

DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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Minutes of the Board of Trustees – Wednesday, September 9, 2020

1. Roll Call:

Present: Greg Gomez, President; Belen Gomez, Secretary; Kevin Caskey, Michael Cavanagh, Linda Gutierrez, Larry Roberts and Rosemary Hellwig.

Staff: Dr. Mustapha Debboun, General Manager; Sheri Davis, Administrative Assistant; Mir Bear-Johnson, Assistant Manager

2. New Employee Introduction:

The General Manager, Dr. Mustapha Debboun introduced Mr. Bryan Ferguson, Vector Control Technician III/Mechanic to the Board of Trustees. Bryan was hired in October 2019 and has been a great asset to the Delta Vector Control District (DVCD). Mr. Ferguson recently became certified by the California Department of Public Health in categories A & B of the Vector Control Technician Certification Program. He was born and raised in Porterville, CA and worked for Clevenger Ford and Porterville Ford for a substantial number of years. He moved to Northern California for a few years before returning to the Central Valley and settling in Visalia. Mr. Ferguson received a warm welcome from the Board of Trustees.

3. Fish Hatchery Building Project:

The General Manager invited the Board of Trustees to view the progress of the fish hatchery and offices following the Board meeting. The siding and glass doors and windows are currently being installed. The roof and the two offices will be completed by the end of September 2020. Despite the bench countertop being delayed by two weeks due to COVID-19, the building is still on schedule to be completed by the second week of October 2020. The final step of the project will be the installation of the fish rearing and holding tanks by Sacramento Koi personnel who have scheduled to install them on October 7, 8, and 9, 2020.

4. Consent Calendar:

Sheri Davis, Administrative Assistant, provided information on the following items:

Board Order #5 – 34554 DVCD EFTPS \$700.00 – Annual fee for CalPERS GASB-68 Reports.
Board Order #6 – Paul Jobe vacation payout and payroll taxes (Retired 8/31/2020)

Board Order #7 - Added overtime payroll to four employees.
34641 West America Bank – Lease payment for fish hatchery and offices.

Following discussion, it was moved by Kevin Caskey, seconded by Michael Cavanagh, and the Board members unanimously approved the Consent Calendar.

5. Public Forum:

None

6. Staff Report:

The General Manager thanked and shared his appreciation for the excellent and hard work of the Assistant Manager, Administrative Assistant, and the rest of his staff. In addition, he discussed the implementation of awards and recognitions for past and future employees.

Mr. Paul Jobe retired on August 31, 2020 after 29 years of service to DVCD. Paul has been invited to join the DVCD staff at the end of season appreciation luncheon where he will be presented with a retirement plaque.

The General Manager nominated Mr. Javier Valdivias, our youngest Biologist to be featured in the National Spotlight for American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) as an up and coming early career young professional. The AMCA will be contacting Javier for an interview prior to the publication of the next monthly AMCA Report.

The General Manager met with Jessica Ritter, Facility Solutions Specialist from Site Logic, a company that specializes in assessing cities and special districts for energy savings and thus discussed and explored solar and other energy cost cutting ideas to save DVCD money. Ms. Ritter will work and provide DVCD with various efficient and energy saving scenarios to consider implementing in the future.

The General Manager gave a presentation to the Lindsay City Council on September 8, 2020 about proposing the annexation of Lindsay to DVCD for the purpose of providing mosquito control services to protect Lindsay residents from discomfort of mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases. The Lindsay City Council was supportive of the proposal and requested from Mr. Joseph Tanner, the City Manager to contact Mr. Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County Supervisor District 1 and the Tulare County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to get more information on how to fund the annexation and start the process of annexing Lindsay and Strathmore to DVCD.

The General Manager thanked all of the Board members for completing their required training that was due on August and September 2020.

7. Surveillance Report:

Assistant Manager, Mir Bear-Johnson, gave the Surveillance Report covering West Nile virus (WNV) in the District and in California, and mosquito abundance of both native and invasive species. While WNV human cases and mosquito samples have increased from last month, they are still significantly lower than this time last year. At the District, Gravid traps continue to be relatively low. Due to low trap counts, infection rate may seem slightly elevated, as it is based on

number of positive samples out of total number of samples. Minimum infection rate graph (using Bias-Corrected MLE) was added to illustrate this point.

The one morning of adulticide spraying, the height of the curve, was discussed. Rosemary asked about why we are not spraying as much as last year and years past? Mir and Dr. Debboun explained that last year the WNV was particularly high and required additional efforts. It was also discussed, as well, that in the past, spraying had been done for the *Aedes aegypti* but following increasing evidence that these mosquitoes are resistant to the adulticide, such activities had since decreased. The importance and necessity of larvicide were also highlighted, especially with the increased resistance to adulticide being detected.

The Assistant Manager then reported that results from larvicide treatments in the Visalia Cemetery were successful, and the number of adult mosquitoes was reduced significantly. The Visalia Cemetery agreed to pay for the cost of the chemical, and it is not yet determined if further treatments will take place this season.

8. Non-Elective Component:

The Administrative Assistant explained that the minimum employer contribution rate is adjusted annually prior to CalPERS open enrollment for health insurance. The District is required to set the dollar amount it will contribute toward retiree health premiums under CalPERS. We are in the unequal funding schedule, meaning we increase funding by 5% each year until we achieve 100% of the required contribution. Our retiree contribution in 2021 will be \$128.70/ month, which is 90% of the required minimum employer funding of \$143.00/ month. It was moved by Michael Cavanagh, seconded by Larry Roberts, and unanimously voted to approve the non-elective component as presented.

9. Reappointments:

The General Manager asked the Board of Trustees members: Belen Gomez, Kevin Caskey, and Larry Roberts if they wished to continue and to forward a letter to their respective appointing agencies for reappointments. Each of the three Board members expressed interest in continuing to serve in their current positions.

10. Kings Mosquito Abatement District Site Visit:

On August 26, 2020, Dr. Debboun, the General Manager visited the Kings Mosquito Abatement District (Kings MAD) staff and toured its facilities and discussed its operations and future collaborations with Mr. Michael Cavanagh, the General Manager of Kings MAD. Dr. Debboun informed the DVCD Board members that due to DVCD running out of operational space and his interest in relocating some of the DVCD facilities to a new location in Visalia, he also discussed with Mr. Cavanagh the process of moving and building Kings MAD facilities to the current location in Hanford, CA.

11. Initiation of Invasive Mosquito, *Aedes aegypti* Benefit Assessment:

The General Manager initiated the discussion of a need for DVCD to conduct a District Benefit Assessment to manage the invasive yellow fever mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*. Since the Board members were supportive of the Benefit Assessment, the General Manager has invited Mr. John

Bliss from SCI Consulting Group to give a presentation on the upcoming October 2020 Board meeting.

12. Policies:

The Assistant Manager provided the first reading of the following policies:

- Time Keeping Time Records
- Time Off to Vote
- Use of Makeup Time

The Trustees were in agreement that all of the policies were straight forward as written, and did not have any recommendations. The policies will be brought back to the Board in October for approval. It was noted that there was a mistake in the numbering of the last few policies presented, but the mistake was detected and corrected.

13. Adjournment:

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.