**South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 10th, 2025 at 2:00 pm**

The Board of Trustees of the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District (SSLVMAD), Salt Lake County, State of Utah, met via an electronic board meeting via Zoom with an anchor location established at the District offices at 7308 Airport Road, West Jordan, Utah.

The following board members were present Jeff Bossard (Brighton), Ty Brewer (Holladay), Tish Buroker (Riverton), Silvia Catten (Millcreek), Don Christensen (West Valley), Brad Gilson (Draper), Paul Glover (Midvale), Kelvin Green (West Jordan), Matt Holton (Cottonwood Heights), Kathie Johnson (South Jordan), Kristie Overson (Taylorsville), Linda Price (White City), Florence Reynolds (Sandy), Ilene Risk (Salt Lake County), Steve Shields (Herriman)Laverne Snow (Murray), and Greg Wilding (Bluffdale).

The following board members were absent: Natalie Pinkney (South Salt Lake).

Also attending were Gene Drake, Dan McBride, Scott Sommer, Kassie Draper, and Eric Gardner.

1. **Welcome**. Catten conducted the meeting and duly called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 2:01 pm.
2. **Citizen Comments**. No citizens commented.
3. **Board Conflicts of Interest Disclosures**. No board members disclosed any conflicts of interest.
4. **Approve Minutes**. Overson moved to approve the minutes of the January Board meeting. Bossard seconded the motion, and the motion carried with all in favor. Shields was absent for the vote.
5. **Audit Committee Appointments** McBride explained duties of audit committee members noting 2 additional meetings, one in May to review the audit and another in September to complete the Fraud Risk Assessment. Additionally, 5-10 hours of documentation review may be required to prepare for those meetings. He emphasized that participation on the audit committee can be rewarding and helpful to understand protections in place against fraud. Members of the previous audit committee include Price, Risk, Christensen, and Snow. Catten asked for any interested in joining the committee. Holton volunteered to serve, and Price, Christensen, Risk and Snow expressed willingness to continue to serve. Buroker made a motion to appoint Price, Christensen, Risk, Snow, and Holton to the Audit Committee. Risk seconded the motion, and the motion carried with all in favor. Shields was absent for the vote.
6. **2024 Annual Report Review**. McBride presented an overview of the District Annual Report for 2024 highlighting weather trends, mosquito surveillance results, mosquito control activities, West Nile virus incidence, employee productivity, education, and research conducted. He noted weather conditions trended hotter and drier. For the most abundant mosquito species and primary vectors of West Nile virus, surveillance numbers suggest that 2024 was about an average year for *Culex pipiens* and *Culex tarsalis*, and *Culex tarsalis* numbers were down from the previous year. Few problems with tree-hole mosquitoes were observed or reported in 2024. Crews inspected 2012 ornamental ponds and placed 3203 mosquito fish. Crews treated 68,650 catch basins and 500 related spots. Crew productivity was about average. Adult control applications were below average at 24, partly because weather conditions were not conducive to application. Service requests were below average in 2024. No human cases of West Nile virus were reported in SSLVMAD; 24 mosquito pools were positive for WNV. No black fly control was conducted in 2024, though some surveillance did occur.

Brewer asked about a concern that members of the public may not be aware of services offered by the District and suggested that board members may be able to do more to promote awareness. McBride explained expanding public relations efforts including presence at health and other fairs.

Snow suggested considering an alternative way of presenting District statistics relative to Salt Lake County statistics and an alternative way to report productivity to provide a more intuitive description of effort expenditure. Brewer suggested considering identifying or developing a metric that best describes the District’s effectiveness. Reynolds and Price suggested additional emphasis on successful prevention measures. Risk agreed with emphasizing control efforts as successful preventative measures though noted difficulty, as in other areas of public health, in developing metrics to measure adverse effects that did not occur. She also acknowledged that factors beyond the District’s control also significantly impact mosquito and disease numbers. Nevertheless, she agreed that an enhanced explanation of correlation between control efforts and disease and mosquito prevention would be helpful. Catten commented that messaging should be balanced to avoid being unnecessarily alarming while also not promoting complacency. She and Price also mentioned ways that board members can participate in promoting positive public relations. McBride suggested presenting current, planned, and desired public relations efforts at a future board meeting. Reynolds suggested that increased board participation could be considered as part of that plan, perhaps in the form of a public relations committee. In considering public relations outreach, Buroker cautioned against presenting more information than is easily digestible. McBride expressed a strong desire to increase public awareness, though he acknowledged that increased awareness may also invite increased opposition from some segments of the population.

In response to a question from Risk about future research plans, McBride explained that future efforts will likely continue to attempt to characterize mosquito resistance to control products.

Buroker inquired about verifying the correctness of board member meeting attendance and suggested rewording an explanation of the tax rate to clarify that the District does not set that rate.

1. **Legislative Review** McBride noted that the Utah Association of Special Districts, the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association, and the District are monitoring bills that have been introduced to the state legislature but at this point no grave concerns about potential impacts to the District have surfaced. McBride and Catten invited input from board members about bills to track.
2. **Conditions of the District**. McBride reported that current activities include employee recruitment at employment fairs etc. and participation in a health fair at Midvale.

Upcoming conferences include the West Central Mosquito and Vector Control Association annual meeting in February, the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) annual meeting in March, and AMCA Washington Days in May. Annual meetings of the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association and Utah Association of Special Districts will be held in October and November respectively.

McBride noted that open and public meeting training required for all board members will be presented at the March board meeting and asked that documentation of other required training be submitted.

Safety goals were met, and no new accidents were reported since the last board meeting.

1. **Board Meeting Items for March 10th Meeting.** Catten noted that a public relations presentation had been proposed and suggested that informational articles for use by board members be available by the end of March.
2. **Approve Bills**. Christensen moved to approve the bills; Risk seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor. Holton was absent for the vote.
3. **Adjourn**. Buroker moved to adjourn the meeting; Green seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.