

DELTA MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

Dr. Mustapha Debboun
General Manager

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Crystal Grippin
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Paul Harlien
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Community Education & Outreach Coordinator

Mary Ellen Gomez
Administrative Assistant

Bryan Ferguson
Foreman

Rick Alvarez
Vector Control Supervisor

Bryan Ruiz
Supervisor Assistant

Minutes of the Board of Trustees – Wednesday, August 10, 2023, Start: 4:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Present: Greg Gomez, President; Belen Gomez, Secretary; Linda Guttierrez, Rosemary Hellwig, Kevin Caskey, Larry Roberts and Lori Berger

Absent: None

Staff: Dr. Mustapha Debboun, General Manager; Mary Ellen Gomez, Administrative Assistant

2. Public Forum:

None.

3. Consent Calendar:

Following discussion, it was moved by Larry Roberts, seconded by Linda Guttierrez and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved to accept the consent calendar as presented.

4. Manager's Report:

Dr. Debboun provided an update on Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District (DMVCD) current field and laboratory operations. We conducted Ultra Low Volume (ULV) pesticide treatments, Wide Area Larviciding System (WALS), and Drone aerial treatment throughout the District in July. WE set up 94 In2Care Mosquito Traps on July 12, 2023, as an additional surveillance and control tool to monitor the Yellow Fever Mosquito, *Aedes aegypti* until October 2023.

We hired three additional seasonal employees to assist with ULV and WALS treatments as needed. We auctioned and sold two old Chevy S10 trucks for \$3,350 and \$3,500. We also attended a Flood Response Town Hall Meeting with Assemblyman Devon Mathis from 33rd Assembly District in Corcoran on July 7, 2023, and Dr. Debboun gave a presentation on the activities of DMVCD.

Routine mosquito surveillance and arbovirus testing for West Nile virus (WNV), St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV), and Western equine encephalitis virus (WEEV) continued in July. A total of 148 mosquito samples collected in July have tested positive for WNV, 2 for SLEV, and 3 for WNV and SLEV combined. Two dead birds collected from Visalia and Exeter tested positive for WNV and 3 human cases of WNV in Visalia have been reported from Tulare County Public Health Department. Our laboratory also tested 196 mosquito samples collected from Kings Mosquito Abatement District and 30 samples from Tulare Mosquito Abatement District.

In July, the DMVCD Community Education and Outreach participated in the following educational and outreach events: three Farmers Markets in Visalia and Dinuba, two Rawhide Baseball games in Visalia, five Senior Centers in Woodlake, Farmersville, Cutler/Orosi, and Dr. Debboun gave a presentation to the Exeter Lions Club during their breakfast monthly meeting. In addition, DMVCD was also featured on three local television news segments in Telemundo, ABC 30, and Univision.

5. Additional Seasonals:

Following discussion, it was moved by Rosemary Hellwig, seconded by Lori Berger and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the hiring of four additional seasonals.

6. Compliance Certification and Hold Harmless Statement:

Upon review of the Compliance Certification and Hold Harmless Statement, it was moved by Rosemary Hellwig, seconded by Kevin Caskey and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved it.

7. 2023-2024 Fiscal Budget Amended:

The General Manager discussed the 2023-2024 Fiscal Budget with the Board of Trustees. Rosemary Hellwig inquired on where revenue for Mosquito testing for other Districts is reflected in the budget packet, and she was directed to the revenue on page 22 and 23. Discussion continued regarding potentially testing for additional Districts should the need arise.

Kevin Caskey noted that he would like to see the Budget item for Building and Yard be separated. Additionally, he inquired about the significant increase in Travel Expense, and recommended monitoring it more.

Rosemary Hellwig inquired about the increase of chemicals, and the General Manager explained due to the inflation of the economy, all chemical companies have increased their pesticide prices.

Rosemary Hellwig and Kevin Caskey inquired about the decreased amount for Safety Supplies, and the explanation was that since the supplies for 2022-2023 were budgeted higher than usual, we don't have to spend much for the supplies for 2023/2024.

It was moved by Belen Gomez, seconded by Greg Gomez and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year Budget.

8. Policy #3010, Districts' Educational Assistance Policy Revision:

Following review of the revised policy, it was moved by Rosemary Hellwig and seconded by Larry Roberts and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the revisions as presented.

9. Board of Trustees Member Comments:

Linda Gutierrez shared that she received the notification regarding the treatment of the Seville area, and she had an individual who was able to translate the notice to Spanish as well and shared the document to that area in English and Spanish versions.

Greg Gomez reported about the line of Communication that was opened between him and the City of Lindsay regarding Abatement coverage for its area. Lori Berger inquired about what the pros and cons would be of taking on an additional City, and the General Manager explained the annexation requirements and its lengthy process. Kevin Caskey mentioned the tax inclusion aspect of it, and Rosemary Hellwig agreed that getting the inclusion will be lengthy. Larry Roberts mentioned that beyond trying to annex this additional City with an Abatement District, should there have been a need based upon a major disaster and area not within an Abatement District, the State should help launch a program to aid that area? The General Manager explained in more detail this issue and explained what the State and California Department of Public Health are doing about it.

Rosemary Hellwig inquired about the In2CareMosquito trap being provided to her as part of the trial that our Operations Section is currently working on.

10. Future Agenda Items:

None.

11. Adjournment:

It was moved by Kevin Caskey, seconded by Rosemary Hellwig, and the Board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting of the DMVCD's Board of Trustees at 5:45 p.m.

Dr. Mustapha Debboun, Recording Secretary
