

**SAN MATEO COUNTY
MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, MAR 14, 2007**

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

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ronald Anderson | Robert Maynard |
| Robert Blake | Leon Nickolas |
| Valentina Cogoni | Lawrence Peterson |
| John Curtis | Dennis Preger |
| Joseph Fil | Robert Riechel |
| Christine Fuller* | Donna Rutherford |
| Cal Hinton | Betsey Schneider |
| Ray Honan | Richard Tagg |

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

- Robert Bury
- Tim Frahm
- Doris Kellett
- James Ridgeway

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

Member of the Public Paul Dana requested to have item #6 "District Programs" moved to after the Consent Calendar. His request was granted by President Nickolas.

Consent Calendar

MOTION: Approve the consent calendar, which consisted of the list of expenditures for February, revenue received for February, minutes of the February board meeting, four (4) Fixed Asset Retirements and Resolution M-009-07. Peterson/Maynard, carried unanimously.

District Programs/Staff Reports**Lab Services:**

Dr. Chindi Peavey reported on the following activities of the Lab department:

- The CO2 trap program has resumed. Very small numbers of *Aedes squamiger* have been found, indicating that control work has been effective. This year, less pesticide has been needed to control the mosquito population due to the low numbers of larvae.
- The Lab, in conjunction with Operations, has begun a catch basin marking program which will identify catch basin trouble spots for the summer program. The intent is to make sure that problem locations are not overlooked by the summer staff. It will make it easier to check the effectiveness of the treatments being applied. The cities that this program will be instituted are Foster City, Redwood Shores and San Mateo. These cities have a significant problem with their underground storm drain system.
- There has been no significant activity in our County in regard to West Nile virus, though the State has one positive horse in Sonoma County and Santa Clara County had one dead bird test positive.
- April 2, 2007, the Lab will pick up the new season's sentinel chicken flock. This year, the flock will be located near Searsville Lake.
- Adult tick season is almost over. The Lab staff has been surveying 11 parks and 8 of them have ticks suspected of carrying Lyme disease. The prevalence is 1-3% positive.
- Dr. Peavey will be giving a talk for continuing education of San Mateo County physicians March 17, 2007 in conjunction with San Mateo County Health. A phone survey will be taken by the Lab staff to evaluate the physician education system.
- On March 20, 2007, a state-wide meeting of the Lyme Disease Advisory Committee will be discussing issues of Lyme disease. Legislative topics such as making changes to the Advisory Committee and promoting Lyme Disease Awareness Month in May will be discussed.
- The Lab and Operations Staff will be providing public education during the SF Flower and Garden Show March 21 – 25, 2007. A booth will be shared with Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District.
- The District will be participating in a booth at the San Francisco Zoo for Earth Day.
- The District will also be assisting the City of San Mateo in a bay cleanup for Earth Day. The District will be using our ARGOS and hovercraft to remove shopping carts and old tires from the mouth of San Mateo creek just near Coyote Point. Promoting this topic helps bring public awareness to how creeks and shorelines that get clogged from debris can create access problems for treatment and encourage mosquito-breeding sites in pools of standing water.
- Dr. Peavey handed out a Public Outreach summary of the activities that the District has or will be participating in this coming year. The summary includes showing two slides of mosquito awareness in local movie theatres and several public service announcements on Peninsula TV. Another event was to hand out mosquito repellent to homeless shelters, migrant farms and nursing homes for protection from mosquito bites.

- Dr. Peavey and James Counts met with representatives at Jasper Ridge Biological Reserve to review abatement work. The Reserve is very happy with the outcome of our work and we appreciate their willingness to allow our services on their property to control mosquitoes.
- Three members of the Lab staff took a field trip to four districts in southern California to review their techniques and programs. The Districts were San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, Santa Barbara Vector Control District, Great Los Angeles Vector Control District and Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District. Our staff reviewed the technique they use for testing mosquitoes rather than sending them off to the State Health Department. This is very labor intensive so our District feels that having the State Health Department do the testing and send us the results is better time management. Two Districts have a catch basin program that is different from ours. They send out teams of three and handle approximately 75 – 100 basins a day. Our District summer catch basin staff each handles approximately 500 a day. The other item that was interesting for the southern California districts is the use of gravid traps over the use of CO2 traps that we use. Their experience is that CO2 traps do not attract as many mosquitoes as the gravid traps do, which is the opposite for our area.
- A press release on the bay cleanup was placed with the local media.
- The City of Burlingame has invited us to participate in the kick-off event to the centennial celebration. It is a parade through Burlingame ending at Washington Park. We will use the Dodge power wagon and tow the hovercraft and maybe bring an ARGO or two. We will be allowed to walk along the vehicles handing out mosquito tattoos and repellent wipes to the crowd along the way.
- Dr. Peavey and James Counts will be attending a meeting on April 25, 2007 with the San Francisco Estuary about a Cal-Fed funded project of an analysis of pyrethroid usage.
- Manager Gay thanked Trustee Riechel for his submittal of an article on how West Nile virus may be spreading faster than first thought. It has been determined that the disease can be carried through the female to the eggs into the larvae, thus making its life span more extensive.
- Dr. Peavey commented on the Hanta virus program. The Lab will be doing further surveillance on San Bruno Mountain, the watershed areas and in Portola Valley around the gorilla colony. The Lab, in conjunction with County Health Department, are working on surveillance for ticks capable of transmitting Tularemia. There have been two cases of Tularemia on the coast at Costa Noa Resort.

Field Operation Services:

James Counts reported on the following activities of the Operations and Lab department:

- The Earth Day program to help the San Mateo Parks Department remove shopping carts and old tires out of the mouth of San Mateo creek and the shoreline.
- James has been in contact with the City of San Mateo Public Works department to keep informed about any repairs to tidal gates. Last year, when repairs were necessary to the tidal flow gates in San Mateo, the water throughout Foster City was lowered and this caused a huge fly off of Chironomid midges. These insects look like mosquitoes but do not bite and only serve as food sources for other insects and birds. When these insects hatched, our district was inundated with service calls for several weeks. Operations and Lab department are doing surveillance for midge larvae to monitor populations if the water is lowered.

- The Operations Department will begin the catch basin program within the next few weeks. The full-time technicians will drive the right-hand drive vehicles until summer staff is hired.
- In April, the Operations staff will begin the treatment for vaults throughout the county. The program takes two Sunday mornings and is done every three months. The treatments are done in the early morning hours of Sundays to avoid traffic congestion.
- With the recent five cuts in the levee areas made at Bair Island, tidal flow is being restored to some areas, thus reducing acreage that will be in need of treatment for mosquitoes. Previously, the Operations staff would hand treat 200 – 300 acres, now it is reduced to approximately 20 – 30 acres. This will save the District money in materials and man power.
- Supervisor Counts and Finance Administrator Williams have been working with the new owners of the business complex at the end of Seaport Blvd in Redwood City to prepare an abatement contract for the extensive vaults and breeding sites on their property. This should be finalized within the next two months so that treatment work can begin.
- James took several Trustees out on the hovercraft and boat to familiarize them with the area known as Bair Island. This area covers 5,000 acres and is one of the main breeding sites for *Aedes squamiger*, the winter salt marsh mosquito. Another trip is planned for March 16, 2007.
- Our new mechanic, Russell Baker, is on board and is working out well.
- James reported that in review of the work done to control the invasive spartina for the Coastal Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife; it seems that the work has been very effective. The District treated 1,100 acres this year and we expect to treat another 500 acres this coming year. It looks as if the re-growth has been very limited.

Trustee Riechel would like to make sure we get some media attention with the upcoming Earth Day events planned. Trustee Schneider echoed that sentiment and promoted KTVU Channel Two to cover it. Dr. Peavey indicated that they will receive more media interest as we get closer to that date.

Trustee Maynard complimented Dr. Peavey and Supervisor Counts on the presentation that they gave to the Brisbane City Council meeting in February. It was well received and informative.

Administrative Services

- Clerk Williams reported on the status of the completed website. The web site has received 3,339 hits for the month of February. It seems that the majority of the hits were around February 8, 2007 and a large number of viewers were interested in our Lyme disease page.

Closed Session

MOTION: To adjourn into closed session. Peterson/Maynard, carried unanimously

MOTION: To return to open session. Riechel/Curtis, carried unanimously.

It was reported that the Board has approved the salary negotiation packages for the General Manager for 2007-08, Exempt Staff and the Non-Exempt staff for the contract years 2007-2010. President Nickolas thanked the Salary and Budget Committee for all the hard work. Trustee Fil also thanked the employees for their hard work.

American Mosquito Control Association

Clerk Williams reported that the meeting is scheduled for April, three Trustees and two staff will be attending. There was nothing further to report.

Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC)

Manager Gay reported on the following MVCAC activities:

- The 2008 Annual meeting will be held January 13 - 16, 2008 in Palm Springs, California.
- Manager Gay received a certificate of appreciation for his work on the performance based budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Legislative day is scheduled for April 18, 2007. The Legislative Committee and the District Manager will be staying at the Sheraton Grand Hotel. The Committee will be emphasizing the District's programs to several Legislators.
- Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness week is scheduled for April 23-29, 2007 and each city has received a request to create a proclamation or resolution adopting this week. So far, Redwood City was the first to provide the Resolution. The District has heard from 7 other cities that have placed this item on their agendas at upcoming meetings. They are San Mateo, San Bruno, Daly City, Pacifica, Menlo Park, The County at Large and Portola Valley. Trustee Rutherford indicated that East Palo Alto has done theirs as well. Trustee Anderson indicated that Foster City is preparing theirs also.
- Lots of work going on in regard to the Clean Water Act and CEQA. More info to follow.

Vector Control Joint Powers Agency

Manager Gay reported on the following VCJPA activities:

- Manager Gay reported on the annual meeting on February 25 – 27th, 2007 in Aptos, California. Both Manager Gay and Trustee Preger attended the meetings. Some topics included Workers Compensation, Retention Limits and Pooled Liability Programs.
- The Employment Risk Management Authority, which deals with discrimination, wrongful termination and sexual harassment, has to deal with additional costs to cover previous year's cases. It should only cost our District \$1,000.
- Trustee Dennis Preger has been selected as Trustee Representative, Coastal and Sacramento Valley Regions. He will serve until June 30, 2007. The alternate position is now open and anyone interested should contact Manager Gay.
- A possible change to the DMV pull notice process may occur. Currently, the VCJPA works in conjunction with the DMV to update districts with driver's record information. It may be necessary for individual districts to perform this service on their own. More information to follow.

District Manager's Activity Report

Manager Gay reported on the following topics:

- Representative Leland Yee office, specifically David Baruto, will be assisting in acquiring right-hand drive vehicles from overseas through his work with State Transportation Office. Also, he will work on co-sponsoring Lyme disease awareness in the month of May.
- Assistant Vector Ecologist Angie Nakano attended the Northern California Public Information Education meeting which talked about regional coordination.
- Manager Gay thanked Trustee Curtis for finding an article on helicopter spraying by Santa Clara County for West Nile virus.

Board, C ommittee and Staff Announcements

President Nickolas reminded all Trustees that if they are unable to attend a board meeting or committee meeting, to please inform the Clerk of the Board, Karen Williams, prior to the meeting so that she can make proper arrangements for mailings and attendance records.

Committee Meetings:

Manager Gay stated that the Policy Committee is still short one member. If a Trustee is interested, please contact Chairman Riechel, Clerk Williams or Manager Gay.

Strategic Planning Committee: Chairman Fil reported on the recent meeting. The purpose was to review new properties for potential purchase and to address a Letter of Interest to be submitted to the property at 444 Hurlingame Ave, Redwood City. Chairman Fil thanked Trustee Fuller for her hard work in providing property information on approximately seven locations. He stated it was an excellent summary. The Committee would also like to revisit the owners of the location at Baron and Bay in Redwood City and state that we may be interested in purchasing it if he is interested in selling. Chairman Fil felt that the committee meeting was very productive. The board recommended that the District Manager move forward with the Letter of Intent to purchase the 444 Hurlingame Ave, Redwood City property.

Environmental Committee: Chairman Curtis reported on the recent meeting. The topic is to study pesticide usage throughout San Mateo County. The study would relate the amount of household contaminants that are present in water ways in comparison to the District usage of insect specific pesticides. It is the belief that general household pesticides use pollute more than any materials that the District uses for treatment purposes.

Policy and Procedures Committee: Chairman Riechel will be addressing the lengthy Illness and Injury Program Policy at the upcoming committee meeting. It will be the goal to have the final draft presented at the April 11, 2007 board meeting for approval. Also on the schedule is to review the Employee Manual. Some formatting and appendices need to be included and finalized. Finance Administrator Williams will attend this committee to assist with proofing.

The following are the current committee meeting schedule:

Policy and Procedures:	March 21, 2007	12:00pm
Environmental:	April 11, 2007	6:00pm
Strategic Planning:	April 13, 2007	12:00pm

Trustee Riechel stated that the San Bruno Cable Television is beginning to run the mosquito awareness slides on public access television.

Mosquito Control Technician Stan Kamiya, on behalf of the Employee Association, thanked Chairman Preger of the Salary and Budget Committee for his leadership during the salary

negotiations and the full board for all of their support of the staff. Clerk Williams echoed that statement on behalf of the exempt employees.

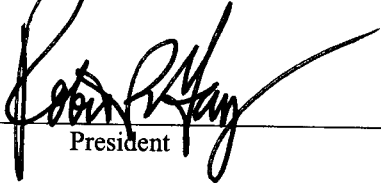
Reminder of Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2007 at 7:00.

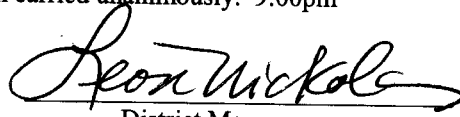
Adjournment

MOTION: Adjournment. Honan/Fil carried unanimously. 9:00pm

Approved



President



District Manager



Date

* Christine Fuller left at 8:25pm