

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
29 October 2025
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Amanda Barth, Chair

Time: 12:33 p.m.

Place: Sheraton Hotel, Park City, Utah
1895 Sidewinder Drive, Park City, UT 84060
Virtual attendance available at anchor location:
2215 North 2200 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Trustees Present: Amanda Barth, Chair
Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Luz Escamilla
Dr. Shireen Mooers
Van Turner

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

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Barth 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 September 2025 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

The pending minutes of September's regular Board Meeting had been distributed to the Board Members previously, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve the 18 September 2025 Minutes of the Board of Trustees, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner. Trustee Barth abstained because she was not present at September's Board Meeting; approval of the minutes carried with all other Trustees voting in favor of the motion.

3. Presentation of the September 2025 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

The Trustees had received copies of September's Financial Statements earlier in the week. CFO Fairbanks noted receiving a \$1,191.00 liability insurance rebate from the Utah Local Government's Trust for 2024. All expenditures were presented, with a total of \$522,201.94 being expended from the General and Capital Projects Funds. Special attention was paid to expenses 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 everything had been presented, Trustee Vickers made a motion to approve the September 2025 Financial Statements and bills for payment; Trustee Mooers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. 2025 Budget Amendments and 2026 Tentative Budget Discussion and Approval:

Copies of the 2025 budget amendments and proposed 2026 budgets were presented to the Trustees this month because State statutes stipulate that these budgets should be made available to Board Members at least 30 days prior to being adopted in December. CFO Fairbanks reviewed 2025's Budget Amendments and 2026's Proposed Budgets with the Trustees. Reasons for all modifications were provided, and the Trustees were asked if they had any comments, recommendations, or questions. The 2025 Budget Amendments and 2026 Proposed Budgets were unanimously approved upon a motion made by Trustee Vickers and seconded by Trustee Turner.

5. Discussion and Approval for Arbitrage Services:

Executive Director Faraji and CFO Fairbanks discussed arbitrage with the Trustees. In government bonds, arbitrage refers to the practice of a government entity earning a higher yield on the investment of bond proceeds than it pays on the bond itself. This may lead to additional taxes that may be owed to the IRS. The District has an \$8,000,000 bond that was issued June 2020 to help pay for constructing our current facility. We received our funding on 24 June 2020, and all bond funds were expended by 28 February 2021. We received a request from U.S. Bank asking for an Arbitrage Certificate. We don't believe we have an arbitrage problem, but we decided to ascertain our arbitrage position for peace of mind. We obtained several arbitrage company recommendations from U.S. Bank, contacted these companies, and received quick responses from The Arbitrage Group, Inc. and Arbitrage Compliance Specialists. Both companies have excellent reputations, and their engagement bids are quite similar. After some discussion, it was decided to accept the lower bid from The Arbitrage Group. Trustee Escamilla made a

motion to hire The Arbitrage Group to process the Arbitrage Certificate for the 2020 bond series. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Turner, and it passed unanimously.

6. Update on Website Services:

As a reminder, the Trustees previously passed a motion to allow staff the flexibility to explore bids up to \$50,000 for website design. Three formal website service proposals have now been received. Trustee Barth, Executive Director Faraji, GIS Specialist Dewsnap, and Education Specialist Rehbein will meet together to evaluate the proposals, and their recommendations will then be presented to the Board.

7. Update on Construction:

The Construction is progressing, but it has not been without issues. The asphalt work still has not been completed, and Eckman's Superintendent on our project has resigned. Unfortunately, labor shortages and high water table issues continue to hinder construction progress. Our Owner's Representative, MOCA, sent an email asking for a schedule update, for the project is lagging more and more behind schedule. There is some concern that Eckman has not communicated some of the problems they are having, and we have not been included in discussions on how to resolve these matters. In general, construction issues don't seem to be addressed until our team starts asking for further details.

Aerial Operations Supervisor Sorensen will be picking up our helicopter on 18 November 2025. He has been looking into locations where we can house our helicopter until the hangar on our site is ready. The completion of our hangar has now been pushed back to April 2026, but Eckman has indicated a willingness to cover the rental costs for the temporary housing of the helicopter until our hangar is completed.

The Trustees wondered how construction delays will affect the District. Environmental and scheduling inconsistencies are to be expected during construction. At what time will these holdups be detrimental to our services? Executive Director Faraji explained that we will begin slowly phasing the helicopter into our operational control next year, and postponing the completion of the lab will not directly impact the quality of our service. He will also ask MOCA to come in and talk to the Board in November with general updates and to answer additional scheduling questions and impacts.

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

- **SOVE, 12-17 October 2025, Crete and Thessaloniki (plus USDA Visit)**

Executive Director Faraji, Assistant Director White, and Trustee Vickers spoke at the Society of Vector Ecology Conference. In addition to speaking, Dr. Vickers and Executive Director Faraji ran a symposium, and Executive Director Faraji participated in a panel symposium as well as a podcast on careers in entomology other than working in academia or with the federal government. Executive Director Faraji and Assistant Director White also visited the USDA laboratories in Thessaloniki and the American Farm School, where we have signed an MOU to initiate exchange of ideas and collaborations on methods of surveillance and control.

- **Utah Mosquito Abatement Association, 27-29 October 2025, Park City, UT**

Our District's staff provided four separate talks, and three of our interns participated in the student competition. Reed Miles (UAS) and Avery Derr (Laboratory) won the first (\$2,500) and second (\$500) prizes, respectively.

- **UASD, 5-7 November 2025, Layton, UT**

Assistant Director White, Executive Director Faraji, and CFO Fairbanks will be attending the Utah Association of Special Districts annual conference because it offers a variety of classes providing legislative updates and other imperative information and guidelines. Trustee Turner will also be attending the Trustee Session at the UASD conference.

- **ESA, 9-12 November 2025, Portland, OR**

Executive Director Faraji, Laboratory Director Bibbs, and Molecular Biologist Byers are planning to attend and present at this year's ESA conference. Trustee Barth will also be in attendance. Executive Director Faraji will be completing his term as President of the Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology section of the ESA at this meeting.

9. Executive Director's Report:

The Trustees were given the following updates: 1) Some of the duck clubs don't want us on their property, mostly during the hunting season. With climate change, the mosquito season goes well into October, and we do need access to their property. We plan to discuss this issue with them at the South Shore Water Management Association meeting at our facility in March of next year. We hope to find a solution that will meet both of our needs and we will not have a need to exert our state-mandated trespass authority within the clubs. 2) We finished surveillance last week. We are reducing our crews and will begin switching a few seasonals to the part time hours needed to help maintain the insectary during the winter. We always require the seasonals to have a clean one-month separation from the District each year. 3) The Salt Lake City Council has asked us to host a meeting

for Councilwoman Petro and Wayne Niederhouser to meet with residents of 2200 West to initiate discussions around forming a focus group to develop a safety plan for the Homeless Campus on 30 October 2025. Trustee Escamilla then informed the group that she had just received a message that this meeting has been postponed. 4) We provided samples to help with research for the article on mosquito genetics, "Ancient origin of an urban underground mosquito" for the journal, *Science*. This article has been added to the back of the Director's Report.

10. Probable Agenda Items for 20 November 2025 Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m.:

- Executive Director's Report
- Website Update
- Construction Update
- Surveillance Update
- Research Update

11. Public Comment:

No public was present.

12. Adjournment:

Trustees Mooers and Vickers made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

Ary Faraji, Executive Director

Date

Amanda Barth, Chair 2025

Date