

**MINUTES OF THE
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
17 September 2026
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Neil Vickers, Chair

Time: 12:39 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 during Items 1 and 2)
Dr. Shireen Mooers

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director
Christopher Bibbs, Ph.D., Assistant Director
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO
Robert Czubak, MOCA Systems (Left after Item 2)
Bradley Sorensen, Aerial Operations Supervisor (Left after Item 2)

1. Roll Call:

Trustee Vickers called the meeting to order at 12:39 p.m. and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. No conflicts of interest were declared. The Trustees decided to discuss the Construction Update first so Robert Czubak, MOCA Systems, and Aerial Operations Supervisor Sorensen were free to leave afterwards.

2. Construction Update:

Robert Czubak discussed the construction budget with the Trustees and explained that a portion of the retainage had been released to Eckman because that work had been completed satisfactorily. He identified several issues that had caused completion of the project to be delayed even further. Eckman is now estimating a completion date in November; but we are starting to perform punch mitigation right now in the hopes of obtaining substantial completion in October. We need temporary and then full occupancy prior to moving into the new areas. The second hydroseeding

has not been successful. Perhaps this is due to lack of watering, overwatering, hot temperatures, or an alkaline pH level in the soil. We are waiting for Eckman to provide us with some options. Completion of the project is about eight months behind schedule, and we plan to withhold the additional costs the District has incurred from construction retainage funds. We have discussed filing for liquidated damages; however, we currently have a verbal agreement in place with the owner of the company to ensure our additional financial losses due to delays will be remedied. We hope that litigation will not be necessary, but we are prepared to pursue damages in case there are additional delays or impacts to the quality of the project.

Aerial Supervisor Sorensen explained that the furniture we received in December of 2025 has finally been installed. The installers had been rescheduled by several months, and we could not delay them any longer. The offices have been finished, and they are closed off to protect them from construction debris. Robert Czubak and Aerial Operations Supervisor Sorensen were thanked for their work, and they left the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

3. Approval of the 20 August 2026 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:

The Board Members were provided an opportunity to review the pending minutes of August's regular Board Meeting prior to this meeting, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve the 20 August 2026 Minutes of the Board of Trustees; the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and carried with a unanimous vote.

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

Copies of August'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 \$38,913.31 credit card rebate for 2025 and 2026 from US Bank. Other receipts included a \$8,387.00 rebate from PEHP for medical insurance and a \$500.00 reimbursement for the deductible the District had paid on a collision involving Truck #1. Two trucks had been sold for a total of \$26,122.50, Central Life Science paid \$27,400.00 for our trial services, and the District received the \$213,402.41 RaHP VEC 3rd year grant payment. The \$719,307.80 in 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 August 2026 Financial Statements and bills for payment; Trustee Turner seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

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

Executive Director Faraji delivered one of the key-note addresses at the PAMCA – Kenya Chapter Annual Meeting this year. He spoke about larval source management because the group is interested in conducting more larvicide applications in an effort to move away from only performing adult mosquito control (indoor residual spraying and insecticidal-treated bed nets) for controlling malaria. He informed the Trustees about some of the challenges Africa has faced.

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

Only Trustee Vickers was able to attend the DSLASA Board Meeting that was held at the Ogden Hangar. No official business was conducted because a quorum was not present, due to only two trustees being available from MAD Davis.

- **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 and impacting mosquito control. A District Intern, Iris McCulloch, has researched mosquitoes / phragmites this summer and is working with our Biostatistician Ilia Rochlin on control mitigation.

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

Several staff members will be attending and presenting at the UMAA conference in October. Trustees Vickers and Mooers will also be attending UMAA's meeting this year. Trustee Mooers will obtain her required annual training on the Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and the Special District & Special Service District Board Member Training 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.

6. Executive Director's Report:

In addition to the Director's Report that was included in the packet, the following items were discussed: 1) Trustee Vicker's term is coming to an end in December. Executive Director Faraji has reached out to the Salt Lake City Council staff and informed them of the processes involving board member appointments so they can start the advertising and posting requirements. Because we would like to maintain a relationship with the University of Utah, Dr. Vickers has lobbied the Biology Department for persons who may be interested in serving on our board. Dr. Colin Dale has shown an interest, and Executive Director Faraji has forwarded his information to the Salt Lake City Council. 2) In late October or November, CFO Fairbanks will contact Laurel Bailey of US Bank to let her know to begin the process informing the bond holders that we will pay off the District's 2017 bonds on 15 February 2027. 3) Assistant Director Bibbs has wasted no time in familiarizing himself with every aspect of the urban, drone, and rural teams. He has been pleased with the cooperation he has received from everyone helping him establish a cohesive system that will facilitate keeping the District running without complications. He is interested in making more equipment and products available so that the ground teams can treat as they inspect. He is preparing himself to be the backup whenever any of the teams need assistance. He is helping to define specific conditions that will help identify which team should conduct the treatments. 4) Assistant Director Bibbs provided an overview of the surveillance data that was included in this month's Director's Report. Our *Ae. dorsalis* and *Cx. tarsalis* populations are currently below average due to drought conditions and lack of flooding. However, recent rains may create a large boom in the coming weeks. Our *Cx. pipiens* populations are also below our five year mean values; however, this has been an extremely busy West Nile virus season and we suspect that additional human cases will be confirmed prior to the end of the season. Currently, there are 10 human cases of WNV in Salt Lake County (including other districts), and 261 positive pools of mosquitoes. Utah is the third state with the most human cases so far in 2026 and the second state, after California, in the number of positive mosquito pools. 5) The employee who made the HR complaint has responded to CFO Fairbank's initial response. A draft final response that includes his comment has been prepared and sent to the attorney for review. Once her comments are received, a final response will be prepared and delivered to the employee. 6) We have lost most of our seasonal employees. We have a few remaining in the lab to help with surveillance, for the mosquito season will remain active until we have a hard frost.

7. Probable Agenda Items for 15 October 2026 Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m.:

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

8. Public Comment:

No public was present.

9. Adjournment:

Trustees Barth and Turner made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m.; the motion passed with all in favor.

Ary Faraji, Executive Director

Date

Neil Vickers, Chair 2026

Date