

Benton County Mosquito Control District

Meeting Minutes Regular Board Meeting August 26, 2019

I. Call to Order:

Richard Bloom called to order the meeting of the Benton County Mosquito Control Board at 7:00 pm on August 26, 2019 at 4951 W Van Giesen Street, West Richland, WA.

II. Roll Call:

The following members were present: Richard Bloom, Kevin Christensen, Bill McKay, Bill Moore, Joe Schiessl, and Jake Mokler. The following members were excused: Cindy Gray and Thomas Groom.

III. Approval of Minutes:

Kevin Christensen moved to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2019 meeting as written. Motion was seconded by Joe Schiessl. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Guest Agenda Items:

There were no Guest Agenda Items to discuss.

V. Financial Report:

Angela Beehler, the Manager, discussed the year to date financial report.

VI. Correspondence:

There was no Correspondence to discuss.

VII. Manager's Report:

- A. Surveillance Report: 486 mosquito samples have been tested thus far, with 8 testing positive for West Nile virus; 6 of those were in Benton County, 2 of them were in Yakima County.
- B. Field Report: Reduced flow in the Yakima River developed stargrass and Anopheles mosquitoes in large numbers. We made some applications to the river, and the most effective application was a liquid product applied from a kayak. We are in conversation with the Benton County Conservation District to attempt harvesting the stargrass. We foresee this being a problem in the future. Additionally, the Integrated Pest Management Plan will be updated in the off-season to accommodate kayak and drone operations.



- C. Public Education Events: Jasmine Che, our Public Outreach Coordinator, is trying to find events in each city of the District to publicize the fact that they are within the District. Such events include the Prosser Farmer's Market, Touch-a-Truck, and the Mabton taco truck Friday.
- D. Maintenance and Grounds: We installed a security system. Vehicle bids were distributed early to cooperate with the dealerships' fulfillment schedules.
- E. Upcoming Meetings: The Manager will be moderating an American Chemical Society conference session about how mosquito control operators use new technologies to avoid non-target organisms. Barker Ranch will be used as a model operation. The Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association meeting in Boise, Idaho will be attended by the full-time staff and Bill Moore. The American Mosquito Control Association meeting will be in Portland, Oregon.

VIII. Old Business:

Regarding the NPDES permit appeal, we had our prehearing conference on August 21, 2019. Our attorney is Michael Dunning, who has worked as an Assistant Attorney General. We are arguing that Ecology does not have the authority to put Endangered Species Act language in a Clean Water Act permit. During the prehearing, our argument was favored. The official hearing has been pushed back to March 12, 2020. In the meantime, we will be applying for continuous coverage to avoid a lapse in permissions.

IX. New Business:

Support for a Benton County Conservation District stargrass harvester was discussed. Additionally, there was discussion about a draft budget, including a comparison of the 2019 budget and the planned budget for 2020. Assessment rates would likely need to be increased to just under \$15.00. Minimum wage is increasing by \$1.50 next year, so Control Operator costs will increase as well. Budgeting for the mechanic is also changing. There will likely be a 6% increase in costs over last year's budget.

X. Payment of Bills and Signing of Documents:

After review by the Board, Kevin Christensen moved that warrant numbers 7831 to 7962 in the combined amount of \$508,308.70 be approved for payment. Motion was seconded by Bill Moore. Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

R. Bloom – Aye / K. Christensen – Aye / B. Moore – Aye / J. Mokler – Aye / B. McKay – Aye / J. Schiessl – Aye

XI. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Richard Bloom adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



Angela Beehler
District Manager



ATTEST: Cindy Gray
President



ATTEST: Jake Mokler
Trustee