

Benton County Mosquito Control District

Meeting Minutes Regular Board Meeting June 27, 2022

I. Call to Order:

Richard Bloom called the Benton County Mosquito Control Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 PM on June 27, 2022.

II. Roll Call:

The following Board members were present:

In Person: Richard Bloom, Tom Groom, Jessica Bosse Wadsworth, and Bill Moore

By Zoom: Brad Beauchamp

Absent: Cynthia Gray (excused)

III. Approval of Minutes:

Tom Groom moved to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2022 meeting.

Bill Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Guest Agenda Items:

There were no Guest Agenda Items.

V. Financial Report:

Angela Beehler, District Manager, presented mid-year financial information and stated that carryover was \$853,000 (\$53,000 under budget). She discussed financial expenditures to date and budget projections (referencing the 2022 Budget Projection handout), indicating that chemical, gas and overtime will likely exceed budgeted amounts. In looking at the expense trends, she stated a need to be as conservative as possible going forward while still being proactive enough to provide protection against disease carrying mosquitoes. Discussion centered around increased gas prices, larvicide application costs and adult mosquito treatment costs.

VI. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence for presentation or discussion.



VII. Manager's Report:

- A. Mosquito Activity – Angela Beehler gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing mosquito data statistics for the number and species of mosquitoes found in trap counts, number of larval and adult treatment acres, service requests, inspections, and beaver dam mitigation. She said that due to the cool, wet spring, the average number of mosquitoes found appear to be about a month behind previous year's seasons. With warmer weather, she predicted that mosquito numbers would be up, particularly along the river. The Benton County Mosquito Control District initiated a pre-emptive media article for publication on the 16th of June in an attempt to avoid a mad dash for repellent and control requests and scheduled aerial fogging for adult mosquitoes for the evening of June 26th, prioritizing Mabton, Morgan Lake, Byron Ponds, Grandview Sewage Lagoons and West Richland along the Yakima River to Bateman Island. Trapping will allow evaluation of treatment effectiveness. Angela Beehler predicted another peak of mosquito activity in the second week of July.

West Nile Virus – No occurrence of West Nile virus has been reported in the state as of June 14, 2022.

- B. Drone Reporting – Angela Beehler stated that drone activity reports have, in the past, required only a general time frame and location (within five (5) mile radius). The Benton County Mosquito Control District received notice that reporting in the future needed to include an exact location along with the specific date and time of the drone activity. Angela indicated that changes have already been made to meet the new, more specific, reporting requirements.
- C. Public Relations and Speaking Events – Angela Beehler highlighted education and outreach activities occurring through events such as Live @ 5, Hogs & Dogs, local libraries and a media ride-along with Steve Ingalls during a fogging event. Kevin Shoemaker discussed his presentation to the Richland Rod and Gun Club. Discussion focused on opening lines of communications with additional groups such as pilot groups, as suggested by Richard Bloom.

VIII. Old Business:

Donna Rise, Administrative Assistant, requested that board members update their Open Public Meeting Act training and training documentation. Discussion about training documentation occurred.

IX. New Business:

- A. Surveillance Report – Presentation was given by Jasmine Che, the Benton County Mosquito Control District’s Vector Ecologist. Jasmine detailed how PCR works; differences in PCR and RAMP testing, including pros, cons and costs; current equipment and experiences; and research on new technology and equipment. Board discussion included capabilities of the proposed equipment purchase, what other laboratories are using and would recommend, warranty, CDC recommendations, taxes, annual operational costs and equipment life expectancy. Based on Jasmine’s research, evaluation of PCR laboratory equipment, discussion with other laboratories, and an assessment of the Benton County Mosquito Control District’s needs, Jasmine requested Board consideration to purchase Co Diagnostics PCR equipment (\$12,500, tax included + \$65 Shipping and Handling).

Bill Moore moved to approve the purchase of a new PCR instrument for disease surveillance from Co-Diagnostics, Inc, for the amount of \$12,565.

Jessica Bosse Wadsworth seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote: Brad Beauchamp (Aye), Bill Moore (Aye), Jessica Bosse Wadsworth (Aye) and Thomas Groom (Aye)

Mosquito Insectary - Jasmine Che described the development of a mosquito insectary in the laboratory for a field study planned for the end of the summer. She explained that changes were required in the laboratory to achieve the needed temperature and humidity controls for the study.

- B. Drone Purchase Bids – The Benton County Mosquito Control District is interested in acquiring another drone for field operations and mosquito treatments. Because the current model being used by the District has been discontinued, model DJI Agras T30 is being considered. The DJI Agras T30 is very similar to what the District currently has but has a larger chemical tank. Bids included the drone, a smart controller, two (2) battery chargers, seven (7) batteries, a liquid spray system with radar and a granule spreading system. Bid from Frontier Precision was \$38,495.51. Bid from Empire Drone Company was \$35,447.04. Field Supervisor Steve Engalls recommended purchase from Empire Drone Company.

Thomas Groom moved to approved the purchase of a drone and accessories from Empire Drone Company in the amount of \$35,447.04.

Jessica Bosse Wadsworth seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote: Brad Beauchamp (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), Jessica Bosse Wadsworth (Aye) and Bill Moore (Aye)

- C. Canoe Surplus – Angela Beehler explained that the canoe had been used for surveillance and treatment in shallow areas of the Yakima River. The canoe has been replaced by kayaks, which are more efficient for surveillance and treatments. Kevin Shoemaker researched cost of used canoes of the same brand and style and after considering replacement cost, condition of the canoe, which has significant wear and tear, and inclusion of canoe paddles, Kevin feels \$500 is a realistic asking price for the canoe.

Thomas Groom moved to approve the surplus of the canoe for \$500.00

Bill Moore seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- D. Employee Relations Committee Vacancy – Angela Beehler acknowledged Kevin Christensen’s service on the Board, service as the Board’s Secretary, and for serving on the Board’s Employee Relations Committee. Board vacancies in the Cities of Mabton and Richland, Benton County Commissioner Districts 1 and 3, and Yakima County Commissioner Districts 2 and 3 were discussed. Discussion then focused on who, amongst the current Board members, would be willing to serve as Secretary and who would serve on the Employee Relations Committee along with existing members Jessica Bosse Wadsworth and Brad Beauchamp. Richard volunteered to serve as the Benton County Mosquito Control District’s Board Secretary and on the Employee Relations Committee.

Thomas Groom moved to have Richard Bloom serve as Benton County Mosquito Control District Board Secretary and to serve on the Benton County Mosquito Control District Board’s Employee Relations Committee.

Jessica Bosse Wadsworth and Brad Beauchamp both seconded the motion simultaneously.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

X. Payment of Bills and Signing of Documents:

Following review by the Board,

Bill Moore moved to approve and sign warrant numbers 9763 through 9990, payroll direct deposits, and tax payments totaling \$602,153.45.

Thomas Groom seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote: Brad Beauchamp (Aye), Thomas Groom (Ay), Jessica Bosse Wadsworth (Aye) and Bill Moore (Aye)

XI. Adjournment:

Hearing no further business to come before the Board, meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



**Angela Beehler
District Manager**



**ATTEST: Richard Bloom
Board Trustee**



**ATTEST: Tom Groom
Board Trustee**