

Benton County Mosquito Control District

Meeting Minutes Regular Board Meeting September 26, 2022

I. Call to Order:

Richard Bloom called the Benton County Mosquito Control Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:06 PM on September 26, 2022.

II. Roll Call:

The following Board members were present:

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

By Zoom: Brad Beauchamp

Absent: Cynthia Gray (excused)

III. Approval of Minutes:

Tom Groom moved to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2022 meeting. Bill Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Guest Agenda Items:

There were no guest agenda items.

V. Financial Report:

Richard Bloom asked if there were any questions on the financial information provided to them for review in their meeting packets. Angela Beehler, District Manager, reported finding a discrepancy in the Treasurer's report and that she had contacted the Treasurer's Office about it.

VI. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence for presentation or discussion.

VII. Manager's Report:

A. Manager reported that we are winding down for the season and that we have one final public relations event which will be Riverfest, to occur on October 8, 2022.



- B. Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association Annual Meeting. The manager stated that three employees from the District will be attending the NW Meeting and a presentation will be given by a District employee at said meeting.

VIII. Old Business:

- A. Truck Bids. The manager updated Board about the vehicle bids that were received. The District received two bids; one from a local Ford dealership (Corwin Ford) and one from a local Dodge dealership (Rogers Motors). The local GMC dealership did not submit a bid, stating that he is unable to secure vehicles for next year (2023). Both submitted bidders also indicated that availability could affect when vehicles would be delivered.

The two lowest bids were:

Bid #1 - 3 Trucks: \$77,800.27 (Rogers Motors)

Bid #2 - 1 Cargo Van: \$37,663.50 (Corwin Ford)

Richard Bloom asked if the cargo van comes with a trailer hitch. Bill Moore stated that the specifications sheet indicated that the cargo van does include a trailer hitch. The discussion revolved around proper transport of mosquito control products within a cargo van.

Bill Moore moved that we accept Bids #1 for 3 Trucks and #2 for 1 Cargo Van for a combined total of \$115,463.77. Jessica Bosse Wadsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by the following roll call vote: Brad Beauchamp (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), Jessica Bosse Wadsworth (Aye), and Bill Moore (Aye).

IX. New Business:

- A. Set Public Hearing Date – Resolution 3-22. The manager reminded the Board that a date must be set, in advance, for the public hearing portion to approve the budget for the 2023 season. The Manager reminded the Board of the current methods used to establish the assessments for both Benton County and Yakima County.

The manager told the Board that she would like feedback on possibly raising the Unimproved Flat Rate for properties in Benton County.

Brad Beauchamp asked what would be the result of the budget if we did not raise the assessment rate to both the Improved and Unimproved parcels of Benton

County. Brad Beauchamp stated that the increases need to be justifiable and explainable to the public, should any questions arise. The Manager explained that the increase in the budget for Benton County and therefore the assessment rates are directly tied to increases in wages for seasonal workers, cost of living adjustments for all employees, increased fuel and vehicle costs and increases in chemical costs. Additionally, almost all office and operating expenses have gone up as well.

The Manager asked the Board for feedback about adjusting the Parcel Flat Rate Fee in Yakima County, which would also affect the Acreage Fee. Manager asked Kevin Shoemaker to discuss some data showing the break in assessment amounts per parcel for Yakima County to show that the largest (by acreage) 515 parcels are currently paying 52% of the assessment, while the remaining 5,479 parcels pay the remaining 48%. The suggestion was by raising the Parcel Flat Rate Fee would help equalize the Acreage Fee, therefore, making the amounts paid more appropriate.

Richard Bloom suggested looking at an increase of \$7.00 as opposed to \$7.50, for Unimproved Parcels in Benton County.

Guidance from the Board was to move forward with an increase to the Yakima County Parcel Flat Rate Fee.

Thomas Groom moved that the Board accept Resolution 3-22, A Resolution Establishing the Date for the Public Hearing Concerning the 2023 Budget and Special Assessment. Bill Moore seconded the motion. After a request for any discussion, Richard Bloom asked for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously by the following roll call vote: Brad Beauchamp (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), Jessica Bosse Wadsworth (Aye), and Bill Moore (Aye).

- B. Surplus DJI Phantom 4 Pro Surveillance Drone. The Manager discussed the reasoning to get a replacement surveillance drone. The surveillance drone is an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) that is used to look for new water sites that may be development sites for mosquito larvae, to perform a pre-application flight over known sites that will be treated with a drone, and for other related activities were having a “bird’s eye view” would be beneficial to the District for performing mosquito control activities.

The District started out with three batteries, but we are down to one dependable battery. The battery replacement cost for our current 2018 DJI Phantom 4 Pro drone would be about \$400. A new drone with an updated camera and three new batteries would cost around \$1,400. The District believes it could get \$600 for its

current drone. This money would go to the purchase of a new drone; a DJI Air 2S.

After discussion, Bill Moore made the motion to surplus the Phantom 4 Pro drone with a starting bid of \$600. Jessica Bosse Wadsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Payment of Bills and Signing of Documents:

Following review by the Board, Tom Groom moved to approve and sign warrant numbers 10155 through 10276, payroll direct deposits, and tax payments totaling \$293,427.73. Jessica Bosse Wadsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by the following roll call vote: Brad Beauchamp (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), Jessica Bosse Wadsworth (Aye), and Bill Moore (Aye)

XI. Adjournment:

Hearing no further business to come before the Board, Richard Bloom adjourned the meeting at 8:03 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted:

**Angela Beehler
District Manager**



**ATTEST: Cynthia Gray
Board President**



**ATTEST: Tom Groom
Board Trustee**

