Henley, Salt Lake City Resident (Attended Items 13-18)
Kevin Parke, Salt Lake City Resident (Attended Items 13-18)

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Mooers called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Approval of the 21 November 2024 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

The pending minutes of November's regular Board Meeting had been distributed to the Board Members previously, and no modifications to the draft minutes were necessary. Trustee Barth made a motion to approve the 21 November 2024 Minutes of the Board of Trustees; the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and carried unanimously.

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

The Trustees had received copies of November's Financial Statements earlier in the week. CFO Fairbanks noted receiving payments from the sale of fixed assets: \$8,152.65 for two ATVs and \$21,768.75 for a truck. Assistant Director White was thanked for handling the sales of these fixed assets through the government auction site. Interest income of \$62,617.15 was distributed between the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund, \$213,771.59 had been expended from the General 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. Trustee Turner made a motion to approve the November 2024 Financial Statements and bills for payment; Trustee Barth seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor.

4. Discussion and Approval for Natures Bakery to Rent SLCMAD Training Facilities January through March 2025:

We have made it a practice to support the community through making our training room available for public meetings. Natures Bakery has purchased the acreage directly north of the District, and they approached us about renting some training space until their facility is completed in April 2025. This would entail groups of 12-30 employees receiving onboarding training off and on during January through March until their own training room is ready. The Trustees were amenable to being a supportive neighbor, provided a contract listing stipulations / expectations / agreements is negotiated in order to protect our property, maintain a positive affiliation, and prevent fostering a negative relationship. The contract should provide an avenue for ending the contractual agreement, upon the request of either party. A reasonable rental charge can be determined by staff. Trustee Turner made a motion to approve the District renting some space to Natures Bakery during January through March 2025 for training their employees; the motion received a unanimous vote after being seconded by Trustee Barth.

5. Update on Construction:

Aerial Operations Supervisor Sorensen gave a construction update to the Trustees, for he has been assisting with overseeing the construction process. Obtaining the construction permit from Salt Lake City has mandated several extra requisites; thus, this process has been much slower than previously anticipated. All of the permits have finally been acquired, and we anticipate beginning the earthwork on 20 January 2025. Executive Director Faraji will arrange for the Trustees to participate in a groundbreaking ceremony prior to beginning the earthwork.

Salt Lake City is requesting that we provide street lights on the west side of 2200 West in front of our property. We are pushing back on this request because there is no sidewalk on the west side of the street and our neighbors to the north have not had to comply with this request. All of the street lighting on 2200 West is on the east side of the street until the transfer station.

6. Update on Tax Increase:

The Board Packet contained multiple documents pertaining to the tax increase, including the tax numbers again. Executive Director Faraji recapped the procedures that have been undertaken for the truth in taxation process. The District received around twenty-five phone calls in response to the tax notices that were sent out. The vast majority of the calls were from people who were confused and wanted to know if they needed to pay us now or wanted to know how to pay all of their taxes. It is apparent that the wording required by the Tax Commission for tax increase notices is quite confusing to the general public.

We received a letter from the Westside Coalition Board voicing their concerns about the tax increase. The Trustees appreciated receiving these comments and acknowledged the fact that the Westside Coalition asked several of the same questions the Board Members had deliberated when a tax increase was initially discussed. In addition to property tax dollars, an agreement has been established with the State Prison to cover their mosquito abatements costs and the District has been pursuing additional income from grants. It was noted that the Westside Coalition's mission is to advocate for the health, safety, and quality of life of Salt Lake City residents, which is also our mission. The Trustees decided that the District should reply to the Westside Coalition Board's correspondence by offering to attend one of their meetings and by also responding with a letter that addresses their comments / concerns.

7. Update on State Auditor Annual Fraud Risk Assessment:

CFO Fairbanks briefly discussed the Fraud Risk Assessment requirements and 2024's results; this assessment needs to be completed and presented to the Trustees annually. Thanks to the Trustees completing their required annual training, the District was able to score a "very low risk level" of 370 points on the State Auditor's Annual Fraud Risk Assessment. This assessment will now be submitted to the State Auditor.

8. Discussion and Approval of the 2025 Board Calendar:

Executive Director Faraji presented the 2025 Calendar for the Board Meetings. Although the majority of the meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month, rationale was provided for moving the meeting to another date in February, March, May, June, and October. Trustee Turner made a motion to

approve the 2025 Board Meeting Calendar with the changes that had been noted. Trustee Barth seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

- **Illinois Mosquito and Vector Control Association, 21-22 November 2024, Springfield, Illinois**

Education Specialist Rehbein was invited to attend and present at this conference; they covered her registration and hotel costs.

- **Louisiana Mosquito Control Association, 10-12 December 2024, New Orleans, Louisiana**

Executive Director Faraji was asked to be the Keynote Speaker at Louisiana Mosquito Control Association's 67th Annual Conference in December.

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) Aerial Operations Supervisor Sorensen has been making good progress on obtaining various certifications towards completing his helicopter training. More specific details have been included in the Director's Report. 2) We were approached by the Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC) to apply in collaboration with other entities on a couple of grants. a) We submitted one grant with Dr. Eric Ochomo, Senior Research Officer at the Kenya Medical Research Institute, for potentially partnering with the Kenya Entomology Malaria Research Institute on a mosquito control UAS project centering around refugees in Kenya. They will be doing the actual control; there will be a drone component, and we will assist with our expertise in that area. Our hope is to help them obtain funding and then bring them to our facility for some training. b) Another grant is in conjunction with the University of Bamako in Mali. We have hopes of leveraging this grant with the other program we currently have going in Mali. c) The IVCC is interested in seeing us collaborate with Brian Foy of Colorado State University. The goal is to work with the University of Utah's Engineering Department to develop tents that mimic human landing catches in order to monitor host-seeking mosquitoes. We will need to put together a proposal, and the funding will come directly to us. 3) Assistant Director White and Trustee Turner attended the Davis Salt Lake Aerial Spray Authority's quarterly board meeting. Vector Disease Control International (VDCI) was the only vendor that submitted a contract proposal. This new proposal is very similar to their previous proposal. Adulticide spraying increase from \$0.82 per acre to \$0.85 per acre, and larval spraying will now cost \$8 per acre rather than \$6 per acre. Our goal is to eventually phase out larval spraying by VDCI.

11. Probable Agenda Items for 16 January 2025 Board Meeting, 12:30 a.m.:

- Executive Director's Report
- Construction Updates
- Personnel Updates
- Grant Updates
- Projects / Research
- Policy and Procedures – ACA Modification

12. Motion to Recess the SLCMAD Board Meeting:

Trustees Barth and Turner made and seconded a motion to recess the meeting at 5:35 p.m., which passed unanimously.

13. Motion to Reconvene the SLCMAD Board Meeting:

Trustee Turner made a motion to reconvene the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement Board Meeting. His motion was seconded by Trustee Barth and carried with all in favor.

14. Discussion and Approval of the 2024 Budget Amendments:

A motion made by Trustee Barth to approve the 2024 Budget Amendments passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Turner.

15. Discussion and Approval of the 2025 Proposed Budgets:

Trustee Turner made a motion to approve the 2025 Proposed Budgets as presented; the motion was seconded by Trustee Barth and passed unanimously.

16. Discussion and Approval of the Proposed Property Tax Increase for 2025:

Trustee Barth thanked the persons who attended our meetings today. We have a shared concern about the burden of some development that is adding to the amount of our work and is not necessarily bringing in their financial support. This is frustrating to the District as well; however, unfortunately, our hands are tied.

Trustee Turner echoed the concerns he has heard this evening. He has seen a lot of tax increases as well. He is grateful that the District is providing a very good service to the public for the amount of taxes he personally pays to the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District. He made a motion to approve the Proposed Property Tax increase for 2025 with the Resolution and UT State Tax Commission For PT-800C. Trustee Barth seconded the motion, and she added

that hopefully a worthwhile conversation can lead to additional discussions and negotiations to fund some of our Inland Port development costs. Trustee Turner's motion carried with all in favor.

17. Public Comment:

Courtney Henley commented that she has attended some sessions with Salt Lake City as far as the use of the tax increment for the Inland Port Authority. The Inland Port Authority is collecting a large amount of tax dollars. Perhaps some of this money could be appropriately used for mosquito abatement activity, especially because that area is greatly affected by the wetlands. There were no further public comments.

18. Adjournment:

Trustees Barth and Turner made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m., which passed unanimously.

Ary Faraji, Executive Director

Date

Amanda Barth, Chair 2025

Date