

Benton County Mosquito Control District

Meeting Minutes Regular Board Meeting March 28, 2022

I. Call to Order:

Board President, Cynthia Gray called to order the meeting of the Benton County Mosquito Control Board of Trustees at 7:00 PM on March 28, 2022.

II. Roll Call:

The following members were present in person: Richard Bloom, Bill Moore, Thomas Groom, Jessica Wadsworth, and Cynthia Gray. Brad Beauchamp and Kevin Christensen participated by Zoom conference link.

Brad Beauchamp, for his first Board meeting representing the City of Kennewick, was welcomed by the District Manager and all the Board members.

III. Approval of Minutes:

Tom Groom made a motion to approve the minutes from October 25th, 2021, and January 24th, 2022 meetings. Bill Moore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Guest Agenda Items:

There were no Guest Agenda Items.

V. Financial Report:

Angela Beehler, District Manager, presented the year-to-date financial report. One item of note was that the district made a large purchase of control materials in March to take advantage of spring sales promotions.

VI. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

VII. Manager's Report:

- A. Staffing update – Three employees have moved to a Full-time Seasonal employment classification where they will be paid year-round for a predetermined number of hours. This includes the Vector Ecologist, Maintenance Mechanic, and Unmanned Aircraft Lead. The District plans to hire 21 seasonal employees, nine of those are returning from last season.



- B. Tire Drive – The Tire Drive is confirmed for April 23rd at the West Richland facility. After the event, we will finish sealing the asphalt.
- C. Permit renewals – Several notifications must be fulfilled, and permits must be obtained or updated before the control season begins. Examples of these include:
 - Shoreline Exemption Permit for W.E. Johnson Park,
 - Hydraulic Project Approval for the removal of beaver dams,
 - Department of Ecology public notice of intent to apply pesticides to Waters of the State,
 - Army Corps of Engineers lands access license,
 - Monthly drone reporting (even when no applications take place), and
 - Authorization to fly over congested areas.
- D. Research opportunities – This is the first season the community will have the Eco Harvester to control water stargrass for the entire summer. There are several studies underway to monitor the conditions in the Yakima River for potential improvements to temperature, dissolved oxygen, and flow we hope to achieve by harvesting the stargrass. Cynthia Gray requested to be notified when the equipment is first used near Benton City.

The District is considering requests to conduct efficacy field trials for new mosquitocides.

The state of Washington is now using a system called WASurv (derived from VectorSurv) to compile mosquito monitoring data. Kevin Shoemaker is helping the state create an interface between our Mosquito MD software system and WASurv to avoid reentering data.

- E. Upcoming meetings – The Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association will be meeting April 12-14th in Boise, ID. Angela Beehler will be giving a virtual presentation to regulatory agencies on April 21st on the decision-making process prior to an aerial adult mosquito control application. The American Mosquito Control Association will be in-person in Alexandria, VA on May 17-18th for the *Washington Days* legislative and regulatory conference.

VIII. Old Business:

- A. Update on the Assessment Roll Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Angela Beehler requested a MOU between the District and the Benton County Assessor solidifying the deadlines and responsibilities of each agency when annually preparing the district’s assessment rolls. That request was denied and she was instructed to pursue a MOU with the Benton County Commissioners. Angela Beehler will follow up with letters to the Commissions.
- B. Handbook change to allow for District funds to be used, with limitations, for food and/or refreshments.

Richard Bloom moved, and Bill Moore seconded, a motion to approve Employee Handbook Section 9.1 District Provided Refreshments for Meetings/Training

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Richard Bloom (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), Bill Moore (Aye), Jessica Wadsworth (Aye), Kevin Christensen (Aye), Brad Beauchamp (Aye).

IX. New Business

- A. Control Product Bids – Angela Beehler presented the results of the 2022 control product bids.

Tom Groom made a motion authorizing District employees to purchase products for the upcoming season from the lowest bidder. Richard Bloom seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Richard Bloom (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), Bill Moore (Aye), Jessica Wadsworth (Aye), Kevin Christensen (Aye), Brad Beauchamp (Aye).

- B. Cost of living adjustment - The Board President, Cynthia Gray proposed a discussion about the cost of living. Cynthia Gray asked Angela Beehler for clarification on the cost-of-living adjustment that was given to district employees for 2022. Angela Beehler explained that the seasonal employees were given a 5% increase as discussed at the September 2021 meeting, and the full-time employees were given a 3% cost-of-living adjustment as discussed at the October 2021 meeting.

Richard Bloom moved to approve a 2% cost of living adjustment for full-time staff, effective April 1, 2022. Brad Beauchamp seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Richard Bloom (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), Bill Moore (Aye), Jessica Wadsworth (Aye), Brad Beauchamp (Aye), Kevin Christensen (No).

X. Payment of Bills and Signing of Documents:

Following review by the Board, Richard Bloom moved, and Bill Moore seconded the motion to approve and sign warrant numbers 9631 through 9724, payroll direct deposits, and tax payments for a combined total of \$455,707.41.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Richard Bloom (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), Bill Moore, (Aye), Jessica Wadsworth (Aye), Kevin Christensen (Aye), Brad Beauchamp (Aye).

XI. Adjournment:

Hearing no further business to come before the Board, Cynthia Gray adjourned the meeting at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



**Angela Beehler
District Manager**



**ATTEST: Cynthia Gray
Board President**



**ATTEST: Richard Bloom
Trustee**