

MINUTES

1082nd MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

August 12th, 2020

TIME: 5:00 P.M.
PLACE: *Zoom Teleconference Only*
TRUSTEES: Wendi Poulson, President, City of Alameda
P. Robert Beatty, Vice-President, City of Berkeley
Betsy Cooley, Secretary, City of Emeryville
Cathy Roache, County-at-Large
Shawn Kumagai, City of Dublin
George Young, City of Fremont
Elisa Marquez, City of Hayward
James N. Doggett, City of Livermore
Eric Hentschke, City of Newark
Jan O. Washburn, City of Oakland
Andrew Mingst, City of Piedmont
Julie Testa, City of Pleasanton
Victor Aguilar, City of San Leandro
Subru Bhat, City of Union City

1. Board President Poulson called the regularly scheduled board meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.
2. Trustees Poulson, Beatty, Cooley, Roache, Kumagai, Young, Marquez, Hentschke, Washburn, Mingst, Testa, Aguilar and Bhat were present on the Zoom conference. Trustee Doggett was absent.
3. Board President Poulson invited members of the public to speak on any issue relevant to the District. Associate Vector Scientist Miguel Barretto was present to give a presentation on Simulating A1 Larvicide Applications to Improve Efficiency. Public Outreach Coordinator Judi Pierce was present to be introduced as a new ACMAD employee. Information Technology Director Robert Ferdan was on the teleconference call for technical support. Vector Biologist Jeremy Sette was present to record the minutes. No public comments were submitted prior or during the meeting.
4. Approval of the minutes of the 1081st meeting held July 8th, 2020.
Motion: Trustee Hentschke moved to approve the amended minutes
Second: Trustee Aguilar
Vote: motion carries: unanimous. Trustee Washburn noted a typo on the minutes that marked him as present (the General Manager replied that he would fix the error in the amended minutes).
5. Presentation by Associate Vector Scientist Miguel Barretto: Simulating A1 Larvicide Applications to Improve Efficiency.
Discussion:

Associate Vector Scientist Miguel Barretto gave his presentation and fielded the following discussion. Trustee Washburn asked if the Lab would conduct bioassays when conducting field trials (yes, similar to previous bioassays already performed). Vice-President Beatty asked how easy and accurate it was to measure and monitor windspeed (wind meters are currently being used to get average windspeed before treatments and trials). Trustee Washburn asked if the District has truck-mounted anemometers that could record constant and precise wind conditions (no, but will look into) and noted that the spray will be affected by both truck produced wind and ambient wind. Trustee Testa asked if there were any negative health impacts on humans and/or animals from use of the A1 larvicide (the General Manager answered, no, Bti is the active ingredient in these applications and there have been no studies shown to conclude that there are any negative impacts on non-target species). Trustee Washburn noted that Bti products are certified organic biological control. Vice-President Beatty explained that the bacteria used in this product exists in nature. Trustee Washburn explained specifically how the active ingredient of Bti works to kill mosquito larvae. Trustee Beatty also sent out a group chat message link pertaining to BTI: <http://www.epa.gov/moquitocontrol/bti-mosquito-control>. The General Manager commented on how this new tool is being used in the salt marsh and is a novel approach to treatments in that type of environment. Trustee Bhat asked if Miguel would be publishing a paper related to the presentation (yes). During the presentation, President Poulson sent out one group chat message asking members to please mute themselves when not speaking.

6. First reading of revisions to chapter 300 of District policy

Discussion:

The General Manager went over the first reading of revisions to chapter 300 of District policy and fielded the following discussion. Trustee Washburn asked if the General Manager could send him a copy because he found typos that he could help edit. Vice-President Beatty also asked if that could be sent to everyone (Board members have a PDF but if they would like a Word version for easier editing please let him know). Trustee Washburn asked for a Word version (ok). Vice-President Beatty asked for clarification on who were members of the Policy Committee (Trustees Marquez, Doggett, and Bhat). Trustee Bhat commented that he is ok with the changes. Trustee Marquez asked if the General Manager was working with HR or a Lawyer on the policy revisions (working with RGS consulting and attorney).

7. Alameda LAFCo Certificate of Completion of the City of Albany to the District

Discussion:

The General Manager announced that the LAFCo Certificate of Completion of the City of Albany was the last step of the process of annexing Albany for District services. One more step of adding the city to the tax rolls will be completed later in the year through the State of California. Trustee Washburn commended the General Manager for his efforts which has been an issue for decades. Trustee Testa exclaimed that it was a big accomplishment as she had been following the process.

8. Impact of COVID-19 on District check registry and CALPERS health costs.

Discussion:

The General Manager gave a report on the impact of COVID-19 on District check registry and CALPERS health costs.

9. Exploration of Mid-Career Retention and Recruitment Benefit

Discussion:

The General Manager introduced the Board to his efforts in exploring specific ways to recruit and retain highly qualified mid-career employees in the future and fielded the following discussion. Trustee Washburn commented that it sounded like a good idea and suggested the General Manager bring up specific scenarios with the actual cost to the District in a future

Board meeting (yes). Secretary Cooley asked if this benefit could be applied to all District employees, not just specific mid-career new employees (yes, but more details will follow). Secretary Cooley expressed her misgivings that a potential hire may not see this as a big benefit (yes, marketing this esoteric benefit may be initially challenging) and that this benefit may have the unintended consequences of causing employees to be more reticent, or feel “trapped” in not leaving the company or taking any vacation time because of this benefit. Secretary Cooley also expressed that there was not enough information on this benefit at this time to give a full opinion (the General Manager noted that he will talk to the law firm to get more information and costs for the next Board meeting to better examine the financial impact).

10. Presentation of the Financial Reports as of July 31st, 2020.

Discussion:

The General Manager presented the Financial Reports as of July 31st, 2020 and thanked Trustee Roache for her participation in signing checks and fielded the following discussion. Trustee Marquez asked if the District allows the selling of vacation hours (no) and what the max accrual of vacation hours is (the cap is double the yearly accrual). Trustee Marquez asked if the District kept records of value of vacation hours (yes, vacation hours appear as a liability on the Balance Sheet and the only time an employee can cash out on vacation hours is when one leaves the District).

11. Presentation of the Monthly Staff Report.

Discussion:

The General Manager presented the Monthly Staff Report and fielded the following discussion. Trustee Washburn asked if the bird that was recently tested positive for West Nile Virus was a crow (yes). The General Manager noted that the mosquitoes tested negative in that area. Miguel Barretto gave the Lab Report. Trustee Kumagai asked what the risk factor was concerning WNV (the General Manager answered that WNV is a bird disease and that the District focuses on controlling the populations of specific genera of mosquitoes that could potentially transfer WNV. Low numbers of mosquitoes were collected and tested (negative for WNV) in EVS traps recently, indicating a much lower risk potential for transmission. The General Manager explained the District’s WNV response plan). Trustee Kumagai noted that it is essentially a numbers game, that when there are lower mosquito population numbers, there is a lower risk (yes). The General Manager explained that the positive WNV bird was announced in the District’s press release. Trustee Bhat asked if the Public Health Department needs to be notified in a case of a positive bird (yes, and the District is in turn notified when there is a positive human case) and commented that he is a member of the Alameda County Public Health Commission . Trustee Poulson asked if the General Manager had any ideas on why service request calls were average for this time of year even during a pandemic (unsure at this time).

12. Presentation of the Manager’s Report.

Discussion:

The General Manager presented the Manager’s Report and fielded the following discussion. The General Manager introduced new employee Public Outreach Coordinator Judi Pierce who provided a background of herself and her experience. She was welcomed by the Board and Trustees Marquez, Beatty, Aguilar, Testa and Bhat each sent a group chat message welcoming Pierce. Pierce sent a group chat message thanking the Board for their welcome. The General Manager’s frame froze at 6:18 PM. Associate Vector Scientist Miguel Barretto sent a group chat message commenting on the suspense of the freeze. Information Technology Director Robert Ferdan assisted the General Manager on rejoining the meeting via call-in and finished his report. President Poulson gave appreciation to the General Manager for sanitizing the District areas in the support of employee safety.

13. Board President Poulson asked for reports on conferences and seminars attended by Trustees. None.
14. Board President Poulson asked for announcements from the Board. None.
15. Board President Poulson asked trustees for items to be added to the agenda for the next Board meeting. The General Manager plans to have a written report related to the staff's response to COVID-19 along with a presentation by a CalPERS representative.
16. The meeting adjourned at 6:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved as written and/or corrected
at the 1083rd meeting of the Board of
Trustees held September 9th, 2020

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Wendi Poulson
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Wendi Poulson, President
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Betsy Cooley
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Betsy Cooley, Secretary
BOARD OF TRUSTEES