

Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District

Board of Trustees
595 Helman Lane
Cotati, CA 94931

Meeting Held via Videoconference
October 11, 2023

SPECIAL & REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Snyder called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL**

Members present:

Benediktsson, Cathy

Bloom, Gail

Davis, Tamara

Deicke, Art

Gallian, Laurie

Harlem, Pamela *Arrived @ 6:02 pm*

Harvey, Susan

Hootkins, Susan

Kubota, Evan

Marquiss, Alison

McCaffery, Shaun

Nichols, Vicki

Pigoni, Carol

Rich, Diana *Arrived @ 6:01 pm*

Schulze, Ed

Zavala, Aarón

Snyder, Richard

Members absent:

Ackerman, Bruce

Rowland Jr., Herb

Witt, David

Open seats: Ross, one Marin County at Large, San Anselmo and one Sonoma County at Large

Others present:

Philip Smith, District Manager

Liz Garcia, Administrative Services Manager

Dawn Williams, Administrative Technician (Confidential)

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

4. **PUBLIC TIME**

No public comment.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. CHANGES TO AGENDA/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

B. Resolution 2023/24-06: Authorizing Remote Teleconference/Virtual Meetings of the District Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(3)

C. FINANCIAL REPORTS – Accept Financial Reports for August and September 2023.

It was M/S Trustee Davis/Trustee Schulze to accept the Consent Calendar.

It was M/S Trustee Davis/Trustee Schulze to withdraw their previous motion on the Consent Calendar.

It was M/S Trustee Davis/Trustee Schulze to accept the Consent Calendar with the following change:

Item C, Financial Reports, ~~Review~~ Accept Financial Reports for August and September 2023

Motion passed with a roll call vote:

***Ayes:** Trustee Benediktsson, Trustee Bloom, Trustee Davis, Trustee Deicke, Trustee Gallian, Trustee Harlem, Trustee Harvey, Trustee Hootkins, Trustee Kubota, Alison Marquiss, Trustee McCaffery, Trustee Nichols, Trustee Pigoni, Trustee Rich, Trustee Schulze, Trustee Zavala and Trustee Snyder*

***No:** (none)*

***Abstain:** (none)*

***Absent:** Trustee Ackerman, Trustee Rowland and Trustee Witt*

6. NEW BUSINESS

A.* Employee Recognition: Length of Service Awards

It was M/S Trustee Schulze/Trustee Davis to adopt Resolution 2023/24-07, recognizing, thanking, and commending the staff members listed for their dedication and years of service to the District and its mission.

Motion passed with a roll call vote:

***Ayes:** Trustee Benediktsson, Trustee Bloom, Trustee Davis, Trustee Deicke, Trustee Gallian, Trustee Harlem, Trustee Harvey, Trustee Hootkins, Trustee Kubota, Alison Marquiss, Trustee McCaffery, Trustee Nichols, Trustee Pigoni, Trustee Rich, Trustee Schulze, Trustee Zavala and Trustee Snyder*

***No:** (none)*

***Abstain:** (none)*

***Absent:** Trustee Ackerman, Trustee Rowland and Trustee Witt*

B. Laboratory Update

In addition to the regular quarterly report that was provided in the agenda packet, Dr. Kelly Liebman gave a presentation on the number of service requests received for mosquito, yellowjacket, fish, and rodent calls during 2023 versus the 5-year average statistics. Dr. Liebman also briefed the Board on the number of dead bird reports in the West Nile virus (WNV) program over a 10-year period. She noted that both the statewide and the District's WNV numbers for 2023 reflect a tremendous uptick in activity. Lastly, she spoke about Alpha-gal Syndrome (Tick-borne Meat Allergy), which is caused by a bite from a Lone Star tick (not found in CA). This is an allergic condition in which people become allergic to alpha-gal, a sugar found in the tissues of all mammals except humans and other primates. When people who are allergic to alpha-gal eat beef, pork, lamb, or meat from other mammals, they experience an allergic reaction that causes a range of symptoms, including a rash, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

C. Financial Update

Administrative Services Manager Liz Garcia provided a brief update on the 2023 Year-to-Date current expenses through September 30th and compared them to the prior year. The two periods were very comparable, with the exception of a decrease in expenses of \$316k this year. This was due to the one-time funding of CEPPT (pension prefunding trust) in the Salaries and Benefits category last year, which was offset by an increase in the Materials and Supplies category this year. As of the end of September, all departments are under budget. In the coming months, staff and the Budget committee will review all budget categories, after which staff plans to prepare a proposed mid-year budget adjustment for the Board's consideration at its meeting in January 2024.

7. COMMITTEE & STAFF REPORTS**A. Legislative Committee**

Trustee Davis mentioned two bills currently working their way through the California Legislature. AB557 would modify the open meetings law (Brown Act) teleconferencing provisions and is expected to pass and be signed by the Governor. AB740 deals with drone cybersecurity bill and has now been designated as a two-year bill, so any further action on this proposal is paused until the following year. A number of mosquito districts have purchased foreign-made drones that could be grounded by this legislation. Trustee Davis noted that Assemblymember Jim Wood pushed to secure several million dollars in funding for mosquito districts dealing with invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes. Unfortunately, the proposal failed to pass, but Assemblymember Wood and MVCAC will try again next year.

B. Manager Recruitment Committee

Trustee Pighoni explained that the committee held its first meeting on August 29th, during which they reviewed a draft Request for Proposals document (RFP) for Executive Recruitment Services. Following some minor modifications, the committee directed staff to distribute the RFP to eight companies. The committee met again on October 3rd to review the four proposals received, selecting two firms to interview via Zoom at their next meeting.

8. MANAGER’S REPORTS

Manager Smith noted that the State Department of Public Health Vector-borne Disease Section had issued its annual report for 2022. In addition to being posted on the Trustee portal, hard copies are available to Trustees upon request. *(Manager’s and Assistant Manager’s reports were included in the October board packet)*

9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A message was received from Trustee Morgan Patton, resigning her position on the Board to take a position as an aide to Fourth District Supervisor Dennis Rodoni of the County of Marin.

10. OPEN TIME FOR BOARD OR STAFF COMMENTS

Trustee Schulze inquired about the MVCAC conference that will be held in January 2024. Manager Smith replied that the details of this event and registration particulars will be provided in the near future.

Trustee Hootkins stated that she had encountered about a dozen yellowjackets in front of her garage and decided to sit in her vehicle until they left. She spoke with Assistant Manager Hawk about the incident, and he advised that she made the right decision due to the aggressive nature of these insects.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was M/S Trustee Schulze/Trustee Davis to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
Philip D. Smith
C189FCB298974AC

District Representative
MSMVCD

11/9/2023

Date of Approval

DocuSigned by:
Diana Rich
C2AAA23FCB7347E

Trustee
MSMVCD Board of Trustees

11/9/2023

Date of Approval