

# Benton County Mosquito Control District

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## Meeting Minutes Regular Board Meeting August 28, 2023

### **I. Call to Order:**

Board President Cynthia Gray called to order the Benton County Mosquito Control Board of Trustees meeting at 7:00 PM on August 28, 2023.

### **II. Roll Call:**

The following members were present: Cynthia Gray, Thomas Groom, Bill Moore, Richard Bloom, and Jessica Wadsworth. Brad Beauchamp was excused.

### **III. Approval of Minutes for the July 24, 2023, Regular Meeting:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Bill Moore and seconded by Richard Bloom. The motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. Guest Agenda Items:**

There were no Guest Agenda Items.

### **V. Financial Report:**

Board President Cynthia Gray asked if Board members had a chance to look over the budget information and projections in their Board packets and whether they had any questions for Angela. District Manager Angela Beehler provided Board members with updated budget projections. She stated that fiscally, we are close to where we were at this time last year.

### **VI. Correspondence:**

The Benton County Mosquito Control District (BCMCD) received information from the City of Richland regarding the expansion of West Van Giesen Street. Angela indicated that negotiations on the right-of-way will begin this fall. The Board reviewed the handout showing the approximate boundary changes for the road. The Board discussed the loss of some landscaped areas in the front, including the potential loss of trees, and changes to the water irrigation hookup.

### **VII. Manager's Report:**

Angela Beehler, District Manager, indicated that seasonal employees are beginning to



leave. The expected end date for most seasonal employees will be mid and late September.

Angela stated that to date, the district has responded to 416 service requests, with most of those related to the presence of adult-biting mosquitoes. Service requests peaked during the last part of May and early part of June, a period when flood mosquitoes were prevalent.

Angela discussed the detections of West Nile Virus (WNV). As of August 22, 2023, there are 247 human cases of WNV in 34 states. There have been 169 cases of neuroinvasive disease across the country. In Washington, 1,733 mosquito pools have been tested. Fifty-six (56) of the mosquito pools were positive for WNV, 37 of which are within the Benton County Mosquito Control District. There has been one human case of WNV in King County. Health officials in King County indicate that the person had recently traveled through Montana and Idaho and, therefore, it cannot be determined if WNV was contracted in-state or out-of-state.

Using data from Mosquito MD, Kevin Shoemaker, and Jasmine Che, analyzed mosquito pools from Grandview Sewage Lagoons (GSL) and Byron Ponds, looking at the number of mosquitoes trapped, average mosquitoes per trap event, number and percentage of each mosquito species found in traps. Angela noted that *Culex pipiens* and *Culex tarsalis*, which vector WNV, comprised 98.02% of all mosquitoes at GSL and 93.76% of all mosquitoes at Byron Ponds.

Truck bids have been solicited. At next month's Board meeting, there will be an opportunity to review and accept bids and make any budget adjustments if needed (estimated costs versus actual bid costs).

Angela also briefly touched on:

- Angela and Jasmine attended the first WA One Health Conference in Ellensburg,
- 2023 mosquito season interviews and social media,
- Speaking engagements with the Entomological Society of America,
- EPA Endangered Species Pilot Program meeting in D.C. on September 20<sup>th</sup>,
- Angela was nominated for the American Mosquito Control Association North Pacific Regional Director board position,
- Progress of the current Farm Bill, which contains language related to pesticides.

### **VIII. Old Business:**

There was no old business.

### **IX. New Business:**

Angela Beehler provided a brief overview of the proposed draft 2024 budget. Angela handed out updated budget projections, indicating that the carryover is estimated to be \$900,000. The request included 3-4 additional field staff for drone and storm drain

treatments and one additional seasonal full-time Field Inspector. The 2024 preliminary budget includes an increase in the number of vehicles purchased; four existing vehicles would be traded in, and two additional new vehicles would be purchased; one to replace the vehicle totaled in April and one added to the drone program. \$50,000 was added to establish a building fund for future repairs. Finally, inflation is factored in, accounting for approximately seven to ten percent of the increase in the budget.

Cynthia Gray, Board President, asked for questions and discussion on the proposed budget. The board discussed increased costs, inflation rates, impacts on assessment fees, policies, legislation, and other potential revenue sources. The board pointed out that the district's high level of quality and expertise translates to success in control efforts, quality and level of service being provided, and the district's standing within the community, among mosquito control districts, within the state, and across the United States.

**X. Payment of Bills and Signing of Documents:**

Following review by the Board, Thomas Groom moved, and Richard Bloom seconded the motion to approve and sign warrant numbers 10819 through 10961, direct payroll deposits, and tax payments for a combined total of \$358,960.22.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Richard Bloom (Aye), Bill Moore (Aye), Tom Groom (Aye), and Jessica Wadsworth (Aye).

**XI. Adjournment:**

Hearing no further business to come before the Board, Cynthia Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:42 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Angela Beehler**  
District Manager



**ATTEST: Cynthia Gray**  
President



**ATTEST: Richard Bloom**  
Secretary

