

Regular Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District Meeting held August 13, 2025

Members Present: Darlene Fredericks, Andy Haymond, Assistant Secretary Bruce Johnson, Vice President Dr. Larry Kirk, Philip LaRocca, Steve Ostling, Secretary Melissa Schuster, Eric Smith, and President Bo Sheppard.

Members Excused: Carl Starkey.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: District Manager Matt Ball, 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 held on August 13, 2025, at 444 Otterson Drive, Chico, CA 95928.
2. The August 13, 2025, Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:00 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 Smith, seconded by Member Ostling and passed unanimously with a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held July 9, 2025, as written.
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 10, 2025, the District completed the monthly management meeting, staff meeting, and all vehicle inspections.

On July 14, 2025, District management hosted the monthly West Nile virus (WNV) task force meeting with Butte County Public Health attending. The two agencies reviewed mosquito abundance, WNV activity, discussed the roles of both agencies, and discussed public education and outreach.

On July 15, 2025, District management and administrative staff attended a webinar presented by the MVCAC on sterile insect technology (SIT). The District Manager provided the Board with a brief report on SIT mosquitoes. He also gave an update on *Aedes aegypti* in the county.

On July 16, 2025, District management and administrative staff attended the spring Sac Valley Regional (Region) meeting. The Region discussed MVCAC Board action items, MVCAC annual fiscal budget, reviewed MVCAC treasury summary, and heard reports from MVCAC committees, Sac Valley Region districts, CDPH, AMCA, UC Davis, and industry.

On July 22, 2025, the District Manager attended the monthly MVCAC Regulatory Affairs Committee meeting. Topics discussed were cannabis, Pollinator Protection Act, storm water recapture, the Monarch butterfly, and various other items.

On July 23, 2025, the District's auditor was onsite to commence with the fiscal audit of 2024/2025. The onsite visit was to validate the District's controls, check and balances, and to conduct interviews with management staff. The audit will continue until finished and the finished audit will be shared and reported to the Board in November or December.

On July 18, 2025, the District Manager attended the biweekly Legislative Regulatory Committee call. MVCAC lobbyists and committee members reviewed legislation and current regulatory issues throughout the state.

On July 24, 2025, the District Manager attended the MVCAC Summer Board Meeting. The meeting covered MVCAC action items, reports from MVCAC committees, reports from MVCAC regions, CDPH, CSDA, and industry.

On July 31, 2025, District management met with Liberty, Cassidy, and Whitmore to review suggested and recommended changes to some District personnel policies. This was a program

initiated by ERMA which is associated with the District's insurance, the VCJPA. Also on this date, the District Manager met with a representative of Target Specialty Products and Summit Chemical Company to discuss products, pricing, and availability as well as to review projected use.

On August 6, 2025, the District's Safety Committee met to discuss the past month's safety issues and to plan for the next month's training. Also on this date, District management and administrative staff attended a webinar on SIT technology. The District Manager met with Member Schuster and representatives of the Town of Paradise to discuss the town's Paradise Sewer Project.

On August 11, 2025, District management hosted the monthly West Nile virus (WNV) task force meeting with Butte County Public Health attending. The two agencies reviewed mosquito abundance, WNV activity, discussed the roles of both agencies, and discussed public education and outreach.

On August 12, 2025, the District Manager attended the monthly MVCAC Regulatory Affairs Committee meeting. Topics discussed were cannabis, Pollinator Protection Act, storm water recapture, the Monarch butterfly, and various other items.

On August 13, 2025, District administrative staff attended a webinar on the use of CalSurv and the changes implemented to CalSurv.

The District Manager explained the costs for contracted aerial services and seasonal pilot thus far this fiscal year. He informed the Board that one of the District's full-time pilot continues to be on leave of absence. The District Manager also informed the Board that there will be a future budget adjustment request for transfer of funds to services and supplies as well as salaries and benefits to cover the unanticipated costs. Most likely sometime during the third quarter fiscal.

- 7.2 Under item 7.2 of reports, the District 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 at this time. *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, 305 pools have been submitted; with 6 of those pools being positive. Also, *Aedes aegypti* has been detected in Oroville, Chico, Thermalito, Hamilton City, Gridley, and Biggs.

West Nile virus (WNV) activity has increased within the District's service area with a total of 11 positive pools, and 6 positive chicken. WNV has been identified in 7 human cases, 70 dead birds, 969 mosquito pools, and 3 chickens in California to date.

The District's four indoor fish tanks have undergone annual maintenance and are currently producing fry. In July, the indoor tanks produced 28,835 fry. Also, 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 438 taken.

As of August 5th, the District has treated 6,463 acres of wetlands; compared to 6,083 acres at this time last year. The District has treated 56,186 acres of rice this year, compared to 27,015 acres at this time last year. The District has made 2 ULV adulticide treatments thus far, compared to 0 ULV adulticide treatments at this time last year.

The District's Public Relations (PR) Department is reviewing and updating as 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.

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 legal's recommended amendments to Personnel Policy, Policy 7190, Drug and Alcohol Abuse. It was then moved by Member LaRocca, seconded by Member Fredericks, and passed unanimously with a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays to adopt amendments to Personnel Policy, Policy 7190, Drug and Alcohol Abuse as drafted.

- 8.2 Under item 8.2 of policy matters, the Board was asked to consider legal's recommended amendments to Personnel Policy, Policy 7225, Internet, Email, and Electronics Communications Ethics, Usage, and Security. It was then moved by Member Schuster, seconded by Member Ostling, and passed unanimously with a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays to adopt amendments to Personnel Policy, Policy, 7225, Internet, Email, and Electronics Communications Ethics, Usage, and Security as drafted.
- 8.3 Under item 8.3 of policy matters, the Board was asked to consider an amendment to the General Policy, Policy 2080, Claims Against the District as the claim form has been updated by the District's insurance provider, the VCJPA. It was then moved by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Kirk, and passed unanimously with a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays to adopt Personnel Policy, Policy 2080, Claims Against the District with the updated claim form.
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 Johnson, seconded by Member Haymond, and passed unanimously with a vote of 9 ayes 0 nays to authorize checks numbered 55760 through 55919 be signed and distributed. Expenditures for the month totaled \$1,429,277.44.
11. Under personnel, the District Manager informed the Board that the District hired two more seasonal employees that commenced employment with the District on July 28, 2025, and one seasonal voluntarily separated employment on July 17, 2025.
12. No items of correspondence to report.
13. No items under 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 4:41 PM and concluded by stating that the next regular meeting of the BCMVCD Board of Trustees would meet at 4:00 PM on September 10, 2025, at the Chico Substation's Board Room at 444 Otterson Drive, Chico, CA 95928.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Schuster,
Secretary