

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2015
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
SACRAMENTO-YOLO MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

PLACE: 8631 Bond Road, Elk Grove, CA 95624
TIME: 10:00 a.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Craig Burnett	President	Folsom
Bruce Eldridge	Vice President	Yolo County
Sean Denny	Secretary	Woodland
Raul DeAnda		West Sacramento
Frederick Goethel		Galt
Jayna Karpinski-Costa		Citrus Heights
Raymond LaTorre		Sacramento
Susan Maggy		Sacramento County
Robert McGarvey		Rancho Cordova
Rosemarie Moore		Isleton

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Lyndon Hawkins	Elk Grove
Gregory Lanzaro	Winters
Christopher Barker	Davis

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Richard Shanahan

STAFF PRESENT:

Gary Goodman	Manager
Mario Boisvert	Assistant Manager
Janna McLeod	Administrative Manager
Paula Macedo	Laboratory Director
Marcia Reed	Program Coordinator
Marty Scholl	Ecological Management Supervisor
Luz Rodriguez	Public Information Officer

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Craig Burnett.

Roll Call

Trustees Lyndon Hawkins, Gregory Lanzaro, and Christopher Barker are absent; however, a quorum is present. Trustee McGarvey arrived at the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

All phones and electronic devices are requested to be silenced during the meeting.

At this time President Craig Burnett announced the passing of one of our District employees and asked all those present to observe a moment of silence in honor of Dustin Burkhalter.

Dustin was a Field Technician III, and a valued member of the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District family with just over seven and a half years with the District. Dustin was a great worker and well respected by his peers. Dustin is survived by his wife Carla, and their three children, Casey, Braden, and Jaelyn.

1. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL BY GENERAL CONSENT

On a motion by Trustee Karpinski-Costa, seconded by Trustee Denny the Board voted to approve General Consent items a. through d. The motion passed by the following vote: Ayes: 10, Noes: 0, Absent: 3.

- a. Minutes of the August 18, 2015 Board of Trustees Meeting;
- b. Expenditures for August 2015;
- c. Board Consideration of Revised Job Descriptions- Assistant Manager and Administrative Manager;
- d. District Investment Report for Period Ending June 30, 2015.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

This item is reserved for members of the public who wish to speak on items not on the agenda.

There were none.

3. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

a. Manager's Report:

Manager Goodman provided written and verbal reports. He reported on West Nile virus activity in bird and mosquito populations within the District. Virus activity is beginning to slow down a bit as we near the end of the season. Manager Goodman reported no significant movement on Senate Bill 1500 or HR 897 in Congress. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is in the process of reissuing the NPDES permit and staff hosted two meetings with SWRCB staff to give them a better understanding of vector control activities. The District submitted a letter to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to help expedite a permit to conduct Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) applications over agricultural areas. The District will be evaluating potential changes to medical benefits for the upcoming benefit year. The independent auditors completed their field days at the end of last month and should present their findings to the Board later this year.

b. Written Reports from District Departments: Written reports were provided in the Board packet from each department. The department supervisors each gave an oral presentation and were available to answer any questions.

Lab/Surveillance: Lab Director, Paula Macedo discussed surveillance activities including mosquito abundance, mosquito trapping, and dead bird reports. Four thousand nine hundred and thirty mosquito pools have been tested in 2015 and 282 have tested positive for West Nile virus. So far this year, 124 dead birds have tested positive for WNV. Four sentinel chickens have tested positive for antibodies towards West Nile virus.

Ecological Management: Ecological Management Supervisor, Marty Scholl reported on department projects. He reported on the Fall Flooding Program noting communications with all major duck clubs, refuge, and wildlife management areas to coordinate fall flooding activities. Mr. Scholl discussed specific flooding within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area as well as Conaway Ranch. Trustee Karpinski-Costa commended Mr. Scholl and his department for their efforts in working with so many different agencies on this program. Mr. Scholl also briefly mentioned two pool notices that have been mailed with no responses to date. Staff will submit and apply for inspection and abatement if access is not granted to these two pools.

Biological Control: A written report was included in the Board packet.

Larval and Adult Control: Program Coordinator, Marcia Reed reported on control activities. Ms. Reed discussed aerial larvicide and adulticide activities including a review of the contracted acreage for adulticide work by VDCI. With the rice season coming to a close, duck clubs and wetlands are starting to flood up and will become the next mosquito habitats of concern for control personnel. Yellowjacket nest control has begun with 69 nests having been treated so far in the Herald area, primarily the southeast quadrant.

Public Outreach: Public Information Officer Luz Rodriguez discussed department activities including Billboards, TV, and radio spots. Ms. Rodriguez reviewed August and September events as well as the conclusion of the billboard and advertising campaigns. She also discussed continued outreach to local public officials as well as the start of school presentations. The 2014 Annual Report is complete and a copy was passed around to the Trustees.

4. BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF UNIFORM CONTRACT

Manager Goodman introduced the item and reviewed the quotes received by the vendors. On a motion by Trustee Karpinski-Costa, seconded by Trustee Goethel the Board voted to approve the staff recommendation to work with G & K Services on a new three year contract for District uniforms. The motion passed by the following vote: Ayes: 10, Noes: 0, Absent: 3.

5. BOARD DISCUSSION OF LAND USE REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Manager Goodman presented the item and reviewed the revenue and expense information contained in the staff report. He reviewed maps indicating current conventional and organic rice pastures as well as dry or fallow fields that previously grew rice within the District. Manager Goodman went over his discussions with other districts in the region and talked about how they each handle mosquito control for rice or organic fields and properties. Based on those discussions, there doesn't seem to be a consistent approach when seeking reimbursement for mosquito control work on these fields or properties. A regional approach may be something to consider if the districts in the region are open to the idea. Manager Goodman is seeking Board direction as to whether or not the District wishes to continue research towards the development of a program and/or policy for cost sharing and/or reimbursement of mosquito control expenses that exceed the property tax revenues these properties generate. District Counsel Richard Shanahan discussed the District's abatement authority and revenue generation options that may affect the implementation of a program or policy of this nature. A letter in response to this item was received from the Conaway Ranch Manager and a copy was provided to the Board for review (attachment A). After some discussion the general consensus of the Board is for the Manager to continue to move forward with open discussions leading to the development of a policy or program related to the costs of mosquito control on organic properties.

6. BOARD/STAFF REPORTS AND REQUESTS

The October Board meeting will be held at the Woodland field office and will include a tour of the facility.

7. ADJOURNMENT

President Craig Burnett adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

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I certify that the above minutes substantially reflect the general business and actions taken by the Board of Trustees at the September 15, 2015 meeting.



Gary Goodman, Manager

Approved as written and/or corrected by the Board of Trustees at the October 20, 2015 meeting.



Sean Denny, Board Secretary



ATTACHMENT A

September 14, 2015

Gary Goodman
Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District
8631 Bond Road
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Re: Board of Trustees (September 15, 2015 Meeting)
Comment Letter-Agenda Item 5
Land Use Revenue and Expense

Mr. Goodman:

The Conaway Ranch Ownership Group respectfully requests an opportunity to discuss changes to the current mosquito abatement policy requiring payment for mosquito treatments on fields that are flooded in the fall for migratory birds.

Our fall flooding regime is located within the 6,000-acre California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California Waterfowl Association Agricultural Conservation Easements, and the flooded fields lie within the expanding organic rice program. The current policy presents significant challenges because mosquito treatments for organic rice are costly, and application is particularly complex with a mosaic of crop types.

We would like to thank your field staff for their professionalism and willingness to assist Conaway Ranch in exploring functional solutions. While your staff has been extremely helpful, it appears that further development of the current policy is a necessity in order to properly address the changing landscape. Conway Ranch fall flooding promotes groundwater recharge, reduces soil erosion, and provides critical wildlife habitat.

The 2015 water transfer and field fallowing actions resulted in 9,000 acres of fallowed land during the growing season. These actions translate to nearly 9,000 acres that did not require mosquito abatement treatments.

As the board is acutely aware, we are experiencing an extended drought. Conaway Ranch lies within historic fall, winter, and spring habitat that provides migratory birds with critical feeding, loafing and nesting habitat. During this time of year, birds take flight from nesting grounds in Alaska, Canada, and other areas in the US, and fly to fall and wintering habitats throughout the Pacific Flyway. California has lost over 95% of its historic marshlands, and this year, there is minimal feeding and/or roosting habitat available for migratory birds. Conaway Ranch has long been recognized by organizations and foundations such as Audubon, California Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, University of California Davis, The Bechtel Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife as an important area for wildlife. Specifically- shorebirds, waterfowl, Swainson's Hawks, and Tri-colored Blackbirds.

We would like to work with the District to identify practical solutions regarding challenges with the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control policies that directly impact the current and future general farming operations, wildlife friendly farming, and groundwater recharge.

We look forward to continuing a collaborative partnership with the District.

Sincerely,



Mike Hall
Conaway Ranch Manager
Conaway Ranch
45332 Co Rd 25, Woodland, CA 95776
(530) 662-6200