

# Benton County Mosquito Control District

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## Meeting Minutes Regular Board Meeting April 26, 2021

### **I. Call to order:**

Board President Cynthia Gray called to order the meeting of the Benton County Mosquito Control Board at 7:00 pm on April 26, 2021.

### **II. Roll call:**

The following members were present: Cynthia Gray, Richard Bloom, Marianne Boring, Thomas Groom, Bill McKay, Jake Mokler and Bill Moore.

Kevin Christensen was excused.

### **III. Approval of Minutes:**

Thomas Groom moved that the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2021 be approved as written. Motion was seconded by Richard Bloom. Motion carried unanimously.

### **IV. Guest Agenda Items:**

Ken Spencer, Benton County Treasurer was present and introduced himself as a resource for discussion during Old Business.

### **V. Financial Report:**

Angela Beehler, District Manager presented the year-to-date financial report, budget projection, and Treasurer's statements.

### **VI. Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence to discuss.



## **VII. Manager's Report:**

Angela Beehler, District Manager, provided her report:

- a.** The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife gave permission for treatments by drone over Morgan Lake and Byron Ponds. The District initiated the process to obtain a Special Use Permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for use over federal lands. The drone is calibrated for dispersing granular product. The goal is to replace field work in hazardous areas and reduce the need for a helicopter contractor in congested areas.
- b.** The 2021 Tire Drive, held on April 17<sup>th</sup>, was a success with 7,721 tires collected to-date. Crew participation was excellent. The Department of Ecology rented a bucket loader to load tires into the trailers, which is hard on the asphalt, so it's not a long-term solution to reducing labor-intensive work surrounding the event.

The District Manager asked for alternative sites next year, to help direct traffic. Some suggestions were; conduct the event at another site, fence in gravel area on property, have a second area to line up cars and only send a few at a time, or having several trailers around the county for drop off locations.

No decision was made and need to revisit this topic again in the future.

- c.** The District hosted a meeting after a request came in from the Washington Department of Agriculture wanting more information on the new drone program. Franklin County Mosquito Control District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Columbia County Mosquito Control attended. The District presented an overview of our Integrated Pest Management program, provided details on the drone program, gave a drone demonstration and tour of the facility, and had a question-and-answer session. The Washington Department of Agriculture gave a presentation on what goes into a pesticide

application inspection and investigation, and provided feedback about recordkeeping.

- d. District Biologist, Jasmine Che, will be traveling to Sacramento/Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District, San Joaquin Mosquito Control, and Placer Mosquito Control District in California in May to receive training on Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing techniques. This will allow us do a genetic profile to monitor potential for pesticide resistance, to better treat our local mosquito population.

### **VIII. Old Business:**

Angela Beehler, District Manager, presented information about Assessment of 71,014 Parcels, stating 3,831 non-residents of BCDC District were improperly billed, and this has caused a deficit in expected revenues of \$181,000. Assistant District Manager, Kevin Shoemaker discovered that mobile homes, many local government parcels, and miscellaneous other parcels that were subject to assessments were omitted from the parcel list, which account for 5,760 unbilled parcels, and would generate approximately \$98,000 if they were billed.

Questions were raised about how to handle this, and there were several suggestions: absorb the deficit, carryover the unbilled parcels to next year and raise assessment next year accordingly, only bill parcels with fees over \$5.00, or send out an updated bill this year with a note in the billing to explain.

Ken Spencer, Benton County Treasurer will refund any of 3,831 parcels that already overpaid, and he will also send revised statements to the additional parcels, but there will be an additional cost to do this.

Cindy Gray, Board President, entertained a motion to bill the unassessed parcels. Bill McKay moved to work with the Treasurer and the Assessor to send revised statements to approximately 5,760 parcels that were not assessed. Motion was seconded by Richard Bloom.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Richard Bloom (Aye), Marianne Boring (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), Bill McKay (Aye), Jake Mokler (Aye), and Bill Moore (Aye).

Motion carried unanimously.

**IX. New Business:**

There was no New Business to discuss.

**X. Payment of the Bills and Signing of the Documents:**

Following review by the Board, Richard Bloom moved and Bill McKay seconded a motion to approve warrant numbers 8935 through 9028, direct deposits, and tax payments for a combined total of \$456,662.78.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Richard Bloom (Aye), Marianne Boring (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), Bill McKay (Aye), Jake Mokler (Aye), and Bill Moore (Aye).

Motion carried unanimously.

Cynthia Gray reminded Trustees to sign documents.

**XI. Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Angela Beehler  
District Manager

ATTEST: Cynthia Gray  
Board President

ATTEST: Richard Bloom  
Secretary