



**SAN MATEO COUNTY
MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, NOV 9, 2005**

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:07pm

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Ronald Anderson	Robert Maynard
Robert Blake	Leon Nickolas
Robert Bury*	Lawrence Peterson
Valentina Cogoni	Dennis Preger
John Curtis	Robert Riechel
Joseph Fil*	Betsy Schneider
Roland Finley	Richard Tagg*
Doris Kellett	Lawrence Vallergera

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Victoria Feng
Raymond Honan

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Gay, District Manager
Karen Williams, Clerk of the Board
James Counts, Field Operations Supervisor
Chindi Peavey, Vector Ecologist

GUESTS/SPEAKERS PRESENT:

Jeff Ira, C.G. Uhlenberg LLP

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Input on Non Agendized Items

No one was present from the general public to address the Board

Consent Calendar

MOTION: Approve the consent calendar, which consisted of the list of expenditures for October revenue received for October, and the Minutes from the October 12, 2005 Board meeting. Curtis/Nickolas, carried unanimously.

2004-05 District Audit

Jeff Ira, C.G. Uhlenberg LLP, addressed the Board on the completed audit. Discussion revolved around the financial status of the District. A typographical error was discovered and a correction page will be issued. Overall, the District's financial status is sound and no weaknesses were reported. Final approval will be made at the next board meeting.

District Programs/Staff Reports

San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project 2005

Field Operations Supervisor Counts reported on the District involvement in removing invasive cord grass in areas surrounding San Francisco Bay. The project has been completed and the billing is being compiled for submittal to U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The material "Habitat" should work much better than the material used in previous years. The control work is designed to limit the expansive growth of the non-native cord grass, though this work will need to be done for several consecutive years to get a complete control. This material has no effect on endangered species. Due to the fact that the materials were more costly than first predicted, both U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Coastal Conservancy had to adjust their budgetary figures to account for this increase.

Fish Pond/Parking Garage Construction Project

Manager Gay reported on the building project. The project is moving forward and we are under budget. A building committee meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2005 at 12:00pm. Everyone will have an opportunity to view the progress at the Fourth Annual Trustee Field Day. Lunch will be set up inside the building.

Entomology Support Services

Chindi Peavey reported on the activities of the lab staff. The District's CO2 trap program is in full swing and has been very effective. The threat of West Nile is now ending for this year with the emergence of the winter mosquito species *Culiseta inornata*, *Aedes washinoi*, and *Culiseta particeps*. These species are not known to vector West Nile virus.

The sentinel chicken flock program has ended for the season and the chickens have been given a new home in Orland, California. Next year, the District will cut the number of flocks from four to two. It has been found that sentinel chickens are not a good indicator of West Nile virus.

Two Vector Ecologists from Taiwan visited the District to learn about different mosquito control programs. The Lab and Operations personnel showed them around and explained how our program works and they shared some of their programs with us. The tour and exchange of methods were very informative.

Dr. Peavey attended a Society of Vector Ecologist meeting in Reno, Nevada in October. Topics included discussion on Malaria and additional testing for West Nile virus to be performed on squirrels.

Dr. Peavey and James Counts met with representatives for HT Harvey, an engineering firm working on the south bay salt ponds project. There are plans to restore 10,000 acres to natural wetlands and the District needed to discuss nuisance species of mosquitoes. Our District, along with representatives from Alameda County and Santa Clara County, will be working to make sure it is returned as tidal wetlands and to prevent another Bair Island from being created.

Dr. Peavey sits as a representative of local mosquito abatement districts for the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, which is a group of individuals from environmental groups and government who are interested in restoration of waterfront and wetland areas around the bay. Topics included cattail management at duck clubs and gun clubs in wetland areas.

Nine members of the Operations and Lab departments will be taking the certification exam on Thursday, November 17, 2005. This exam is a required part of continued employment for all technical staff.

Dr. Peavey and Supervisor Counts attended a State Health Department meeting in Elk Grove today to discuss requirements for continuing education lectures in the upcoming year. It was determined that smaller districts have difficulty sending their entire staff to distant areas for training so video tapes will be used for several training sessions. Our District feels live lectures are more conducive to knowledge retention but we were out voted.

Dr. Peavey reported that Assistant Vector Ecologist Angela Rory gave an interview on West Nile virus for Comcast cable television.

Dr. Peavey has been selected to serve on the Jasper Ridge Biological Reserve Committee. The committee was formed to address issues specific to that area. Much of the area of Searsville Lake is silting in and being inundated with cattails, which make it extremely difficult for mosquito control. There are other issues regarding opening the dam and changing the water flow in San Francisquito creek.

Operation Services

James Counts reported on the activities of the Operations department. Vehicle maintenance is underway and the Argos are undergoing a lot of work.

Supervisor Counts, Dr. Peavey, and Manager Gay met with representatives with Mid-Peninsula Open Space District to discuss mosquito control on their properties. The meeting had an emphasis on impounded areas and control work. The Open Space District is very supportive of our program and a good working relationship for the future was outlined. They will meet again in a few weeks to exam actual sites and the needs associated with mosquito control. The representatives were invited to the Trustee Field Day activities on November 18, 2005.

The Technicians are being allowed study time for the upcoming certification exams on November 17, 2005.

To familiarize each technician with all areas of the County and to prevent work from becoming tedious or boring, Supervisor Counts shifts the Mosquito Control Technicians around from area to area. After a length of time in one area, technicians are moved to cover a different area of the county. Each zone has its uniqueness and creates additional challenges for control work. By changing the zones from time to time, it allows for a varied work environment and wider range of experiences for the technicians.

Supervisor Counts discussed the new use of a laptop in his truck and in Foreman Chow's truck. The laptops will be used to access the GPS system to monitor the location of the technicians in the field. In the near future, the laptops will be used to access the district sources database, which contains all control work detail performed in the field.

Work is being done to brush areas of dense growth to allow easy access for mosquito control. Brushing is the use of chainsaws and machetes to remove branches and bushes to clear pathways. Currently, areas of the coast and Daly City are being worked on. Searsville Lake will be handled next.

Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC)

Manager Gay reported on activities from the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC). The MVCAC Fall Quarterly Board Meeting was held in South Lake Tahoe on October 26th through 28th and was attended by Trustee Preger, Dr. Peavey and Manager Gay.

Ralph Heim, Legislative Leader, reported today that Governor Schwarzenegger has called four legislative leaders into a special meeting tomorrow to explore policy areas in common to move forward in the best interests of California after the special election outcome of November 8, 2005.

Manager Gay reported on the final count, at this time, in regard to West Nile virus. San Francisco had a few positive birds and two human cases, Alameda County had recorded over 47 positive birds and one human case, Santa Clara had 139 positive birds and 5 human cases, and our County had 11 positive birds and one human case, which was believed to have acquired the virus from Butte County. Our District fared very well and next year may be more of the same. Santa Clara is expected to be harder hit next year, if the trends follow previous year's experiences.

Manager Gay reported on additional District activities. At the MVCAC quarterly meeting, it was discussed that Trustees must complete the required ethics training.

MVCAC Legislative Day for next year has been scheduled. It will be Wednesday, April 26, 2006. The MVCAC Legislative Committee and the District Manager will attend meetings in Sacramento.

Mosquito Awareness week will be April 24th thru April 28, 2006. MVCAC will find a Legislator to sponsor the bill.

Manager Gay reported that MVCAC has endorsed the University of California Malaria Research and Control Project in Africa. Members and/or staff of MVCAC may be involved in the project, which could include traveling to Africa for participation.

Trustee Preger, Coastal Region Trustee Representative, reported that he attended the Trustee Advisory Council Meeting, which was not well attended. Only 15 Trustees out of approximately 500 were in attendance. Discussion surrounded what topics Trustees would like to see at the annual meeting. Any ideas should be submitted to Trustee Preger for submittal. One topic brought up was to include the ethics training requirement at the annual meeting each year. Also discussed at the Trustee meeting was the weight that the Trustees carry in working with the Legislators in Sacramento and Trustee Preger urged our Trustees to participate actively in our causes. 123 legislative bills are followed each day by the Legislative Committee of MVCAC.

Clerk Williams reported on the status of travel arrangements for the upcoming MVCAC Annual Meeting in Reno Nevada on January 29th through February 1, 2006. Unfortunately, the train to Reno was booked and a tour bus has been reserved in its place.

American Mosquito Control Association

Clerk Williams reported on the upcoming AMCA Annual Meeting being held in Detroit Michigan on February 26th through March 2, 2006. The list of Trustees who are eligible to attend was read off. The attendees who chose to attend are Trustee Roland Finley, Trustee Robert Maynard, Trustee Dennis Preger and Assistant Vector Ecologist Angela Rory.

Manager Gay reported that the 2010 AMCA annual meeting will be held in Lexington Kentucky.

Officer Nominations and Elections

Nominations were submitted for the following offices:

President:	Leon Nickolas, Representing Millbrae
Vice President:	Richard Tagg, Representing Woodside
Secretary:	Robert Riechel, Representing San Bruno
Assistant Secretary:	Joseph Fil, Representing Portola Valley
	Raymond Honan, Representing South San Francisco
	Valentina Cogoni, Representing Menlo Park
	Betsy Schneider, Representing San Carlos
	John Curtis, Representing Pacifica

A secret ballot to decide the office of Assistant Secretary was performed and the majority went to Joseph Fil, Representing Portola Valley. Each nominated Trustee accepted their nomination and the nominated Trustees were elected to their respective office.

MOTION: To approve the following Board Officers for January 2006 – December 2007.

President:	Leon Nickolas
Vice President:	Richard Tagg
Secretary:	Robert Riechel
Assistant Secretary:	Joseph Fil

Curtis/Peterson, carried unanimously.

District Manager's Activity Report

Manager Gay reported on AB1234, which states that the District must have a written policy to compensate Trustees for attendance at events. The District must have a written policy to reimburse Board members for expenses. The District must provide expense report forms for Trustees. All Board members must take 2 hours of ethics training every two years and receive a certificate of completion. Manager Gay stated that all of the items are an active part of the Districts' current policies and the ethics training will be implemented in the coming year.

Trustee Field Day 2005-06 has been scheduled for Friday, November 18, 2005. This is a day of equipment demonstrations and program presentations, followed by a barbeque lunch. Please mark your calendars!

Trustee Nickolas reviewed the current list of Committees and its members. Committee members were updated with the following list:

Salary & Budget:	Dennis Preger, Chairman Raymond Honan Robert Blake Joseph Fil
Strategic Planning:	Joseph Fil, Chairman Larry Peterson Raymond Honan Betsey Schneider Ron Anderson
Legislative: (No Chairperson)	Robert Riechel Robert Bury Ron Anderson
Environmental:	John Curtis, Chairman Robert Maynard Lawrence Vallerga Valentina Cogoni
Policy:	Robert Riechel, Chairman Roland Finley Richard Tagg
Audit:	Doris Kellett

A Strategic Planning Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at 12:00 noon.

Board and Staff Announcements

Outgoing President Anderson wanted to express his appreciation to the entire Board and to the staff for all the hard work and dedication during his tenure as President of the Board of Trustees for the past two years.

President Anderson thanked the Board for all of their support. He stated that this District is not only the best District in the Coastal Region but it also has the best Board. He stated that each member was quick to offer information, diligent in asking questions and very willing to participate in functions and events. He thanked everyone for their participation in their City Council, bringing the mission of the District to the public arena.

President Anderson thanked Supervisor James Counts for his hard work and dedication to the District. His skill in hiring and training the technicians is representative of how well the Operations department works. He is to be commended for his control work, both on the ground and with the scheduling of the helicopter treatments. His experience in mosquito control and thorough use of operations equipment has kept the District at the front of mosquito control.

President Anderson thanked Vector Ecologist Dr. Chindi Peavey for her hard work and dedication to the District. He commented that in prior years, the Technical Staff were not represented in Board meetings and Dr. Peavey's input and information have been an interesting and significant addition to the monthly board meetings. Her use of charts, graphs and statistics has brought the District programs to the Trustees in a way that shows our level of knowledge and expertise.

President Anderson thanked Clerk Karen Williams for her hard work and dedication to the District. He stated that not only does she keep the District financially sound but handles the payroll, all the payable checks, travel arrangements, all the Clerk of the Board duties, along with making a delicious dinner for all the board members each week. Her work does not go unnoticed.

President Anderson stated that he had gained much information during his term and again thanked everyone for their support.

Reminder of Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2006 at 7:00.

Adjournment

MOTION: Adjournment. Bury/Maynard, carried unanimously. 9:07pm

Approved:

District Manager

President

Date

* Robert Bury, Joseph Fil and Richard Tagg arrived at 7:10pm