

MINUTES

1114th MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

June 14th, 2023

TIME: 5:00 P.M.
PLACE: Hybrid Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Physically held at the Office of the District
23187 Connecticut Street, Hayward, CA 94545 and
Teleconferencing at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85149817481>
TRUSTEES: Victor Aguilar, President, City of San Leandro
Cathy Roache, Vice-President, County-at-Large
Steve Cox, Secretary, City of Livermore
Tyler Savage, City of Alameda
Robin López, City of Albany: from 1000 San Pablo Ave, Albany, CA
P. Robert Beatty, City of Berkeley
Kashef Qaadri, City of Dublin
Courtney Welch, City of Emeryville: from 6301 Shellmound St, Emeryville, CA
George Young, City of Fremont
George Syrop, City of Hayward
Eric Hentschke, City of Newark
Jan O. Washburn, City of Oakland
Hope Salzer, City of Piedmont: from 76 Cambrian Ave, Piedmont, CA
Valerie Arkin, City of Pleasanton: from 3740 Newton Way, Pleasanton, CA
Subru Bhat, City of Union City

1. Board President Aguilar called the regularly scheduled board meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.
2. Trustees Aguilar, Roache, Cox, Beatty, Qaadri, Young, Syrop, Hentschke, Washburn, and Bhat were present in-person at the district. Trustees Lopez, Welch, Salzer, and Arkin attended remotely from the publicly posted locations noted above. Trustees Cox, Savage, and Beatty were absent.
3. President Aguilar invited members of the public to speak on any issue relevant to the district. Lab Director, Eric Haas-Stapleton and Regulatory and Public Affairs Director, Erika Castillo were present for item number 10. Vector Biologist, Sarah Lawton, was present to record the minutes. General Manager, Ryan Clausnitzer, attended remotely. Information & Technology Director, Robert Ferdan, attended remotely for technical support. No public comments were submitted.
4. Introduction of new Board Member, George Syrop representing the City of Hayward.
Discussion: Trustee Syrop introduced himself by stating that he became a Hayward Councilmember in November and has lived here in Hayward for most of his life. He is excited to work with everyone.
5. Approval of the minutes of the 1113th meeting held May 10th, 2023.

Motion: Trustee Washburn moved to approve the minutes

Second: Trustee Qaadri

Vote: motion carries: Trustee Syrop abstains.

6. Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate.

Discussion: Trustee Qaadri asked for an explanation of the difference in what was originally approved versus what is collected. The General Manager explained the while the public approved a \$5.00 assessment in 2008, the Board has only accepted \$2.50 since. Trustee Salzer noted that the vote is structured as a yes/no vote, and she is opposed to the structure of the tax which bases a single-family equivalent rate at 1 acre which is much larger than the average property in Alameda County. Trustee Welch asked since the tax has increased to \$7.75, could we collect the full amount? The General Manager explained that while the Board could make that decision, the staff recommendation is to keep it at \$2.50. Trustee Bhat added that district work is managed very well with just the \$2.50, so he does not feel it is justified to ask for more.

7. Resolution 1114-1, a resolution ordering the levy of assessments for fiscal year 2023-24 for the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District Mosquito and Disease Control Assessment.

Discussion: None

Motion: Trustee Hentschke moves to approve the resolution

Second: Trustee Roache

Vote: motion carries: Trustee Salzer abstains.

8. Closed session to discuss the General Manager's twelve-month evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. The Board came out of closed session with nothing to report.

9. Compensation recommendation of General Manager Ryan Clausnitzer based on a recommendation from the Manager Evaluation Committee and according to the employee contract.

Discussion: A 5% increase and 1% performance bonus are recommended based on his already-approved 3-year contract.

Motion: Trustee Washburn moves to accept the recommendation

Second: Trustee Bhat

Vote: motion carries: unanimous

10. Presentation by Lab Director, Eric Haas-Stapleton, PhD and Regulatory and Public Affairs Director, Erika Castillo: *Aedes aegypti* & *albopictus*; *knock knock knocking on Alameda County's door*.

Discussion: The General Manager explained that with many new Board members, it is a good time to discuss the importance of these mosquitoes. **Questions for Eric Haas-Stapleton's section:** Trustee Salzer asked if the 22 species in Alameda County are native (yes), if it is known how the mosquitoes have spread so quickly (yes since eggs are laid on plants, eggs can spread when plants are shipped throughout the state; adults are also easy to travel in vehicles), and about the abnormal altitudes they are inhabiting (researchers did not anticipate that they could live in underground vault/pipe systems, that is one reason they are successful in unusual areas), and if all current disease cases are travel related (yes the Alameda County Public Health Department conducts an investigation asking about prior travel, and no local transmission has been found). Trustee Bhat asked if we change our focus on these new

mosquitoes, will it affect our workload (yes, staff are at their workload limit so we would likely hire dedicated staff for these invasives species. Trustee Roache mentioned that to control the Mediterranean fruit fly, sterile male releases were done in the past as well. Trustee Salzer asked if there is any comparative information about how much water is required for our native mosquitoes, compared to the teaspoon amount for *Ae. Aegypti* (WNV species require much more water to grow). **Questions for Erika Castillo's section:** Trustee Salzer asked if we know how well the "service gaps" have been closed (the General Manager added that since Judith Pierce was hired in 2020, she has spent much of her focus on targeting those areas), what is the scale of new expenses spent on invasive *Aedes* related to the budget of districts (that information was not in the referenced survey, but comparing our mid-range budget to other districts, one can assume that the average increased costs would be similar). Trustee Syrop asked if we need more staff, will the current taxation (discussed in item 6 & 7) be enough (yes, up-staffing would be immediate and short-term increases would be covered by a dedicated reserve fund). Trustee Syrop followed up by saying the City of Hayward has small community groups, are those part of public outreach (yes, similar to other districts that have created community liaisons connected with these organizations) and stressed how language barriers are an important part of this outreach. Trustee Salzer asked if we have any information now about how the public reacts if they are bothered by mosquitoes, for example, if they are using pesticides themselves? (ACMAD has not done an Alameda County specific survey, but California did a survey with those questions, and they broke down responses by region along with Contra Costa County, which asked these questions which the General Manager would be happy to share). Trustee Arkin asked about bird baths and what can people do to prevent mosquitoes (typically, bird baths dry up relatively quickly, and when refilled it is best to spray and scrub the bath to rinse it, in case there are any eggs present and asked about the recent WNV positive cases (to be discussed later in this meeting during the lab's staff report).

11. Financial Reports as of May 31st, 2023:

Discussion: The General Manager pointed out items of interest and summarized report.

12. Presentation of the Monthly Staff Report.

Discussion: Eric Haas-Stapleton summarized the Lab's report. Trustee Salzer asked about the three diseases (WNV, WEE, SLE) and since they are carried by our three local *Culex* species; can invasive *Aedes* spread these as well (invasive *Aedes* have shown no documented transmission of these diseases, and likewise, the local *Culex* species cannot transmit Zika, Dengue, Yellow Fever, and Chikungunya). Trustee Syrop asked if there is an interactive version of the lab's report so that Trustees can look at it more closely. Not currently and the General Manager added that hopefully there will be a statewide website (Vectosurv) that would include input from all districts. Erika Castillo summarized the Public Outreach report. Trustee Arkin asked about the WNV found in Pleasanton--where were the two birds found (in someone's front yard near Stoneridge Mall). Trustee Arkin followed up asking what kind of notification is given to residents after a positive case (reported on our website with a press release for the first detection of each year, and as needed). Trustee Arkin requested that we perhaps have a booth at a Pleasanton farmer's market (the General Manager will work with the outreach team on this). Trustee Roache asked if we will be at the County Fair and that it will be in Pleasanton (Yes, we will have a booth up for the entire duration of the County Fair).

13. Presentation of the Manager's Report.

Discussion: Trustee Bhat added that CSDA meetings are beneficial to attend.

14. Board President asks for reports on conferences and seminars attended by Trustees.

Discussion: None

15. Board President asks for announcements from members of the Board.

Discussion: Trustee Syrop added that he is thankful to be here and contribute to combatting our common enemy: mosquitoes.

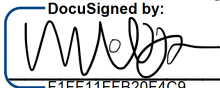
16. Board President asks Trustees for items to be added to the agenda for the next Board meeting.

Discussion: Trustee Syrop requested more discussion regarding what Trustee Salzer brought up related to our taxation structure--not immediately but when it is appropriate (yes). Trustee Syrop also asked if climate complications are built into our strategic (action) plan (yes, warming temperatures and rising sea levels have been discussed and will affect mosquitoes). Trustee Arkin asked if there is any modification for meetings during the summer months (no, still on the 2nd Wednesday.) Trustee Salzer requested more inclusion on the Manager Evaluation committee (the ad hoc committee is formed in January, but the General Manager will work with the existing committee to address any concerns.

17. Adjournment at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved as written and/or corrected
at the 1115th meeting of the Board of
Trustees held July 12th, 2023.

DocuSigned by:


F1FF115FB20F4C9...
Victor Aguilar, President
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DocuSigned by:



49A4CF5483EF45D...

Steven Cox, Secretary
BOARD OF TRUSTEES