

**Regular Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District Meeting held November 13, 2024**

**Members Present:** Bruce Johnson, Darlene Fredericks, Andy Haymond, Dr. Larry Kirk, Steve Ostling, Secretary Melissa Schuster, Eric Smith, Carl Starkey, and President Bo Sheppard.

**Members Excused:** Philip LaRocca.

**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 November 13, 2024, at 444 Otterson Drive, Chico, CA 95928.
2. The November 13, 2024, 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 Starkey, seconded by Member Kirk, and passed unanimously with a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held October 9, 2024, 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 October 10, 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. Also on this date, District management attended the District's biannual management meeting to review the recent mosquito season, discuss employee evaluation, planned for the off-season projects, and reviewed important tasks that need to be accomplished prior to the 2025 mosquito season. The District Manager attended the MVCAC Fall Board meeting via Zoom. The meeting covered a few action items, plans for the future, and reports from MVCAC committees, districts, CDPH, and industry.

On October 11, 2024, 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 October 15, 2024, the District Manager attended a webinar on the Endangered Species Act presented by the Integrated Pest Management Institute.

On October 29, 2024, District management and the District's Pilot interviewed a candidate for the open Pilot position.

On October 30, 2024, the District Manager attended a webinar on Modified Insects for Pest Management Workshop presented by the Department of Pesticide Regulation and the California Environmental Protection Agency. The District's lab staff attended a webinar "Investigating the ecology of *Culicoides* biting midges: The big problem of tiny vectors" provided by AMCA which was free to members.

In recognition of Veterans Day, the District was closed on November 11, 2024.

On November 13, 2024, District management attended a training regarding new ADA standards for compliance with websites.

The District Manager provided a brief report on the status of the District's pilot job requisition.

- 7.2 Under item 7.2 of reports, the Assistant Manager reported that the District's New Jersey light traps and gravid traps continued catching mosquitoes until they were pulled. All mosquito populations have dropped towards the conclusion of the mosquito season, with the exception of *Aedes melanimon*, which has had a brief spike due to fall flood-up in wetland areas. Sentinel chickens sera samples have continued to be taken biweekly with the last samples

taken on 11/5/2024. With the weather change and the massive drop in mosquito abundance, the surveillance season ended the week of November 4<sup>th</sup> and all traps were pulled out of deployment.

West Nile virus (WNV) activity within the District's service area has concluded with a total of 12 positive humans, 4 dead birds, 70 positive pools, and 28 positive chickens. WNV has been identified in 107 humans, 507 dead birds, 1,996 mosquito pools, 157 chickens, and 7 horses in California to date, all of which are down from last year at this point.

The District's four indoor fish tanks are fully operational and continue to produce fry. Fry numbers continue to increase as the tanks and fish adjust. The District's outdoor fish ponds have continued to produce high amounts of fish as they begin to slow down for fall and winter.

Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists have continued with mosquito surveillance and treatments in rock pits, dredger pits, flood water areas, agricultural, ditches, drains and urban sources.

As of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the District has treated 13,940 acres of wetlands; compared to 15,641 acres at this time last year. The District has treated 47,966 acres of rice this year, compared to 56,944 acres at this time last year. The District made 24 ULV adulticide treatments this mosquito season compared to 24 ULV adulticide treatments last year.

The Public Relations Department is reviewing and updating the District's website, brochures, photo and video files, and other informational documents. All public events for 2024 have ended as well as all advertising and public service announcements.

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

## 8. Policy matters (8.1 – 8.4)

- 8.1 Under item 8.1 of policy matters, the Board was asked to consider renewing membership with the California Special Districts Association (CSDA). CSDA's dues structure is based on an agencies/district's operating revenue. The dues for operating revenue between \$2.0 million and \$5.0 million are \$9,073.00 annually. The District rejoined the CSDA in April of 2017. It was then moved by Member Schuster, seconded by Member Starkey, and passed unanimously with a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays to approve renewing membership with the California Special Districts Association for an annual fee of \$9,073.00.
  - 8.2 Under item 8.2 of policy matters, the Board was asked to consider amendments to Personnel Policy, Sick Leave, Policy 7040. These amendments were negotiated with the current MOU between the District and the District employees. It was then moved by Member Kirk, seconded by Member Ostling, and passed unanimously with a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays to approve amendments to Personnel Policy, Policy 7040, Sick Leave.
  - 8.3 Under item 8.3 of policy matters, the Board was asked to consider adopting Resolution No. 24-07, a Resolution Approving the Continuation of the Early Retirement Incentive Program. It was then moved by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Fredericks, and passed unanimously with a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays to approve adopting Resolution No. 24-07, a Resolution Approving the Continuation of the Early Retirement Incentive Program.
  - 8.4 Under item 8.4 of policy matters, the Board was asked to consider a capital expenditure for a new airplane. The District Manager informed the Board of the District's future with aerial operations and the options of continuing the aerial operations in-house versus outsourcing. After some discussion, it was the Board's direction to continue with the aerial operations in-house and to shop for airplanes. The District Manager explained the airplane selection process and the options the airplane will need. In addition, the District Manager asked for the Board's direction on a second used airplane. After some discussion with the Board, it was then moved by Member Ostling, seconded by Member Schuster, and passed unanimously with a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays to approve the purchase from Mid-Continent for a 2024 Thrusch 510P2+ with an allowance not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 plus applicable fees and taxes to include unforeseen upgrades and customizations. It was also the Board's direction to purchase a second used airplane. It was moved by Member Starkey and seconded by Member Johnson and passed unanimously with a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays to approve the purchase of a used Grumman AG Cat with an allowance not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 plus applicable fees and taxes.
9. Under topic of the month, the District's Entomologist gave a presentation on Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

10. After reviewing the demands made upon the District for the past month, it was then moved by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Smith, and passed unanimously with a vote of 9 ayes 0 nays to authorize checks numbered 54607 through 54749 be signed and distributed. Expenditures for the month totaled \$527,024.29.
11. No personnel items to report.
12. No items of correspondence to report.
13. Under other business, the District Manager informed the Board that in December the District will be taking a picture of the Board of Trustees for the upcoming annual 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 5:08 PM and concluded by stating that the next regular meeting of the BCMVCD Board of Trustees would meet at 4:00 PM on December 11, 2024, at the Chico Substation's Board Room at 444 Otterson Drive, Chico, CA 95928.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Schuster,  
Secretary