

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
19 March 2026
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Neil Vickers, Chair

Time: 12:35 p.m.

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

Trustees Present: Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Chair
Van Turner, Vice-Chair
Amanda Barth (Attended Items 5 – 11)
Luz Escamilla (Attended Virtually, Items 6 – 11)
Dr. Shireen Mooers

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

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Vickers called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Approval of the 19 February 2026 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

Copies of February's regular Board Meeting Minutes had been distributed to the Board Members previously, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve the 19 February 2026 Minutes of the Board of Trustees; the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner, and it carried unanimously.

3. Presentation of the February 2026 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:

The Trustees were provided copies of February's Financial Statements earlier in the week. CFO Fairbanks noted receiving a \$5,405.17 insurance payment from Utah Local Governments Trust and a \$25,000.00 payment from Carroll-Loye Biological Research for some grant work we performed. Interest income of

\$67,619.93 was distributed between the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund, and a total of \$406,559.77 was expended from the General and Capital Projects Funds. 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 February 2026 Financial Statements and bills for payment; Trustee Mooers seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor.

4. Discussion and Approval for Updates on SLCMAD Policies and Procedures:

Utah Retirement Systems' new Advanced Utah Retirement End User System (AUREUS) offers a greater variety of retirement plans, including 401(k) and Roth 401(k), 457(b) and Roth 457(b), Roth IRA, and Traditional IRA options. Last month, the Trustees approved adding the Roth 401(k) and Roth 457(b) options to the existing Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District's available retirement plans. This month exact Policies and Procedures wording was presented to the Board Members for approval. The Trustees were pleased with the revised wording, and Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve the revisions to the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual for Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District, SECTION XVII: BENEFITS, Number 6. RETIREMENT SYSTEM, as presented today. Her motion passed unanimously after being seconded by Trustee Turner.

5. Discussion and Approval on PacVec Matching Funds to Dr. John Cavitt from Weber State University:

This month's Board Packet included a copy of the Proposed Study Protocol, "Protective Effect of Cliff Swallows Against Mosquitoes Arising from the Great Salt Lake Area". Craig Wallentine, representing Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment (UPHE), had asked if other mosquito deterrents could be promoted rather than utilizing harmful pesticides. The populace often suggests using alternative abatement services, such as bat and purple martin houses. In response, it was decided to conduct this year's RaHP Vec research with a study evaluating the extent to which the presence of a healthy cliff swallow colony will reduce the relative abundance and biting pressure from host-seeking mosquitoes. To conduct this study, we will set traps in bridge and culvert areas where cliff swallows have active populations and also within non-intervention areas where no active swallow colonies are present. To further this study, SLCMAD submitted a PacVec training grant to work with Dr. John Cavitt from Weber State University. Dr. Cavitt is an ornithologist who has the bird permitting already in place, and he can conduct cliff swallow gut analyses to identify the presence of mosquitoes within their diets. If awarded, the PacVec grant will not begin until June 2026. However, the cliff swallows are currently nesting, and testing should begin right away in order to provide strong, reliable data for the study. Executive Director Faraji asked the Trustees to approve a \$10,000 PacVec matching fund for this grant. Not only will

this \$10,000.00 enhance the possibility of being awarded the grant, it will allow valuable data to be collected prior to June 2026 and to also offset DNA barcoding costs.

Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve a matching fund up to \$10,000.00 for the PacVec training grant to Dr. John Cavitt from Weber State University. Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor.

6. Update on Construction:

Eckman has fallen behind schedule, and the phase two construction will not be completed by 8 April 2026 after all. However, we are still planning on flying the helicopter that week. We have asked to have the site cleared of all debris and for the dirt piles to be removed right away. Special effort is being made to have the exterior portions of the project completed, but the interiors will not be ready for touring. Due to manufacturing problems, the larval bioassay vaults need to be torn down and precast once again. Harper Precast provided the lowest bid of nearly \$50,000.00, and we will be splitting the cost with Eckman. They are currently redoing the lab floors. Our autoclave and furniture have been delivered, but we are unable to install anything because the interior is not completed. The majority of the concrete has been poured for the hangar and the helicopter pad. Hopefully the concrete on the inside of the hangar will be poured this week.

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

- **Anastasia Workshop, 2-5 March 2026, St. Augustine, FL**

Because Molecular Biologist Byers was unable to attend the Anastasia Workshop, Laboratory Director Bibbs gave his presentation and Molecular Biologist Byer's presentation at the workshop.

- **CDC Vector Week, 10-13 March 2026, Ft. Collins, CO**

Executive Director Faraji was able to attend the CDC Vector Week, and he reported that we have received full funding from the CDC for continuation of RahpVec grants. Additionally, we discussed potential evaluation projects for this upcoming season (cliff swallows) and were provided a preliminary authorization to proceed.

- **DSLASA, 19 March 2026, SLCMAD, SLC, UT**

The DSLASA's meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. tonight at our District.

- **AMCA, 23-27 March 2026, Portland, OR**

Executive Director Faraji, Molecular Biologist Byers, Education Specialist Rehbein, and Laboratory Director Bibbs will be attending and providing presentations at this year's AMCA Conference. The American Mosquito Control Association's Annual Conferences are always enlightening and afford multiple opportunities for collaboration and networking.

- **PacVec/RahpVec/SLCMAD, 8-10 April 2026, Salt Lake City, UT**

Trustee Vickers has been working to organize a joint meeting between the Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence and the Rockies and High Plains Vector-Borne Disease Center. The University of Utah will be hosting the meeting, and it will run from the afternoon of 8 April 2026 through the morning of 10 April 2026. The District will host the meetings on the last day at our facility. We will be holding student presentations and a tour will be conducted at our District on Friday 10 April 2026. The Trustees were encouraged to visit the District's events on the 10th; breakfast and lunch will be served to the participants.

- **PAB-ESA, 13-16 April 2026, Spokane, WA**

Executive Director Faraji will be attending the Entomological Society of America, Pacific Branch. He has been elected to the Board of Directors for this Association.

- **New Mexico MCA, 20-22 April 2026, Albuquerque, NM**

Executive Director Faraji has been asked to deliver the keynote address at the New Mexico Environmental Health Association's conference this year.

- **AMCA Washington Days, 12-14 May 2026, Washington, DC**

Schedules appear to be preventing everyone at the District from attending AMCA's legislative lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill this year. A final decision will be made in April; however, at this point, it appears that no one from Utah will be attending this meeting.

8. Executive Director's Report:

February's Director's Report had been previously distributed to the Trustees, and it included the District's dog heartworm paper that was headed up by Molecular Biologist Byers and published in the *Journal of Medical Entomology*. In addition, the following items were discussed: 1) We have had almost 40 applications for seasonal positions; we will be conducting interviews at the end of the month. 2) Executive Director Faraji will take some time before seeking a new Assistant Director; he is

analyzing the different skills and talents that will best suit our District's current needs. Instead, the District may decide to designate an Interim Operations Supervisor who is able to concentrate on defining what improvements can be accomplished in the field operations. 3) Trustee Escamilla informed the Board Members that this year's funding for the State Prison protect was approved.

9. Probable Agenda Items for 30 April 2026 Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m.:

- Executive Director's Report
- Construction Update
- Personnel Update

10. Public Comment:

No public was present.

11. Adjournment:

At 1:58 p.m., Trustees Mooers and Barth made and seconded a motion to adjourn the 19 March 2025 Board Meeting of the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District. The motion passed with all in favor.

Ary Faraji, Executive Director

Date

Neil Vickers, Chair 2026

Date