

**MINUTES OF THE  
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT  
16 July 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  
Luz Escamilla (Attended Virtually)  
Dr. Shireen Mooers

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO  
Michele Rehbein, Education Specialist

**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 18 June 2026 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:**

The Board Members were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of June's regular Board Meeting prior to this meeting, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Barth made a motion to approve the 18 June 2026 Minutes of the Board of Trustees; the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and carried with a unanimous vote.

**3. Approval of the 18 June 2026 Public Hearing Minutes (Budget and CTR):**

The Public Hearing Minutes covering the 2026 budget amendments, the 2027 proposed budget, and also the Certified Tax Rate had been given to the Trustees

previously. Trustee Barth made a motion to approve the 18 June 2026 Public Hearing Minutes, Trustee Escamilla seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor.

**4. Presentation of the June 2026 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:**

Copies of June's Financial Statements had been distributed to the Trustees earlier in the week. CFO Fairbanks reviewed the Financial Statements with the Trustees; 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 Barth made a motion to approve the June 2026 Financial Statements and bills for payment; Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**5. Discussion and Approval on Grant Policies:**

During the 19 January 2023 Board Meeting, the Trustees discussed and approved external grant procedures providing Executive Director Faraji with the discretion of setting an indirect cost rate between 10% and 20%, with a preference towards 17.5%. The policy also allows compensation for District employees at rates stipulated within each specific external grant, not to exceed 20% of employee annual salary. However, not paying other entities for indirect costs was not specified at that time.

The Trustees reviewed a Grant Policy depicting the District's position on applying for external funding as well as providing funding for projects related to mosquito surveillance, control, personal protection measures, education/outreach, and related topics. A gentleman's agreement to provide \$10,000 towards supporting graduate student work had been previously established with Dr. Norah Saarman, Assistant Professor at Utah State University. USU has requested a copy of our Grant Policy in order to avoid a 47% charge for indirect costs. Trustees recommended that contracts and grants will be negotiated at the discretion of the Executive Director and that the District is committed to funding small projects but does not routinely fund university or government overhead costs or administrative fees. After making some modifications, Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District's Grant Policy as reviewed today. The motion was seconded by Trustee Barth, and it carried with all in favor.

## **6. Discussion and Approval on 2017 Bond Payoff:**

CFO Fairbanks explained that the District's 2017 and 2024 bonds are both callable on 15 February 2027. Tax law allows closing on refinancing as soon as 90 days prior to the bond call date, which is 17 November 2026. Once August's bond interest payments have been made, the balance in the Utah Public Treasurers' Investment Fund (PTIF) will be sufficient to cover future operational expenses in addition to paying off the 2017 Series Bonds. Paying off the 2017 Series Bonds will be advantageous, for their current interest rate of 4.0% will increase to 5.0% on 16 August 2026. June's interest rate in the PTIF was only 3.8372%, and CFO Fairbanks recommended saving the District from incurring the 2017 Series Bonds' remaining interest expense (over \$2,700,000) by paying the bonds off as soon as possible. Brian Baker, the District Financial Advisor from Zions Bank, indicated that this payoff can be easily accomplished by notifying U. S. Bank that we intend to pay off the 2017 Series Bonds and are requesting a payoff amount. U.S. Bank will then issue an Official Notice of Redemption notifying holders that their investment is being bought back prior to maturity. Trustee Barth made a motion to approve paying off the 2017 Series Bonds, Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous voice vote.

## **7. Construction Update:**

Construction on the hangar continues to experience delays. The City Inspector has not passed the firewall inside the hangar's pesticide storage: the safety standard is more stringent because the pesticide shed is attached to the hangar. Fortunately, we were finally able to come up with a solution yesterday. This permitting process has put Eckman Construction behind another four weeks, which means that completion is not anticipated until the beginning of September. Furthermore, the Certificate of Occupancy cannot be issued until the punch list is resolved. The mosquito season will be almost over before we will have the construction completed. The seeds for the native vegetation have not sprouted because the water was not turned on properly by the subcontractor. MHTN's landscape architect will inspect the site to see if the seeds are still viable or if another round of hydroseeding is needed.

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

- **Ecological Society of America (ESA), 26-31 July 2026, SLC, UT**

The Ecological Society of America will be holding its annual meeting at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City this year.

- **Asia Pacific Conference Mosquito & Vector Control, 5-7 August 2026, Thailand**

Executive Director Faraji has been asked to deliver a plenary talk at the AMV-2026 on "Innovative Advances for Mosquito Surveillance and Control Surrounding the Great Salt Lake in Utah, USA."

- **Pan-African Mosquito Control Association, 1-3 September 2026, Kenya**

Executive Director Faraji has been invited to deliver a plenary talk at the PAMCA – Kenya Chapter Annual Meeting this year.

- **Society for Vector Ecology, 20-24 September 2026, Yosemite, CA**

Plans to attend the SOVE meeting still remain to be finalized.

- **Utah Mosquito Abatement Association, 26-28 October 2026, Ogden, UT**

The Trustees are encouraged to attend UMAA's meeting in October. This meeting provides the Trustees with their required annual training on the Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA). In addition, Trustees Barth and Mooers must complete the Special District & Special Service District Board Member Training 2026 before the end of the year because they were reappointed in January 2026.

- **Entomological Society of America (EntSoc), 8-11 November 2026, Columbus, OH**

Plans to attend the EntSoc conference will be finalized at a later date.

## 9. **Executive Director's Report:**

The following items were discussed: 1) Last week the larvicide airplane was unavailable due to a minor accident, which has complicated our operations. Fortunately, Vector Disease Control International (VDCI) purchased another plane and it should be calibrated and ready to go next week. 2) The helicopter mechanic whom we hired is a National Guard Reservist, and he has been activated to full duty. We are nearing the 10-hour mark on the helicopter and will need a more detailed inspection at that time. 3) Education Specialist Rehbein provided a sneak peek of the unpublished website. The Trustees had a few recommendations, which will be incorporated as more of the website is completed. 4) Our Assistant Director Hiring Committee met prior to the Board Meeting and narrowed the list of applicants down to the two individuals. Rejection letters will be sent out, and interviews with the remaining two applicants will be scheduled prior to the next board meeting.

## 10. **Probable Agenda Items for 20 August 2026 Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m.:**

- Executive Director's Report
- Construction Updates
- Personnel Updates
- Surveillance Updates

**11. Public Comment:**

No public was present.

**12. Adjournment:**

Trustees Barth and Turner made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 p.m.; the motion passed with all in favor.

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Ary Faraji, Executive Director

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Neil Vickers, Chair 2026

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Date