

## MINUTES

### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

### STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

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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  
Peggy McQuaid, City of Albany  
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 Special Meeting to order at 4:01 P.M.
2. Trustees Poulson, Beatty, Cooley, Roache, McQuaid, Marquez, Hentschke, Mingst, Testa, Aguilar, and Bhat were present on the Zoom conference. Trustee Kumagai was absent. Trustees Washburn, Doggett and Young arrived at 4:02, 4:08, and 4:12 P.M., respectively.
3. Board President Poulson invited members of the public to speak on any issue relevant to the District. Vector Biologist Jeremy Sette was present to host the Zoom meeting. There were no public comments submitted.
4. Each of the five Trustee Groups were placed in a Staff Breakout Room for five, ten-minute presentations.

The recorded minutes of each Staff Group are as follows:

#### **Operations Room:**

Field Operations Supervisor Joseph Huston presented his Strategic Plan 2021-2024 Goals and fielded the following discussion. Vector Biologists Neil Campbell, Sarah Lawton, Nick Appice, Tom McMahon, and Mosquito Control Technician Erick Gaona were also in attendance.

#### **Discussion:**

Vice-President Beatty requested that the District clarified the scientific and technical verbiage for the general public (agreed). Trustee Aguilar asked what difficulties the District has faced when attempting to become certified for unmanned aircraft system (the test is optional and difficult). Trustee Roache asked how many drones the District possesses. (three). Trustee Marquez inquired how many years both FAA and DPR certification must be renewed (every two years). Trustee Washburn asked what the Districts plan if/when invasive *Aedes* enter the County (referenced the invasive *Aedes* response plan).

**Laboratory Room:**

Laboratory Director Eric Haas-Stapleton presented the Strategic Plan 2021-2024 Lab Goals to the Board of Trustees via Zoom and fielded the following discussion. Vector Scientist Dereje Alemayehu and Associate Vector Scientist Miguel Barretto were also in attendance via Zoom.

**Discussion:**

Trustee Washburn asked about the importance of urns in mosquito control (urns in cemeteries that are irrigated can contain water with a high organic content that support reproduction of *Culex pipiens* and invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes). Trustee Washburn asked about the purpose of WALS (WALS is a large turbine that disperses biologically based larvicide upward so that wind can carry it hundreds of feet). Vice-President Beatty asked if field staff will be trained to identify invasive *Aedes* larvae in the field (staff will be trained to identify all life stages in the laboratory as field identification of larval mosquitoes is not accurate without microscopes). Vice-President Beatty asked if artificial intelligence (AI) will be used to identify individual mosquitoes (yes, the goal is to use a single image that contains many mosquitoes from one trap; it is difficult to train AI algorithms to return an “unknown” category of objects in an image, but Biohub is working to solve this problem).

**Equipment/IT Room:**

Mechanical Specialist Mark Wieland (MW) and Information Technology Director Robert Ferdan (RF) presented their Strategic Plan 2021-2024 Equipment-Facilities and IT Strategic Plan Goals respectively and fielded the following discussion.

**Discussion:**

Vice-President Beatty asked about the extent of fish program improvements (replacing the current structure with one more durable). Vice-President Beatty asked about mosquito data modeling regarding species (RF explained the possibility of using predictive modeling). Trustee Washburn inquired on the status of the fish program (the program is successful, but self-sufficiency is a goal). Trustee Bhat asked for the definition of BI (RF explained: Business Intelligence software such as Tableau) Trustee Mingst commented on his success and difficulty with BI (RF confirmed that there are possible issues). Trustee Marquez asked if the District’s tenant improvements are complete (MW confirmed, yes). Trustee Roache asked how CERT reps were acquired (MW will work with the County OES on obtaining CERT contacts for each city). Trustee Aguilar asked if electric vehicle charging stations were installed (MW answered yes). Trustee Aguilar asked about the cyber security status at the District (RF confirmed that the District’s IT infrastructure is secure and that is his priority).

**Finance/Administration Room:**

General Manager Ryan Clausnitzer and Accounting Associate Michelle Robles presented their Strategic Plan 2021-2024 Finance/Administration Goals and fielded the following discussion.

**Discussion:**

Trustee Roache asked which credit card company the district is looking into (Umpqua, but other credit card companies will also be looked into). Trustee Bhat asked if choosing a new credit card company is something a staff member would implement (any proposed change will go to the Board for approval). Trustee Marquez expressed that she is excited to see growth in Ms. Robles and congratulated her on her education. Trustee Marquez asked how the District is handling the stricter shelter in place (office staff are working from home, field staff come into the office very briefly to grab their supplies and head out immediately, masks are worn in the office). Trustee Mingst asked if there was a justification for the Repair and Replace funding level (the District hired an outside firm in 2019 to evaluate the capital assets and provide funding recommendations). Vice-President Beatty asked if most of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) information is coming directly from the audit (yes, along with statistical data supplied by the County). The General manager explained that the purpose of the (CAFR) is to allow others to evaluate our financial position. Trustee Aguilar asked in terms of liability, what do we expect for the 115 trust (per District policy, the section 115 trust funds will be used once pension costs affect service delivery).

**Regulatory/Education/Outreach Room:**

Regulatory and Public Affairs Director Erika Castillo (EC) and Public Outreach Coordinator Judi Pierce (JP) presented their Strategic Plan 2021-2024 Goals and fielded the following discussion.

**Discussion:**

Vice-President Beatty asked if the dashboard will be for public knowledge or internal district use (EC replied it would be initially used internally). Trustee Mingst commented that it was wise that the District was being a proactive stakeholder in city planning. Wendi Poulson commented that increased visibility in schools and outreach will also help with being a stakeholder. Trustee Testa asked how the District will get planners and cities to think about mosquito prevention before and during plan development (EC answered when cities develop their general plan, we want to add simple language that provides clear ways to avoid standing water). Trustee Bhat asked how the District is currently evaluating public perception (EC responded that previously the District sent email surveys to residents who had SR's completed and that the MVCAC had a state-wide survey asking about mosquito control, thoughts about pesticides, and general base knowledge of mosquitoes). Trustee Bhat also asked why the District is waiting to assess public opinion in 2022 (Trustee Bhat was switched out of the breakout room before EC or JP could answer but will follow-up). Trustee Aguilar asked if there are any plans for outreach in languages other than English (JP responded that she could speak to callers in Spanish, and the District would also like to translate materials into other high-need languages).

5. The Special Meeting adjourned at 4:58 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Approved as written and/or corrected  
at the 1086<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of  
Trustees held January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

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Robert Beatty, President  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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