

Meeting Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
June 26, 2023

I. Call to Order:

Board Secretary Richard Bloom called to order the Benton County Mosquito Control Board of Trustees meeting at 7:01 PM on June 26, 2023.

II. Roll Call:

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

III. Approval of Minutes for the April 24, 2023, Regular Meeting:

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

IV. Guest Agenda Items:

The following guests were present at the meeting: Benton County Mosquito Control District employees Rudy Cruz and David Rise and Clarke representative Andrew Rivera.

There were no Guest Agenda Items.

V. Financial Report:

District Manager Angela Beehler provided an overview of the Year-to-Date report, Summary Balance Sheet, Account Trial Balance report and 2023 Budget Projections. Angela noted that miscellaneous revenue was higher than normal due to an insurance payout on a totaled vehicle and sale of surplus items. She pointed out the payroll liability in the amount of \$301.09. Angela indicated that there were no discrepancies between the Treasurer's office and Quick Books fund accounts. Year-end carryover is estimated at \$935,232.97. A short discussion occurred on vehicle purchase timing.

VI. Correspondence:

The Benton County Mosquito Control District received and responded to a records request related to training, policies and procedures, and emails concerning mosquito control spray drift.

VII. Manager's Report:

Angela Beehler opened her report by discussing the State Auditor report that she files in May of each year covering the previous fiscal year. She stated that we are in good financial shape and there were no discrepancies noted for the fiscal year 2022. The district has an accountability audit every three years. The next audit will occur this fall and cover fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Angela provided an overview of current mosquito season data and information, including service requests (higher this year, particularly in Richland), adult mosquito surveillance (sustained high counts in the hot spots in Richland), West Nile Virus (one human disease case was reported in Oregon, BCMC has tested 50 samples with no positive detections), mosquitofish (difficulty in finding a sufficient number of fish for distribution), storm drains (behind on treatments due to staffing issues), and treatments (by field personnel, UAS and aerial application).

Highlights of this year's education and outreach efforts include participation in the Scottish Festival, Delta Highschool Resource Fair, a STEM demonstration, and the creation of Spanish language materials. Angela indicated that our Facebook and Instagram account followers have increased over the past year.

The district has received notice that the Enduris insurance rates will increase five to ten percent in September. The increase in insurance rates were anticipated during the 2023 budget development.

The district will be working with Clarke to conduct a field trial for ReMoa Tri, a new adult mosquito product with three new ingredients and having three modes of action.

Angela attended a dinner at the Barker Ranch honoring the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Terry Cosby. Water and resource management and grant opportunities were discussed, and Angela had the opportunity to meet with officials from the local, state, and federal levels.

Benton County MCD has been assisting the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) on several grants offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Areas of focus include the development of Best Management Practices training materials, vector-borne disease prediction modeling, and the validation of a pesticide dispersion model for Ultra-low volume spraying. The virtual training materials consist of 13 modules that provide the opportunity for individuals to enhance their public health knowledge and experience. Angela will be developing the record-keeping and record-keeping analytics module over the next month.

The final topic of the Manager's report was a drone presentation by Rudy Cruz, Lead Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Pilot for the Benton County Mosquito Control District. The district currently has four pilots - Hanna Trappett, Dustin Hendrickson, Rudy Cruz and David Rise. Rudy provided an overview of the UAS program,

including certificate of authorization to operate; operational policies and procedures; the UAS fleet, consisting of a Agra MG1P, a DJI Air 2S and a DJAgra T30 drone; surveillance and treatment objectives and accomplishments; and treatment products used. The program is focused on providing spot treatments in more inaccessible areas. An expansion in the scope of operations will include conducting treatments in areas such as the Grandview Sewage Lagoons and Byron Ponds where drone applications would use less product and provide more precise application than a fixed-wing plane could provide. Another area of interest would be adding 3D mapping capability. Mr. Cruz, David Rise, and Andrew Rivera fielded questions from Board members about exclusion zones, interactions with animals and the public, transportation of drones and treatment chemicals, and the potential for using drones to apply liquids.

VIII. Old Business:

Angela asked Board members to review and update Board member information. Angela also reviewed the status of Board positions, indicating continued vacancies for the cities of Mabton and Richland and Benton and Yakima County Commissioners membership.

IX. New Business:

There was no new business.

X. Payment of Bills and Signing of Documents:

Following review by the Board, Tom Groom moved, and Bill Moore seconded the motion to approve and sign warrant numbers 10541 through 10762, direct payroll deposits, and tax payments for a combined total of \$987,571.85.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

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

XI. Adjournment:

Hearing no further business to come before the Board, Richard Bloom adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Angela Beehler
District Manager

ATTEST: Tom Groom
Trustee

ATTEST: Bill Moore
Trustee