**ANTELOPE VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

**463rd MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**42624 6TH STREET EAST, LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA 93535**

**(661) 942-2917**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2024**

**4:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT**: David Gantenbein, Elvie Ancheta, Tierney Smith-Woods, Cado Dhinsa and Cei Kratz.

**TRUSTEES ABSENT**: None.

**STAFF PRESENT**: Leann Verdick, Karen Mellor and Carolyn Etherton (consultant)

**OPENING**: President Gantenbein called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**: limit to 3 minutes:

An opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on items of interest that are within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction, and are not otherwise posted on the agenda. No members of the public were present.

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 22, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Smith-Woods moved to approve the Minutes. Trustee Ancheta seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST EFT’S AND WARRANTS FOR A TOTAL OF $96,610.37**

Trustee Gantenbein moved to approve EFT’s and Warrants. Trustee Ancheta seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF REQUISITION NO. 1756 FOR A TOTAL OF $75,000.00**

Trustee Kratz moved to approve the Requisition. Trustee Dhinsa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ENTOMOLOGIST REPORT**

Firstly, Karen Mellor opens with a handout that shows the annual numbers for West Nile Virus throughout California for the year of 2024. There were 59 human cases (6 fatalities), 451 positive dead birds, 1748 positive mosquito samples, 139 positive chickens and 6 positive horses. The district had 25 dead birds called in, but none were picked up due to budget, time and past experience (most times the bird is not positive OR the bird has been dead for too long and it was a wild goose chase). Towards the end of the California disease breakdown there was a note that 25 mosquito samples tested positive for encephalitis. Secondly, Karen went over a second handout with a map that breaks down the spread of Aedes mosquitoes in the Antelope Valley, with a color representing the year they were detected in the respective areas. There were 27 new locations in the valley. Karen gave a few facts on what sources these specific mosquitoes look for and that when receiving calls we give a breakdown on what the homeowner should be keeping an eye out for if they are experiencing Aedes mosquitoes. There has been disease detected in the Aedes population in spots of Southern California called dengue; 3 human cases have been recently detected in Baldwin Park and another detected in Panorama City. Luckily, outside of the listed cases, most cases of Dengue have been travel related, but all it takes are for the local Aedes to feed off of those who are infected to have it in the population. Lastly, Karen briefly goes over what she has done with the AV College students and how their work, while separate, will intermingle with ours. On a final note, she states that with the temps going down and once it’s consistently below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, the mosquito activities will start to die down.

**DISTRICT MANAGERS MONTHLY REPORT**

Firstly, Leann Verdick was able to look into having a different benefits package for new hires. Social Security benefits did state that once an entity adopts and participates in it that they must continue to do so. Our retirement is through CalPers, along with our health insurance, but all employees must be on the same program so the possibility of changing it will affect the current employees. It is possible that we keep CalPers retirement and change our health insurance (which is currently being paid entirely through the district), and vice versa; it is just up to the district and board to decide on what they feel works best. It is worth noting that once retired, the district is not the one that pays the retiree but CalPers. Secondly, there was a small note of property damage that occurred on our property. Kevan noticed that our side lots fence was torn down as if hit by a car and their bumper was left beside it. We contacted the company that repaired our motor for the gate to come out to give a quote, they did say those type of repairs can run a few thousand dollars. Thirdly, CSDA is having a luncheon on October 2nd, Leann forwarded the invite via email to all board members. It is worth attending for the information shared at the meetings, as well as networking and asking other districts about what they currently do for their employee benefits package. Fourthly, we are still dealing with the car accident that happened. They had six months to come back with a lawsuit and we were served papers on September 9th. SDRMA has hired a defense council who is now going over all the evidence and have called Demian for more information; Leann has pulled him aside and kept him informed on everything that is happening as it is happening. Our council stated that just because the police report states that our driver was at fault, this does not mean it is set in stone and that the other driver could actually be the one at fault (which, in their opinion, the other driver is). This could take a while to settle, but once settled they will get a release that protects the district and employee from any further action on this matter. Fifthly, Brenna and Kevan will attend October’s meeting to give a season wrap up. Lastly, Brenna and Tannan have been working booths out in the community, they are currently at the fair for the next few days.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 26, 2024 AT 4:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN-PERSON AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE.**

**APPROVAL TO COMBINE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BOARD MEETING TO**

**DECEMBER 12, 2024 AT 4:00PM- DUE TO CONFLICT WITH THANKSGIVING DAY**

**AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, WILL BE HELD IN-PERSON AT THE DISTRICT**

**OFFICE.**

Trustee Kratz moved to approve the date of December 12, 2024, for the combination of November and December meetings due to holiday conflicts. Trustee Ancheta seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS:** Trustee Ancheta stated that she would not be able to be present for the next board meeting due to taking care of family; she inquired on if it would be possible to join via ZOOM. Trustee Smith-Woods seconded the question, as she will be out in the near future due to other qualifying reasons. Leann Verdick said that she will look into the technicalities and get back to them.

**ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Board, President Gantenbein adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Approved:

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Tierney Smith-Woods David Gantenbein

Board Treasurer Board President