

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
20 August 2026
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Neil Vickers, Chair

Time: 12:34 p.m.

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

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

Trustees Excused: Amanda Barth

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

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Vickers called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Approval of the 16 July 2026 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

The Board Members were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of July's regular Board Meeting prior to this meeting, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve the 16 July 2026 Minutes of the Board of Trustees; the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and carried with a unanimous vote.

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

Copies of July's Financial Statements had been distributed to the Trustees earlier in the week. CFO Fairbanks reviewed the Financial Statements with the Trustees and noted the receipt of a \$4,460.64 credit card rebate and a \$149,687.00 payment for services at the State Prison. The required funds to cover the bond interest payments had been transferred from the Capital Projects Fund to the Local Building Authority. 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 Mooers made a motion to approve the July 2026 Financial Statements, as presented, and bills for payment; Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Discussion and Approval for Hiring of Assistant Director:

Over thirty applications for our District's Assistant Director position were initially submitted. Removing the applicants who were not eligible narrowed the group down to eleven, and their qualifications were recorded on a spreadsheet and reviewed by a selection committee comprised of Trustees Vickers and Mooers, Executive Director Faraji, and Dr. Gregory White. This committee interviewed the top two candidates in person this morning, and our Laboratory Director Bibbs was found to be the most qualified candidate for the Assistant Director position. The selection committee recommended hiring Dr. Bibbs as the District's Assistant Director and promoting Molecular Biologist Byers to the Laboratory Director position. Trustee Escamilla made the motion to hire the current Laboratory Director, Dr. Bibbs, as the Assistant Director and to promote the current Molecular Biologist, Dr. Byers, to Laboratory Director. Executive Director Faraji was given permission to negotiate their salaries after input from the Board. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mooers, and it carried with all in favor. The Trustees expressed their appreciation for all of the time and effort the selection committee had put into identifying capable persons who had the talent to make this transition seamless.

5. Website Update:

The new website, slcmadutah.gov, is now live, and the Trustees were asked to please take a look at it when they get a minute. The Trustees were reminded that we need their photos and bios for the website.

6. Construction Update:

Eckman is estimating a completion date around the end of September, but it now looks like the final inspections will not be completed until the end of October. Eckman has replaced the trees that their subcontractor removed to redo the sewer and storm water lines. The helicopter is still being stored in Ogden. Power has been run to the main door in the hangar; the backup generator that is supposed to provide power to open the door is insufficient, and an upgraded generator has up to a six-month delay. The backup generator is not imperative to the functioning of the door. The plan is to get the building commissioned, get the Certificate of Occupancy, and then finish the backup generator at a later date. We will be rejecting Eckman's proposed change order on this and will accomplish it ourselves. The vast majority of the native vegetation was not watered, and Eckman had the subcontractor hydroseed the area again.

7. 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 held its annual meeting at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City this year. No staff members attended this meeting because schedules were too demanding.

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

In Thailand, the level of respect and reverence is prodigious. The opening ceremony introducing the dignitaries was 2½ hours long. Executive Director Faraji delivered a plenary talk at the AMV-2026 on "Innovative Advances for Mosquito Surveillance and Control Surrounding the Great Salt Lake in Utah, USA." His presentation was well-received, and a few persons have shown interest in visiting our facility and collaborating with us. We will host a PhD student in 2027 from Dr. Theeraphap Chaeronviriyaphap's lab at Kasetsart University.

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

Executive Director Faraji has been invited to deliver a key-note address at the PAMCA – Kenya Chapter Annual Meeting this year. He will be talking about larval-source management.

- **DSLASA Quarterly Board Meeting, 10 September 2026, Ogden, UT**

Trustees Vickers and Turner were notified that the next DSLASA Board Meeting will be held on 10 September 2026 at the Ogden Hangar. MAD-Davis will also be hosting a BBQ at 5:00 p.m. that evening.

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

SOVE is an association that limits its presentations to persons who have been invited to talk. Executive Director Faraji has been invited to discuss how phragmites is modifying landscapes in the Salt Lake area. The SOVE meeting planners neglected to obtain his hotel reservation at the lodge; therefore, he will be staying offsite.

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

The Trustees were 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.

- **Utah Association of Special Districts, 4-6 November, Layton, UT**

Trustee Turner and CFO Fairbanks will be attending UASD's meeting this year.

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

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

8. Executive Director's Report:

In addition to the Director's Report that was included in the packet, the following items were discussed: 1) The surveillance data is included in this month's Director's Report. We are anticipating an increase in mosquito activity due to the recent increase in rainfall and the high temperatures. 2) The District's infection rates are quite high. There are three potential human cases in Salt Lake County. 3) We have run several trials for Central Life Science and also Eurofins Agroscience Services. These trials are contingent upon weather conditions, the mosquitoes, and equipment. One trial needs to be conducted again because the initial trial was cancelled due to a storm that rolled in during. 4) Trustee Vicker's term is coming to an end in December. We would like to maintain a relationship with the University of Utah, and Dr. Vickers will lobby the Biology Department for persons who may be interested in serving on our board. 5) Concerning an employee's complaint, an initial response has been prepared by CFO Fairbanks and will be provided to the employee for comment. Once his comments are received, a final response will be prepared.

9. Probable Agenda Items for 17 September 2026 Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m.:

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

10. Public Comment:

No public was present.

11. Adjournment:

Trustees Mooers and Turner made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:23 p.m.; the motion passed with all in favor.

Ary Faraji, Executive Director

Date

Neil Vickers, Chair 2026

Date