



**SAN MATEO COUNTY
MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, FEB 08, 2006**

President Nickolas called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Ronald Anderson	Leon Nickolas
Robert Blake	Robert Riechel
Robert Bury	Betsey Schneider
Valentina Cogoni	Richard Tagg
John Curtis	Lawrence Vallerga
Joseph Fil	
Ray Honan	
Doris Kellett	
Robert Maynard	

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Roland Finley
Lawrence Peterson
Dennis Preger

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS/SPEAKERS PRESENT:

None

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 January, revenue received for January, and the Minutes from the January 8, 2006 Board meeting. Bury/Honan, carried unanimously. Curtis abstained from approving the minutes. He was not present at the January 8, 2006 meeting.

District Programs/Staff Reports

Fish Pond/Parking Garage Construction Project

Manager Gay reported on the building project. The project is one week away from completion. The drop ceiling will be installed on Friday, electrical and plumbing will be completed next week. A building committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 16, 2006.

Lab Services

Chindi Peavey reported on the activities of the lab staff. The District's CO2 trap program is in full swing. A large number of mosquitoes have been collected, 76% of the total collected were *Culex pipiens*. *Culex pipiens* are the mosquitoes that most people experience problems with, mainly due to broken pipes under homes or stagnant pools of water. With all of the recent rains, the storm drains have been flushed out but standing water under homes in some areas are keeping mosquitoes protected from the elements, allowing them to continue their life cycle. Two areas of the County, a neighborhood in South San Francisco and one in San Mateo had a large mosquito population from standing water under the homes, which created a severe problem for the residents. Much to the delight of the homeowners, the sources were eventually found and treated.

The State Health Department is advising citizens to report dead tree squirrels along with dead birds this year for West Nile virus testing. Tree squirrels may be reservoirs for the disease. Ground squirrels do not seem to be susceptible and will not be accepted for testing.

The Lab's tick collecting program has been receiving assistance from several other health agencies. Altogether, the groups have collected 750 ticks, 300 of which are in the process of dissection. In previous years, the Lab staff will collect 500 ticks for the entire season. The increased numbers are providing the Lab staff with important information as to where high risk areas for ticks and Lyme disease may result. A map is being created to show which parks throughout the County are most susceptible. Tick control will begin in approximately two weeks with assistance from the Operations department.

At the recent MVCAC annual meeting, a new issue with the Lyme Disease Committee has come up. This group is made up of a member from the Health Department, County Disease Control unit, Doctors and some Lyme disease patients. They are interested in creating legislation to push for specific treatment and change how the disease is treated. The State Health Department does not have jurisdiction in some of these areas because they cannot tell Doctors how to treat patients. Most of the frustration comes out of not being treated or not being covered from insurance. Our District does not support this legislation because we don't feel that patient groups should be able to make decisions for public agencies on how our budget is spent or what control methods we put in potential sources. What we can do is to provide more public education and communication to these groups on local surveillance and treatments. We do not want to be put in a position to oppose legislation. Dr. Peavey and Angela Rory will be attending their next patient support group meeting and open more communication.

Dr. Peavey met with Harry McClellan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, working on a habitat conservation plan with the San Francisco Airport for the SF Garter snake and Red-Legged frog. We want to make sure that written into any agreement are plans to cleaning up the ditches and maintaining the tulles, which would make control work easier and less expensive for them on a surveillance standpoint.

An Environmental Committee meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2006. Most members work during the day, so tentatively, the meetings will be held prior to the monthly Board meeting at 6:00pm.

The District will have a booth at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show at the Cow Palace on March 15-19, 2006. Alameda County will be assisting with the booth also.

Field Operation Services

James Counts reported on the activities of the Operations department. As Dr. Peavey stated, a program to begin treating popular park trails for ticks will commence in the next two weeks.

The District treated 980 acres of Bair Island in Redwood City with the Helicopter.

The Operations staff spent several man hours locating the source of breeding under houses in San Mateo, South San Francisco and Brisbane. Some of the problems were due to broken pipes or subsidence. It took several days and many technicians to resolve the problems and appease the residents.

Field Operations Supervisor Counts and Dr. Peavey met with representatives of the Coastal Conservancy to discuss the upcoming fiscal year treatment schedule for cord grass. Many of the hurdles the District had this fiscal year will be eliminated with better preparation between our two agencies. Also, the Conservancy would like to purchase the materials and have them stored at the District for future use.

Vehicle maintenance is underway and one of the Argos is requiring a large amount of work. It may need to be sent to Points West Argo in Marysville for further work.

Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC)

Manager Gay reported on activities from the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC). The 2006 MVCAC Annual Conference was held in Reno, Nevada on January 29 through February 1, 2006. Five staff members gave technical presentations. Eight Trustees and the District Manager were in attendance. The District arranged for everyone to travel by tour bus and a good time was had by all. The following are the individual reports on the meeting by the attendees:

Betsey Schneider: Betsey stated that our presentations were very informative. She stated that our talks were well received and noted that other Districts were quite interested in our cord grass treatment presentation and our presentation about using specific products in backyard ponds. They seemed to generate lots of additional questions. She said everyone did an outstanding job.

Doris Kellett: Doris stated that the presentations by our staff were outstanding. She stated that some of the other presentations used terminology that, at times, was over her head. It was very scientific in nature. She asked if it was possible in coming years to not have the Trustee meeting conflict with the staff presentations so that Trustees do not miss presentations from their own staff. Manager Gay said he would bring it up at the MVCAC quarterly meeting.

Ron Anderson: Ron enjoyed the trip up on the bus. The plenary session was interesting. He stated that it was emphasized that Legislative Day was very important to District governance to promote public safety in the light of West Nile virus. Discussion also centered on the recent AB1234 in regard to ethics training. The West Nile virus presentations were interesting and he learned that changing the genetic makeup of mosquitoes could change the virus in the future. It could lead to further pesticide resistance. Ron stated that he was intrigued by the presentation by John Bliss, SCI Inc, regarding how so many counties do not have any mosquito or vector control districts. It leaves those areas without the protection from mosquito-borne diseases and potential life threatening illnesses. Ron stated that he enjoyed James Counts presentation. He stated that Dr. Peavey's talk was very good. He enjoyed Cheryl Sebay's talk on Vectolex testing. Ron was impressed by our cord grass treatment presented by Kim Keyser and he felt Jacob Niebaum's talk on prevention of injuries on the job was well detailed and informative.

Ray Honan: Ray echoed the sentiments of the other trustees in stating that our District presentations were outstanding. He also enjoyed the ride to Reno on the tour bus, commenting that being so high over the traffic that the view was exceptional. Ray was interested in the presentation about storm drain retention basins. They are now being redesigned to work more to provide drainage. Ray stated that the entire meeting was very informative and agreed that some topics were very technical to the average listener.

Valentina Cogoni: Valentina loved our District presentations. She stated that they were very informative and a good indication of how hard the District works. Being new to the District, Valentina stated that she really appreciated the opportunity to learn so much about what the District does and she appreciated that. She felt it was a great bonding experience and enjoyed the company of everyone. She also stated that talks on avian flu were very interesting and timely. She looks forward to attending this meeting in future years.

Leon Nickolas: Leon complimented the staff speakers on doing an excellent job. He felt that the staff put on interesting and innovative talks, which represented our District proudly. He was also interested in one presentation that was regarding the avian flu. He stated that experts state that it is not a vector-borne disease. The largest fear is that it may mutate into a pandemic. He also found the talks about new mosquito control products interesting. Some of the ideas were more specific larvacide, using air curtains for air travel, mosquito attractants and a packet that you can wear on your body that acts as an inhibitor to mosquitoes. These products are all in the experimental stages of development. Leon stated that he attended the ethics training that was in place for the Trustees but he was disappointed. It was a lot of material in a short period of time and the presenter rushed through the material without allowing questions from the attendees, though Leon states the information was really interesting.

Manager Robert Gay: Bob stated he was really proud of the staff presentations and thought that Jacob Niebaum's presentation was unique and is interested in having him present it at an upcoming continuing education workshop for the benefit of all other Technicians and Operations staff who were not in attendance in Reno. He enjoyed the presentation by John Bliss, SCI Inc, regarding the funding of Districts throughout the state. He was amazed at how many areas of the state do not receive services. He really enjoyed the presentation on GPS technology from Oregon. Bob stated he was really tired of all of the West Nile virus talks. He made a recommendation for future years to either limit the same topics for presentations or provide talks in poster method so that everyone does not need to hear the same talk over and over. He stated that he was looking forward to taking the tour bus again for next year's Fresno meeting.

Roland Finley was not in attendance and will provide his oral or written report at the next meeting.

At this point, a rousing round of applause was directed to all contributing staff members for all of their hard work.

Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness week is April 24th thru April 28, 2006. Notice will go out to each city shortly to create proclamations for City Councils. Trustee Riechel would like additional information given to him so that he can place it on local cable television.

MVCAC is looking into increasing the dues for memberships. Currently, the maximum is \$8,000 and a minimum of \$300 per year. The dues are factored on a formula derived from each member districts operating budget.

Jim Wanderscheid, from Marin-Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control, is now the Coastal Region representative to MVCAC. The region is still seeking an alternate.

San Benito County is now a new member of the Coastal Region. The Coastal Region consists of 12 member Districts.

The State of California has approximately \$1,000,000 remaining in the fund for Mosquito Control. Our District will be submitting reimbursement for costs associated with the next helicopter treatments of Bair Island.

Both Santa Clara and Santa Cruz County's benefit assessments passed voter approval. Alameda County may need to look into a benefit assessment at the conclusion of their building project.

American Mosquito Control Association

Clerk Williams reported on the upcoming AMCA Annual Meeting being held in Detroit, Michigan beginning February 26th through March 2, 2006. The attendees are Trustee Roland Finley, Trustee Robert Maynard, and Assistant Vector Ecologist Angela Rory. Trustee Dennis Preger has taken ill and is likely not to attend this meeting.

District Policy Committee

On January 18th, the District Policy committee met to discuss policies to review and the impact of AB1234 on the current policy for Trustee payments and Travel. The discussion was led by Manager Gay and Committee Chairman Riechel. In meeting with District legal counsel, Joseph Lepera, it has been determined that the District must now adopt three new policies outlined with the following information:

- On ethics training, each trustee must receive two hours of training every two years and complete their first training this year. Many Trustees have signed up for the upcoming workshop in South San Francisco on February 24, 2006 or completed their training at the recent MVCAC annual meeting in Reno, Nevada.
- New Trustees must complete ethics training within the first year of appointment.
- On travel expense reimbursement, the District will need to adopt and implement a written travel expense reimbursement policy, and require the use of expense report forms and specific recordkeeping. The current policy does not adhere to the new law.
- On Trustee compensation, we are not able to compensate each Trustee for each committee meeting at \$25 as previously adopted. The Health and Safety Code allows compensation, in lieu of expenses, to a maximum of \$100.00 per month for each meeting attended. The District will propose to raise the trustee meeting expense payment from the current \$50.00 plus \$25.00 per Committee meeting to either \$75.00 or request the full amount of \$100.00 per meeting per month as allowed.

The Policy Committee is scheduled to meet February 15, 2006 at 12:00pm to fine tune the language and make a proposal for the full board at the March 8, 2006 board meeting. Chairman Riechel has indicated that he would like a standing meeting for the Policy Committee each third Wednesday of each month at 12:00pm until further notice.

Clerk Williams reviewed the new expense report form for all traveling Trustees and Staff. This form will be in place for the upcoming AMCA Conference at the end of February.

Committee Chairman Riechel provided Manager Gay and President Nickolas with a printed copy of the Government Code for Rules of Order for Board Actions.

VCJPA

Manager Gay reported that the District is working with the Harbor Sand and Gravel plant at Bair Island for helicopter access. They have requested documents regarding our insurance coverage amounts. More information will follow as required.

Recent reports from Insurance Commissioner Garamendi indicate that costs of Worker's Compensation have been on the decline. This is good news for the State.

District Manager's Activity Report

Manager Gay reported on the following items:

- Status of Acquisition – 832 Barron Avenue, Redwood City. Our District Counsel has the value of the property reduced to \$375,000, which is a fair value for that area. Our next step is to contact the owner and negotiate a price. We are looking at purchasing the property in July. This allows us to use next year's funds.
- A new Continuing Education cycle has now started for all our certified staff. The new Coastal Region Coordinator is Dr. Bruce Kirkpatrick from Alameda County MAD. The new location for our seminars is the Officers Club, NAS Alameda and will start January 24 and 26th. Manager Gay will be coordinating the catering.
- 22nd Vertebrate Pest Conference is slated for March 6-9, 2006. Due to its close proximity to the District, we are sending all of our technical staff to this meeting. Topics include predator management, large-scale control programs, bird management, special symposiums, pesticides and chemicals, current issues, small mammals, trapping techniques, technology exposition, wildlife diseases and human health. The cost is \$240 for each staff.

Board and Staff Announcements

The Environmental Committee is scheduled to meet at 6:00pm before each monthly board meeting due to members' conflicting daytime schedules.

The Building Committee meeting scheduled for February 16, 2006 is cancelled. Trustee Schneider asked for more notification of dates to arrange scheduling. Chairman Fil will contact the members to reschedule.

Clerk Williams informed the Trustees and applicable staff that the 2005 Conflict of Interest Form 700 has been handed out this evening to each person and would need to be completed and returned by the March 8, 2006 board meeting for timely filing.

The Budget and Salary Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, February 22, 2006 at 12:00pm.

Clerk Williams asked for corrections to the Trustee address listing provided.

Manager Gay reported on the application process for the Assistant Vector Ecologist. After posting the position, interviews should be conducted in early April and the chosen candidate will have a start date of early May.

Clerk Williams reported that she has not received the hotel receipt from Trustee Kellett. Trustee Kellett will review her files and return it to the office in March.

Reminder of Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2006 at 7:00.

Adjournment

MOTION: Adjournment. Anderson/Bury, carried unanimously. 9:40pm

Approved:

District Manager

President

Date