

Regular Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District Meeting held August 14, 2024

Members Present: Darlene Fredericks, Andy Haymond, Philip LaRocca, Steve Ostling, Secretary Melissa Schuster, Eric Smith, Carl Starkey, and President Bo Sheppard.

Members Excused: Bruce Johnson and Dr. Larry Kirk.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: District Manager Matt Ball, Assistant Manager Aaron Lumsden, Administrative Manager Maritza Sandoval, and Entomologist Amanda Bradford.

1. The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District was held on August 14, 2024, at 444 Otterson Drive, Chico, CA 95928.
2. The August 14, 2024, Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:01 PM by President Sheppard.
3. Seeing and hearing no persons wishing to address the Board on items not on the agenda, President Sheppard proceeded to request approval of the minutes.
4. After review, it was then moved by Member LaRocca, seconded by Member Starkey, and passed unanimously with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held July 10, 2024, as written, with members Fredericks and Haymond abstaining due to their excused absences.
5. No persons wishing to address the Board on closed session matters.
6. No closed session matters needing legal counsel.
7. Reports (7.1 – 7.2)
- 7.1 Under item 7.1 of reports, District Manager's Report, the District Manager reported that on July 11, 2024, the District completed the monthly management meeting, staff meeting, and all vehicle inspections. The District's Safety Committee held their monthly meeting as well as management. The District Manager attended the MVCAC Summer Board meeting remotely via Zoom.

On July 15, 2024, the District's air compressor was tested and passed all inspections. This was the second test for the year as the first test was not submitted due to the contractor.

On July 17, 2024, the District Manager attended a meeting with Cal Rice, the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, and Point Blue to review a Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership program where local property owners, including wetland owners and rice growers, will participate in a program to flood properties for shorebird habitat.

On July 18, 2024, the District Manager met with a representative of Central Life Sciences to discuss products, pricing, and product availability.

On July 23, 2024, District management and administrative staff attended a weekly meeting with Leading Edge and Associates to review the status of MapVision 3.0 and to discuss the needs still needing to be completed on the project.

On July 25, 2024, the District Manager met with a representative of Azelis to discuss products, pricing, and product availability.

On July 31, 2024, the District Manager met with the AB 896 working group to discuss wetlands, mosquito surveillance and control practices on wetlands, and reviewed several projects.

On August 1, 2024, the District had final inspections of the new above ground storage tank. The tank passed all inspections and tests, then finally received a successful delivery of avgas 100ll. The new tank is now operational.

On August 6, 2024, District management and administrative staff attended a weekly meeting with Leading Edge and Associates to review the status of MapVision 3.0 and to discuss the needs still needing to be completed on the project.

On August 12, 2024, District management attended the monthly West Nile Virus Task Force Meeting with Butte County Department of Public Health. The monthly meeting discusses mosquito

abundance surveillance, mosquito-borne disease surveillance, mosquito surveillance, and public education and outreach efforts.

On August 13, 2024, the District Manager reported that one of the District's planes crashed and the District's Pilot flying the aircraft was injured and was currently receiving medical treatment at Enloe Hospital.

- 7.2 Under item 7.2 of reports, the Assistant Manager reported that the District's New Jersey light traps have continued catching mosquitoes. According to the graph, *Culex pipiens* and *Culex tarsalis* populations are higher than the previous year currently but are lower than past years. *Anopheles freeborni* has begun to increase over the past month. Sentinel chicken sera samples are continuing to be taken biweekly. CO2 trapping has continued, and traps are being deployed routinely. Mosquito pools are being submitted for mosquito-borne disease. As of August 6th, 244 pools have been submitted: with 17 of those pools being positive. Also, *Aedes aegypti* has been detected a total of 42 times in Oroville, 41 times in Chico, 5 times in Thermalito, 3 times in Hamilton City, and 1 time in Biggs.

West Nile virus (WNV) activity has increased within the District's service area with a total of 3 positive humans, 4 dead birds 17 positive pools and 1 positive chicken coop. WNV has been identified in 5 human cases, 184 dead birds, 732 mosquito pools, 20 chickens, and 2 horses in California to date.

The District's four indoor fish tanks have undergone annual maintenance and are being prepared to be loaded with fish. The District's outdoor fishponds continue to produce high amounts of fish.

Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists (Specialists) have continued with mosquito surveillance and treatments in rock pits, dredger pits, flood water areas, agricultural, ditches, drains and urban sources. Service requests for inspections, fish, and treatments have increased over the past month with a total of 304 taken.

As of August 5th, the District has treated 6,083 acres of wetlands; compared to 6,149 acres at this time last year. The District has treated 27,015 acres of rice this year, compared to 36,496 acres at this time last year. The District has made 0 ULV adulticide treatments thus far, compared to 8 ULV adulticide treatments at this time last year.

The Public Relations (PR) Department is reviewing and updating (if needed) the District's website, brochures, photo and video files, and other informational documents. The District public service announcements continue to run on newspapers, radio, television, digital advertising, billboards, bus stop shelters, and on buses. On August 2, 2024, the District did a presentation for the Rotary Club in Chico.

After this final item of reports, President Sheppard asked the District Manager to proceed to policy matters.

8. Policy matters (8.1 – 8.3)

- 8.1 Under item 8.1 of policy matters, the Board was asked to consider a capital expenditure for an ultra-low upright freezer from Across International in the amount of \$6,880.00. The District Manager reported that this item was a necessity for the lab and that this item was budgeted for. It was then moved by Member LaRocca, seconded by Member Ostling, and passed unanimously with a vote of 8 ayes and 0 nays to approve the capital expenditure for ultra-low upright freezer from Across International in the amount of \$6,880.00.
- 8.2 Under item 8.2 of policy matters, the Board was asked to consider a capital expenditure for an electronic gate for the Chico Substation by The Door Company in the amount of \$8,333.00. The District Manager reported that this item was a necessity to comply with Homeland Security requirements and that this item was budgeted for. It was then moved by Member Smith, seconded by Member Schuster, and passed unanimously with a vote of 8 ayes and 0 nays to approve the capital expenditure for the electronic gate for the Chico Substation by The Door Company in the amount of \$8,333.00.
- 8.3 Under item 8.3 of policy matters, the Board was asked to consider amendment(s) to Personnel Policy, Policy 7062, Catastrophic Leave. The District Manager explained the reasoning for the additions and amendments and after some discussion, it was then moved by Member Schuster, seconded by Member Fredericks, and passed unanimously with a vote of 8 ayes and 0 nays to approve the recommended and proposed amendments and additions to Personnel Policy, Policy 7062, Catastrophic Leave.

9. Under topic of the month, the District's Entomologist gave a presentation on biology of *Anopheles freeborni*.
10. After reviewing the demands made upon the District for the past month, it was then moved by Member Starkey, seconded by Member Haymond, and passed unanimously with a vote of 8 ayes 0 nays to authorize checks numbered 54191 through 54331 be signed and distributed. Expenditures for the month totaled \$1,420,134.43.
11. Under personnel, the District Manager reported that David Brandley, Pilot, did not make the employee's probationary period.
13. Under items of correspondence, the Board reviewed a letter from CSDA, SDLF, stating that the District again had received the award of the Transparency Certificate of Excellence.
13. No other business to report.
14. No persons wishing to address the Board pertaining to closed session matters.
15. No closed session matters warranting legal counsel.
16. President Sheppard announced adjournment at 4:48 PM and concluded by stating that the next regular meeting of the BCMVCD Board of Trustees would meet at 4:00 PM on September 11, 2024, at the Chico Substation's Board Room at 444 Otterson Drive, Chico, CA 95928.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Schuster,
Secretary